

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF GUILFORD COUNTY
WORK SESSION**

Greensboro, North Carolina
January 7, 2016

The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed Work Session at 3:00 PM in the Blue Room of the Old County Courthouse, 301 West Market Street, Greensboro NC.

PRESENT: Chairman Jeff Phillips, presiding; Vice Chairman Alan Branson; Commissioners Justin Conrad; Kay Cashion; Ray Trapp (arrived at 3:23PM); Alan Perdue; Hank Henning; Carolyn Q. Coleman (arrived at 3:27PM).

ABSENT: Commissioner J. Carlvena Foster.

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Marty Lawing; County Attorney Mark Payne; Deputy County Manager Clarence Grier; Robin Keller, Clerk to Board; Ariane Webb, Deputy Clerk to Board; Merle Green, DHHS-Public Health Division Director; Ken Carter, DHHS-Public Health Division Assistant Director; members of the community and media.

I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Phillips called the meeting to order at 3:14PM and welcomed those present.

Ken Carter, DHHS-Public Health Division Assistant Director, reviewed the purpose of the meeting and introduced presenter William Browder.

II. PRESENTATION

**A. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH
GOVERNING BOARDS**

William Browder, presenter, introduced the course as one designed by UNC School of Public Health, in conjunction with the State Board of Health. He reviewed the definition of Public Health (PH) and stated local boards of health have policy and adjudicatory authority regarding public health matters.

Chairman Henning left the meeting at 3:20PM.

Browder reviewed the ten (10) greatest achievements of PH accomplished during the 20th century and noted its role in protecting and promoting a healthy community. He discussed initiatives related to Family Planning, vaccinations, infectious disease control, workplace safety, motor vehicle safety, decline in heart disease, safer and healthier food options, fluoridation of drinking water, healthy mother and baby programs and tobacco cessation.

Commissioner Trapp arrived at 3:23PM.

Browder spoke to PH as an essential service and reviewed its core functions: assessment, policy development and assurance.

Merle Green, DHHS-PH Division Director, stated a community-based group conducts and organizes assessments that are shared with the Board.

Browder advised the Board of its policy-making authority and encouraged involvement in departmental strategic planning. He discussed the statutory authority granted to the Board of Health and reviewed mandated PH services. Browder reviewed services the County is required to provide versus those where the County must ensure provision is available.

Commissioner Coleman arrived at 3:27PM.

Browder reviewed accreditation standards and noted the success of the County's previous accreditation efforts. He discussed the roles of the PH director the requirements for a PH advisory committee, along with its potential benefits to the Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Henning returned to the meeting at 3:37PM.

Browder reviewed quasi-judicial proceedings and emphasized the need to ensure statutory timeline requirements. He discussed administration roles and reminded the Board of their role in establishing fees for environmental health services and PH clinics.

Vice Chairman Branson left the meeting at 3:56PM.

Browder discussed the variety of models available for consolidated Boards of Health. He discussed examples used in Wake and Mecklenburg County, and noted Mecklenburg uses several specific sub-committees to address PH needs, while Wake create two (2) separate advisory boards to review policy matters prior to submission to their Commissioners.

Vice Chairman Branson returned to the meeting at 4:01PM.

Browder discussed the responsibilities and decision-making authority granted to the Board of Commissioners in their role as the Board of Health.

Commissioner Conrad left the meeting at 4:17PM.

Browder reviewed six (6) expectations for effective Board of Health-Director communication and discussed using a balanced approach when advising the department. He emphasized the importance of the Board of Health and provided the Flint, Michigan water crisis as an example of PH crisis that expands beyond the borders of a city or county.

Browder stated protecting PH involves vision and encouraged strategic planning to ensure consolidation is meeting the needs of all citizens.

Commissioner Coleman questioned the role of the PH advisory board.

Browder stated the Advisory Board reports directly to the Board of Commissioners within the Guilford County model. He emphasized the importance of the Board of Health's role and authority in protecting the health and wellness of the community, and noted the entire department must work together to abate issues when outbreaks occur.

Commissioner Coleman noted two (2) counties within the state had recently lost hospitals, and questioned the county's responsibilities in this example.

Browder stated the counties would support transportation to the nearest health facilities, and noted smaller health departments have established tele-medicine options to provide easier access to medical advice for its citizens. He confirmed the State would have responsibility in this matter, as well.

Commissioner Conrad returned to the meeting at 4:26PM.

Chairman Phillips thanked Mr. Browder for his time and the presentation, and stated the health of Guilford County citizens is a top priority for the Board.

Browder thanked the Board for their efforts.

Green thanked the Board for participating in the training.

Browder reminded the Board that, during this election season, new Commissioners must be trained on their Board of Health role within one (1) year of assuming their new position.

Commissioner Trapp shared that the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services (NCDHHS) will hold a public hearing to discuss Medicaid reform on April 7, 2016 in Greensboro. He shared that a draft version of the reform plan was available online and noted the Commissioners should be aware of this information.

Green stated she has a shorter version of the reform plan, which she would share with the Board.

Commissioner Trapp noted there will be many changes to Mental Health policies, and stated very little information has been shared with the public.

Commissioner Coleman questioned if a final decision had been made regarding Medicaid reform, or if the hearings were a forum to seek advice from the community.

Green confirmed the State is seeking feedback from the community and had selected twelve (12) locations to hold public input meetings. She noted Guilford County was chosen to host a meeting and reiterated the date of April 7, 2016 at 6:30PM, at the Guilford County DHHS Building located at 1203 Maple Street, Greensboro.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Phillips shared the need to schedule a work session to discuss economic development and animal shelter policies.

Marty Lawing, County Manager, stated staff would require at least three (3) hours to present information.

The Board discussed potential meeting dates and times.

By general consensus, a general work session was scheduled for April 7, 2016 at 2:00PM.

Chairman Phillips stated the need for the Board to schedule work sessions regarding the FY2016-2017 budget.

The Board discussed options for potential meeting dates and times.

By general consensus, the following budget work sessions were scheduled:

April 21, 2016 at 2:00PM

April 28, 2016 at 9:00AM-12:00PM

May 5, 2016 at 2:00PM

IV. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 4:45PM.

Jeffrey M. Phillips
Chairman

Robin Keller
Clerk to Board