

Warren County Health Department

Board of Health

March 21, 2023

The Warren County Health Department held its meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at the Warren County Health Department.

Members present: Dr. Elton Brown, Chairperson, Dr. James Crenshaw, Vice Chairperson, Ms. Linda Baker, Commissioner Bertadean Baker, Mrs. Eva Brown, Ms. Cheryl Coffman, Dr. Christian O'Malley, and Mrs. Kaye Hall.

Others present: Dr. Margaret Brake, Andrea Goode, Lisa Blalock and Tanisha Lyons.

Dr. Brown requested a roll call for members on conference call. The conference call attendee was Ms. Candice White.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Brown and a moment of silence was observed.

Lisa Blalock, Clerk of Court swore in new members Dr Christian O'Malley and Mrs. Kaye Hall.

Ms. Linda Baker moved to waive the Conflict-of-Interest Statement and seconded by Ms. Coffman. There being no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

There was no public comment.

Dr. Crenshaw made a motion to add the Resolution in support of Medicaid Expansion to the agenda and seconded by Mrs. Eva Brown. There being no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Margaret Brake discussed the Resolution for Medicaid Expansion which the Board was asked to sign in support of the Medicaid Expansion bill. She also shared that the resolution would be shared with the NC General Assembly. Mrs. Eva Brown made a motion to approve the Resolution for Medicaid Expansion and seconded by Ms. Linda Baker. There being no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Crenshaw moved to approve the January 2023 minutes as read and seconded by Dr. O'Malley. There being no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Brake presented the Finance Report. The Master Revenue is a summary of revenues through end of January 2023. We have exceeded the amount we adopted in budget for MCO Medicaid. Dr. Crenshaw moved to accept the Finance Report and seconded by Ms. Linda Baker. There being no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Brake presented the NC BCCCP and Wise Woman 2023 Sliding Fee Scale. Ms. Eva Brown moved to accept the NC BCCCP and Wise Woman 2023 Sliding Fee Scale retroactive to January 1, 2023 and seconded by Ms. Coffman. There being no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Brake presented the NC BCCCP 2023 Poverty Guidelines for review. The guidelines come from the state were updated January 19, 2023. Ms. Baker moved to accept the Poverty Guidelines and seconded by Mrs. Brown. There being no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed the Family Planning 2023 Eligibility and effective 2/2023. Mrs. Brown moved to accept the 2023 Family Planning Eligibility and seconded by Ms. Baker there being no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Health Director's Report 03/21/23

Staff Updates

Recently hired an Environmental Health Specialist and Community Health Technician (CNA-clinic) and recruiting for vacant nursing positions in clinic and home health.

At their March meeting, the Board of County Commissioners passed the Sign-On Bonus and Retention Policy. This may provide an opportunity for the health department to offer sign-on and retention bonuses for positions like nursing where we have a critical shortage.

COVID-19 Case Counts

NC DHHS Data as of March 15th:

Total Cases = 5879

of Cases Last Year = 1588

of Cases Last 3 months = 412

Total Deaths = 52 (1 death in the last 3 months)

**CDC Tracker: 7-Day COVID-19 Level of Transmission in Warren County is Low (Green)
From March 9-15.**

Reported Cases =17

Vaccinations Update

COVID-19 Vaccines: The Warren County Health Department is currently administering the Moderna and Pfizer new Fall booster vaccines by appointment. Moderna boosters are for those 18 years and older and Pfizer is for those 12 years and older. In order to be eligible for this

booster, it must have been at least 2 months since their last COVID-19 vaccine. We are still providing vaccinations (initial series) for anyone 6 months of age and older. Vaccination clinics are held twice a week at the health department on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Warren County Total Population Vaccination Status:

People Vaccinated with at Least One Dose: **11,705**

People Vaccinated with Initial Series Complete: **11,025**

People Vaccinated with at Least One Original Booster Dose: **6,652**

People Vaccinated with Updated Booster Dose: **2281**

Percent of Population Vaccinated with at Least One Dose: **59%**

Percent of Population Vaccinated with Initial Series Complete: **56%**

Percent of Population Vaccinated with at Least One Original Booster Dose: **60%**

Percent of Population Vaccinated with Updated Booster Dose: **21% * (Increased from 19%)**

Flu Vaccines: Flu shots are administered on Fridays. Health Department also held special clinic days in October for county employees to receive flu vaccines.

Other Updates

OptumServe, an NC DHHS state vendor is still conducting weekly COVID-19 testing at the Warren County Armory Civic Center. Optum continues to provide both COVID and flu antigen tests. NC DHHS will close this testing site on March 28, 2023. Free test kits are available at the health department, Senior Center and Parks & Recreation department.

The National Public Health Emergency for COVID-19 will end on May 11th. Some of the funds and services available during the COVID-19 response will go away.

Health Department is partnering with Eastpointe LME/MCO to host 4 Adult/Youth Mental Health First Aid Trainings on March 28-29, April 11 & 18. The trainings are open to county agencies as well as community members. Participants learn about signs and symptoms for mental health and substance misuse and to assist individuals how may or may not be in crisis.

Held 2nd Advancing Equity Staff Training on February 17, 2023. We focused on ways to strengthen our resilience, preventing burnout, lessons learned from our gratitude pilot, differences and conflicts, culture change for health and well-being. Advisory Council also met on March 10th. We will be hosting an Advancing Equity Community Conference on May 11th at the Armory Civic Center.

Community Health Assessment survey is underway. At our last count, we had received 209 responses.

Submitted a proclamation to the Board of County Commissioners to have April 2023 proclaimed as Public Health Month. National Public Health Week will be observed April 3-9, 2023. We will have activities planned to celebrate with our staff during the week. The Annual Health Fair will be held on April 6th at the Recreation Complex from 10am-2pm. In the event we have inclement

weather it will take place at the Armory. We currently will have 27 vendors, 3 food trucks, Kid's Corner, offer some health information and screenings.

Dr. Brake welcomed Dr. Christian O'Malley and Mrs. Kaye Hall officially to the Board of Health.

Mrs. Eva Brown announced that the Association of NC Local Boards of Health will be hosting an event on May 5th in Greensboro to celebrate National Nurses Week.

With no further comments or business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:



Dr. Elton Brown, Board Chair



Dr. Margaret Brake, Secretary



Warren County Board of Health Resolution in support of Medicaid Expansion

WHEREAS, healthy citizens and access to affordable healthcare are key to the Warren County economy;

WHEREAS, closing the health insurance coverage gap would extend insurance to approximately 1,510 uninsured individuals in Warren County and close the gap for more than 600,000 across the state;

WHEREAS, closing the health insurance coverage gap would drive \$3,800,000 in new business and healthcare activity in Warren County, bring in \$68,000 in new county revenue, and create over 21 new jobs;

WHEREAS, closing the health insurance gap would provide access to behavioral health care to address the opioid epidemic. In 2019, Warren reported 2 deaths and 4 emergency department visits for opioid overdose;

WHEREAS, federal funding from taxes that North Carolinians have already paid will cover 90% of costs for states closing the health insurance coverage gap to citizens who need access to affordable health insurance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Warren County Board of Health urges the North Carolina General Assembly to close the health insurance coverage gap in North Carolina with Medicaid Expansion.

This resolution shall be effective on and after its passage and shall be shared with the members of the Warren County General Assembly delegations.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY, THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-THREE.

Dr. Elton Brown
Chair, Board of Health

Dr. Margaret Brake, DHA, MHA
Health Director