

**Hart County Board of Health
Regular Meeting
November 13, 2014
1:00 pm
Hart County DFCS Conference Room**

BOH Members Present: Clyde McDowell, Jerry Bell, Paul Abernathy and Dr. Lau

District Staff: Dr. Westfall, Larry Walker and Karen Palmer

Health Department Staff: Rhonda Dyar, David Leard and Jill Garland

The regular meeting of the Hart County Board of Health was held on Thursday, November 13, 2014 in the conference room of the Hart County DFCS office.

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m. by Chairperson Clyde McDowell.

Approval of minutes for August 14, 2014 BOH Meeting

Motion to accept by Dr. Lau, seconded by Paul Abernathy. Motion carried, all in favor.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Environmental Health: David Leard gave the Environmental Report. See attached report.

Nursing: Rhonda Dyar discussed flu clinics held within Hart County and how many participants there were in each clinic. New staff members have made a contribution to a strong and positive workforce at the Hart County Health Department.

Financial Report: Dr. Westfall gave the Financial Report. See attached report. Dr. Westfall explained that there has been a change in accounting methodology following a discussion with the auditors. It was decided to change the methodology to present funds as they actually are in order to have an accurate picture of the health department's fiscal performance.

Public Health 101

David Leard gave a presentation on the Rabies Control Program which included information on how to prevent and control the dangerous virus.

Comments from the Health Director

- Dr. Westfall presented a video clip of Dr. Fitzgerald discussing "Power Up for 30", a program designed to help win the war on obesity throughout Georgia's school systems by promoting physical activity.
- Ebola: There are no active cases of Ebola in the US at this time. Dr. Westfall discussed preparations made by DPH and the county health departments to effectively address an Ebola case should one present.

Announcements: No announcements

Comments from the Health Director

- SB 290 was passed in May 2014 which gives county commissions the option for the Probate Court to hear appeals when a dog is classified as dangerous or vicious. The animal control officer investigates when a dog bite or attack is reported, determines what the law says, and classifies whether the dog is dangerous or vicious. The dog owner then has the right to appeal the determination. Dr. Westfall suggested that commission board members discuss this bill and he recommends that it makes sense for the Probate Court to hear appeals.
- Dr. Westfall and staff found out on July 8, 2014 that the Title 10 Grant for family planning services was awarded to a group of federally qualified healthcare centers in the Metro Atlanta area. The Governor and Dr. Fitzgerald have publicly avowed Public Health's continued interest to make family planning services available, affordable, accessible and high quality for Georgia citizens. The Family Planning program will be aligned to be like other Public Health programs so that patients are charged on a sliding fee scale and patients will be required to show proof of income. Public Health will work with those patients who truly are unable to pay.
- The Ebola virus has been in the news. This virus is not a realistic threat to the U.S. People who come into the U.S. who could have been exposed will be quarantined for 21 days and, at the end of this incubation period, will be released if they are not presenting any symptoms of the virus. The CDC has dispatched 50 – 100 disease investigators to Africa to educate their citizens on how to stop the spread of the disease.

Questions/Comments: Clyde McDowell asked if a Dangerous Dog Hearing requires a quorum. Dr. Westfall answered that it does and that the meeting also must be held within a certain number of days from the time the appeal is made. Clyde McDowell made the recommendation that the Probate Court be the appeal body for Dangerous Dog Hearings. R C Oglesby said he thinks the Magistrate Court does this in Hart County but will check to get verification.

Announcements

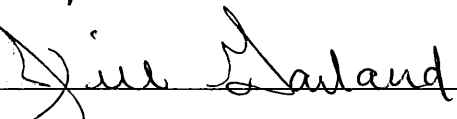
No announcements

With there being no other business to discuss, Clyde McDowell asked for a motion to adjourn. Arthur Craft made the motion. Jerry Bell seconded the motion. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.



Clyde McDowell, Chairman



Secretary