

## **SCHD Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Monday, March 21, 2022**

**Attendance:** Board Members- Jeffrey Bell, Linda Peterson, Robert Butler, Yire Hernandez, Jacqueline Howard, Commissioner Lethia Lee, Shane Sundlie (inducted at this meeting).  
Health Department and Administration Staff- Wanda Robinson, Cherish Allen, Tamra Jones, Kelly Parrish, Kory Hair, Erin Ellis, Emily Spell, Edwin Causey, and Joel Starling.

- I. **Call to Order:** Dr. Jeffrey Bell
- II. **Invocation:** Robert Butler
- III. **Induction of New Advisory Committee Member:** Dr. Shane Sundlie was sworn in as a member of the Sampson County Health Department Advisory Committee by Cherish Allen.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:** January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022- Motion to approve made by Robert Butler; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Peterson. All in favor.
- V. **Advisory Board Presentation:** Wanda, Kelly and Kory presented their pieces of the Sampson County Health Department, Year in review 2021 presentation. Kelly reviewed the timeline of COVID-19: Early 2021 COVID surge started; Summer of 2021, although there was a brief decline in cases, vaccines demand went started to rise; Fall/Winter of 2021 the new Delta variant came with greater transmissibility. The Delta surge did not dissipate before the Omicron induction. In total the SCHD held 8 mass testing events, 51 testing clinics and performed 4,216 tests. Wanda explained that even during the peak of COVID the Health Department never stopped providing services in their clinics and never ran out of COVID vaccine. During this time Environmental Health hit a staffing shortage and then hired a EH Supervisor and 2 interns. She emphasized that while EH was catching up, their numbers never went down. She mentioned that routine services still continued at the Health Department during the COVID-19 Pandemic. See slides for further detail. \*This serves as the BOH/Adv. Committee annual training.
- VI. **2021 SCHHD Communicable Disease Report:** Emily Spell, SCHD Clinic Supervisor, reviewed the report. She explained that the CD program involves several communicable disease sections that include Communicable Diseases, such as Rabies or Salmonella; Tuberculosis; Vaccines Preventable Diseases, such as Pertussis/Whooping Cough; and Sexually Transmitted Diseases, such as HIV or Gonorrhea. In 2021, COVID-19 continued to be the focus of the SCHD public efforts. She stated that the CD program staff normally consists of four nurses that are responsible for the surveillance, reporting, investigation, and follow-up of communicable disease in our county. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic several additional staff had to be utilized to assist us in the response efforts of the SCHD. Emily explained the CD Program Staff is required to us the NCEDSS (the North Carolina Electronic Disease Surveillance System). This system is an electronic data entry system for monitoring, managing, and reporting of diseases in Sampson County and throughout the state of NC. Total Covid cases for 2021 was 7,306 which was higher

than the 5,004 cases in 2020. See attached report for all Communicable Disease cases in 2020 and 2021.

**VII. Opioid Update:** Joel Starling, County Attorney gave an update on the Opioid lawsuit. Sampson County is one of the thousands of units of local government in the US that did participate in litigation against some of the suppliers and pharmaceutical chain that led to the national opioid litigation. A settlement has been announced that is worth about \$26 billion, nationally. Originally, NC was projected to received about \$850 million; however, \$100 million of that was Perdue bankruptcy. The department of justice appealed the confirmation of their chapter 11 plan, and the district court reversed the bankruptcy. Due to this, all of this is still currently changing. If resolved, amount will go back up to \$850 million. The district court will not however allow the Sackler family get releases. Over the period of 18 years there will approximately \$750 billion paid out to NC. Sampson County is projected to get \$3.991 million and will be required to be placed in a special revenue fund. Joel stated that in the next month they will start engaging in a planning process. They are required to meet once a year to discuss how these funds will be spent. There are several different strategies in which can be used to spend the money. More information to follow. All agencies will need to be involved.

**VIII. Financial**

- a) Monthly Update: Tamra updated the EP numbers and reviewed. WIC is steady, Immunizations are still up, EH numbers are still high. Tamra reviewed February Medicaid and local Revenues, which are staying constant. No questions. Report is attached for further detail.
- b) AA 620: Wanda proposed to give funding received to the County/City Schools. AA 620 funding is for a School Health Liaison or someone to help the schools with Covid. Money in time limited and must be spent by May 2023. Wanda has met with both superintendents. They would like the funding if approved. She would like this contracted out by April 1, 2022. Motion to accept proposal of contracting out funds in the amount of \$199,383 made by Jacqueline Howard; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Robert Butler. All in favor.
- c) SCHD FEE/CPT Code Update: Tamra stated that the HD can now charge \$65 for pediatric Pfizer vaccine. Previously charging \$40. Motion to accept fee update made by Linda Peterson; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Yire Hernandez. All in favor.
- d) Budget Message: Tamra reviewed the budget drivers for the FY 22-23. See attached.

**VIII. Public Comment: None**

**IX. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Robert Butler; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Peterson. All in favor.

Next meeting May 16, 2022.



