

Carroll County Local Board of Health Meeting
Carroll County Health Center
Friday, June 12, 2015
12:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Chad Franklin
Dr. Philip Habas
Richard Kates
Jodie Kemper
Dr. Ben Kutnicki
Sandra May
Bill Osborne
Judge Bobby Lee Westrick
David Wilhoite

Members Absent:

Dr. Cecil Martin
Dr. Mark Miller

Staff Present:

Rachel Dermon
Ashley Froman
Georgia Heise
Allison Napier
Justin Pittman
Candice Selph
Jim Thaxton
Michelle Wilburn

Welcome: Chairperson, Sandra May, called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m. A quorum was present.

Public Remarks: None

Topic: Approval of August 22, 2014 Minutes and April 2, 2015 Minutes

Discussion: The Board was asked to review the August 22, 2014 minutes included in their packet. There was no discussion.

Action: Jodie Kemper made the motion to approve the August 22, 2014 minutes. Chad Franklin provided a second. The motion passed unanimously. Due to time constraints, the Board elected to postpone the approval of the April 2, 2015 minutes until our next meeting.

Old Business

Topic: Appraisal of the Carroll County Health Center

Discussion: Georgia Heise reminded the Board of their decision to commission an appraisal of the Carroll County Health Center after the last meeting. Justin Pittman referred the Board to their packets to review the results of the appraisal. The building appraised for half a million dollars, which was much lower than anticipated. Mr. Pittman surmised that the comps might have been a determining factor in the low assessment. He explained that in order to commission an appraisal, he had to venture outside of the region to get any kind of comps. In fact, the comps came from the Florence, Kentucky area. This action was necessary since medical buildings typically do not sell. Medical buildings are usually sold to other medical facilities, creating a limited amount of turnover.

Dr. Heise reiterated that the reason for the appraisal was to determine if Three Rivers could sell the building to the hospital and build elsewhere. Due to the low appraisal value, it is apparent that Three Rivers would still have to borrow money to build somewhere else regardless of selling the building since it cost a million dollars to build several years ago. This money would likely come from a loan provided by the Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo). Mr. Pittman confirmed that any price quoted on a new building would be based on prevailing wage, which typically drives the rates up.

Dr. Richard Kates asked if the parking lot was included in the appraisal. Mr. Pittman confirmed that the portion of the parking lot that actually belongs to the Carroll County Health Center was included. Mr. Bill Osborne made the comment that it is nice to have an appraisal, but that the focus should be on the cost of replacing the building. Judge Bobby Lee Westrick reiterated the need for having such an appraisal so that it can be included in the price of the building if Three Rivers decides to sell. Dr. Heise agreed it was a wise decision to ask for an appraisal to help determine a figure if Three Rivers decided to sell.

Topic: Update on the Carroll County Memorial Hospital Expansion Project

Discussion: Dr. Heise reported that the hospital and the architects planned to review some other alternatives to building around and in front of the Carroll County Health Center. Originally, the hospital wanted to incorporate the health center into their current plan and build a replacement facility for Three Rivers. However, she reminded the Board that the architects encountered problems with using the health center building based on difficulties in bringing the building up to code. Dr. Heise had hoped that the health center could have been used as an administrative office for the hospital, and that Three Rivers would receive a new building.

Dr. Kates asked Dr. Heise if we could use the Kentucky Utilities (KU) building they own and receive cash from the sale of the Carroll County Health Center. Dr. Ben Kutnicki liked this idea, and proposed using money from the sale of the Carroll County Health Center to renovate the KU building. Dr. Heise replied that it is an option. However, Dr. Philip Habas pointed out that the KU building is still next to the hospital, potentially causing the Carroll County Health Center to be at the mercy of future hospital expansion.

Dr. Heise reiterated that Three Rivers wants the hospital to succeed and flourish, and that we wish to remain good community partners. A healthy community requires that each entity be able to complete their job to the best of their ability. Therefore, any further plans hinge on hearing updated information from the hospital and the architects.

Action: Dr. Habas made the motion to table this discussion until the Board receives additional information from the hospital to help determine other options. Mr. Franklin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Topic: Financial

Topic: FY 15 Budget Amendment Approval

Discussion: Dr. Georgia Heise reminded the Board that budget amendments are now required by law to be voted on and approved by the Board as a result of legislation proposed by State Auditor, Adam Edelen. Michelle Wilburn asked the Board to review the amended budget and explained that the main differences in the budget came from the installation of the keyless entry system, additional landscaping, and the paving work in the parking lot. She explained that these expenses roughly totaled a \$1,200.00 difference in the original budget figures, and required Board approval.

Dr. Kates inquired about any debts owed by the Carroll County Local Taxing District. Ms. Wilburn confirmed that there were no debts.

Action: Mr. Osborne made the motion to approve the Fiscal Year 15 budget amendments as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kates. The amended Fiscal Year 15 Budget was approved unanimously.

Topic: FY 16 Budget Approval

Discussion: Ms. Wilburn directed the Board's attention to the proposed Fiscal Year 16 budget contained within their packets. She explained that the handout showed the previous year's budget, the current year's actuals, and the forecasted budget for the upcoming year. While the budget is always based on the previous year's expenses, Ms. Wilburn reminded the Board that some of the actuals will decrease in FY 16 since it will not be necessary to reinstall a new keyless entry system or pave the parking lot. However, she pointed out that the tax obligation will be higher this year.

Mr. Osborne inquired as to why there was a drop in the carryover money. Ms. Wilburn explained that money from those reserves were used to complete the paving, landscaping, and installation of the keyless entry system.

Action: Dr. Habas made the motion to approve the Fiscal Year 16 Budget. Mr. Osborne provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Topic: FY 16 Tax Rate

Discussion: Ms. Wilburn directed the Board's attention to the property values sheet located in their packet. She reminded the Board that property values are what the tax rate is based on, and explained that the sheet showed the August 2014 property values. Last year's taxing rates are what are used to project revenues. Mr. Osborne inquired about where the \$461,000 projected revenue was reflected in the budget. Ms. Wilburn replied that it could be seen in the "operations" line item. Since the 2015 property values for Carroll County have not yet been released and there are no major changes anticipated to the current rates, Dr. Heise proposed that the tax rate remain at 5.4 cents per \$100.00 dollars, with the contribution to Three Rivers District Health Department at 5.4 cents.

Action: Dr. Kutnicki made the motion to keep the tax rate at 5.4 with 5.4 going toward the operations of the health department. Mr. Franklin seconded the motion. The motion to approve the tax rate carried unanimously.

Topic: Board Members

Topic: Welcome New Board Member, David Wilhoite

Discussion: Dr. Heise welcomed Carroll County Coroner, David Wilhoite, to the Board. The Fiscal Court also approved Greg Goff, President of the First National Bank of Carrollton, to the Board. Mr. Goff plans to attend the next board meeting.

Topic: Resignation and Plaque for Wilbert Oder

Discussion: Dr. Heise informed the Board of Mr. Oder's resignation and expressed a desire to recognize him for his thirty years of service. She proposed commissioning a plaque to commemorate his years of service that the Board can present to him with our appreciation and thanks.

Action: Dr. Kutnicki made the motion to approve the expenditure of a plaque for Mr. Oder. Mr. Osborne provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Topic: Election of Officers

Discussion: Candice Selph reminded the Board of the previous year's officers: Mr. Oder, Chair; and Ms. May, Vice-Chair. No secretary or treasurer were appointed.

Action: Since no secretary was appointed previously and there were no nominations for the position, the Board agreed that only the Chair and the Vice Chair appointments were necessary.

For the Vice-Chair position, Dr. Habas nominated Mr. Osborne. Dr. Kates seconded the nomination, and Mr. Osborne was appointed Vice-Chair by unanimous acclamation.

For the Chair position, Mr. Osborne nominated Ms. May. Mr. Franklin provided a second, and Ms. May was appointed Chair by unanimous acclamation.

Topic: Signatory for Checks

Discussion: Ms. Selph shared that a third bank signatory was needed for the local taxing district account. Jodie Kemper and Judge Westrick are the current signatories.

Action: Dr. Kates suggested Ms. May as a third signatory, and it was accepted by Ms. May. Ms. Selph will work with the bank and Ms. May to add her to the signatory list.

Topic: Appointment of New Board Members

Discussion: Dr. Heise stated that Dr. Mark Miller has not been to three consecutive Board meetings. Due to the nature of the issues discussed by the Board of Health, an active member is needed. Ms. Selph recounted numerous attempts to reach Dr. Miller without success. Mr. Franklin shared Dr. Miller's cell phone number as another point of contact. Dr. Heise suggested that if Dr. Miller does not respond and does not wish to serve on the Board, the Board could consider sending him a letter thanking him for his service; and seek someone else to fill the position.

Rachel Dermon expressed that Dr. Besinger might be a good appointment to the Board if another member was needed. Dr. Kates agreed that Dr. Besinger would be a good nomination.

Action: Dr. Habas made the motion to send a letter to Dr. Miller if attempts to contact him continue to be unsuccessful. Dr. Kates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Topic: Code of Ethics Reporting Requirements for the Department of Local Government (DLG)

Discussion: Ms. Wilburn reminded the Board that each county chose to adopt a Code of Ethics as a result of recent DLG legislation. As of January 1, 2016, Dr. Heise shared that Board members may be required to report their income sources to DLG. Judge Westrick informed the Board that he has W-9 forms that members can complete and submit through his office.

Topic: Biographical Sheets

Discussion: Ms. Selph asked the Board to fill out the biographical sheets she passed out at the beginning of the meeting. These sheets with Board member information are filed and retained by Frankfort; and specify the term of service for each member.

Topic: National Association for Local Boards of Health (NALBOH)

Topic: Southeastern Regional Board Member

Discussion: Dr. Heise shared that that the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) is seeking a Board of Health member to serve as the Southeastern Regional representative on the NALBOH Board. This region includes the state of Kentucky. If any Board member is interested in the position, they are asked to contact Dr. Heise.

Topic: NALBOH Conference, August 5-7, 2015

Discussion: Dr. Heise reminded the Board that the 2015 NALBOH Annual Conference would be held in Louisville this year at the Brown Hotel. The conference will be held from August 5 through August 7. She expressed that these conferences are a wonderful opportunity to learn more about being a Board member and to hear what other Boards of Health are doing around the United States. Board members were asked to contact Ms. Selph if they were interested in attending. Registration and room costs for the conference would be covered by Three Rivers.

Dr. Kutnicki interjected that the NALBOH conference is an educational opportunity to learn how to be effective board members. Learning about what other boards struggle with and listening to the informative sessions are invaluable and easy to apply to our own practice.

Topic: Strategic Plan 2015-2019

Discussion: Dr. Heise presented the Board with the latest version of the 2015-2019 strategic plan that will be in effect July 1, 2015. She reemphasized the four strategic priorities within the plan: Three Rivers is a Great Place to Work, Assessment and Health Status, Assurance and Funding, and Policy Development and Law. As part of the Great Place to Work priority, Dr. Heise shared that she is seeking grant funding for a new District Office Building. Adam Craft from TRIAD thinks there might be potential funding through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Her hope is that this building will become a "One-Stop Shop" for community-wide use that will house numerous community service agencies, shelter facilities, preparedness exercises, and a fitness area.

An improved health status is another important priority. Issues such as reducing obesity, improving access to care, and implementing tobacco-free policies continue to be areas for improvement for Kentucky.

Funding for these goals is especially crucial. Dr. Heise desires that our legislature provide funding for identified community needs instead of providing funding that may be restricted to only one particular program or issue. To counteract this trend, Dr. Heise hopes to educate our legislature and look for alternate funding sources that allow the agency to address current needs to make the biggest impact possible.

Dr. Heise introduced Three Rivers employee, Jim Thaxton, as the Coordinator for the Northern Kentucky Heroin Impact Response Task Force. She remarked that Mr. Thaxton would be better able to comment on the heroin issue, as part of our Assessment and Health Status priority.

Topic: Senate Bill 192

Discussion: As a member of the Northern Kentucky Heroin Impact Response Task Force, Mr. Thaxton has been working on a four-pronged approach to the heroin issue in our communities: support, treatment, protection, and prevention. Mr. Thaxton gave a presentation to the Board about the implications of Senate Bill 192 that was passed during the last legislative session. This bill amends KRS 218A.00, adding sections (5) (a) – (c) which enables:

local health departments to operate a substance abuse treatment outreach program which allows participants to exchange hypodermic needles and syringes with the consent of the local board of health and the legislative body of the city and county in which the program would operate

To provide context for why such a syringe access exchange program (SAEP) is needed, Mr. Thaxton quoted some of the latest data and statistics regarding drug overdoses and deaths; emergency room visits and hospitalizations; arrest and incarceration rates for drug trafficking and possession of heroin; and communicable disease rates such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV. He also provided numerous personal and local examples of community encounters with uncapped, used needles in parking lots, playgrounds, cars, and even rivers.

Mr. Thaxton emphasized that one of the most obvious reasons for initiating an SAEP is to protect the public against communicable diseases. This type of program would provide sterile syringes, needles, and clean injection equipment to intravenous drug users; as well as provide them with a way to properly and safely dispose of contaminated equipment. However, Mr. Thaxton stated that a SAEP is not just about needle exchange. Interaction with heroin users provides trained, health care professionals a window of opportunity to provide pregnancy and disease testing for participants, administer vaccinations against disease, distribute naloxone kits, enroll them in healthcare coverage, provide counseling and education, and potentially refer them to treatment options or other health services.

SAEPs have been around for over thirty-five years, with research and demonstrable proof that they are effective in reducing disease. Other research has touted cost savings to the taxpayers who normally

bear the burden of expensive treatment options for intravenous drug users with Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B, and HIV. These benefits are in addition to the amount of disease that has been reduced by SAEPs. Mr. Thaxton provided numerous research examples of communities like Scott County, Indiana that are implementing these programs with success. Louisville, Kentucky now has a mobile unit providing their syringe access program. Others are beginning to follow these examples. As of June 19, 2015, Campbell and Boone counties have come together to form the Northern Kentucky Office of Drug Policy. This group plans to work independently of the Northern Kentucky Heroin Impact Response Task Force, and will attempt to work on issues that local judge executives would like to see addressed. These counties raised \$120,000.00 to create this new office.

Mr. Thaxton understood the concerns voiced by many in the community that a SAEP would enable drug users to continue their habit. However, research has shown that SAEPs do not encourage individuals to use drugs, do not increase drug use among existing users, or cause additional crime. By providing drug users with needles, we are protecting our children, law enforcement, and the general public from contracting these diseases. Mr. Thaxton emphasized that even if heroin use was eradicated today, there would always be other drugs or situations that would take heroin's place.

To conclude his presentation, Mr. Thaxton proposed that the Board of Health seek to develop and implement a phased SAEP in the four counties covered by Three Rivers District Health Department to prevent and control the spread of communicable diseases. Phase One might include outreach, disease testing, treatment resources, counseling, and referrals to other services in addition to needle-exchange. Phase Two might include naloxone kit distribution, enrollment in health care coverage, and other treatment options. Mr. Thaxton reiterated that implementation of an SAEP would require approval by not only the Boards of Health, but also by the Fiscal Courts and the City Councils. The approval of all three groups might not be necessary depending on where the SAEP takes place. If the SAEP is located within the county and outside the city limits, then the Fiscal Court and Board of Health would be the only governing bodies to approve. If the program is within the city limits, all three governing bodies must approve.

David Wilhoite asked how the needles are disposed of once they are collected, and how he could dispose of needles that he finds or collects in his work. Mr. Thaxton replied that the health department already has a contract for the disposal of hazardous waste.

Judge Westrick asked if the program would be giving away the needles. If so, he expressed concern that it would encourage continued drug use. Dr. Kates agreed that a SAEP sounds like a way to enable drug use. Mr. Thaxton stated that they will continue to use drugs anyway. By providing clean needles, we have an opportunity to reduce the spread of disease.

Mr. Osborne inquired if Mr. Thaxton believed that the drug users would actually visit a facility to exchange needles when it is more convenient for them to continue to throw needles away. Mr. Thaxton replied that needles are only discarded when they get dull. Since needles cannot be purchased without a prescription, drug users are looking for needles and visit facilities to get them.

Judge Westrick shared his concern that if the county and city agree to implement an SAEP, it could extend beyond the boundaries of the county, increasing the costs of running the program. Mr. Thaxton agreed that this could be a possibility, unless there are stipulations in the program that restrict the use of

the SAEP to county residents only. Dr. Heise admitted that the Mayor of Carrollton is adamantly against the program. In response, Mr. Wilhoite agreed that there are pros and cons to such a program. The pros are reducing the amount of needles in public areas and hopefully reducing disease rates. The cons are who and what we will be inviting into the county. Ms. May responded that this problem is already within the county, and needs to be addressed. While Mr. Osborne understood the information, he expressed his uncertainty about how the program would truly make a difference. Mr. Thaxton responded that SAEPs have numerous statistics and data behind them to prove their effectiveness in reducing the spread of disease.

Dr. Heise reiterated that this was not the business we wanted to be involved in, but it is the business that is upon us. We are already paying for this issue in one way or another since tax dollars are paying for many of these tests and infections. Since the implementation of a SAEP is an unfunded mandate, Dr. Heise plans to implement the program within the current budget of Three Rivers. Although it would have been preferable for the legislature to provide some funding to complete this project, Dr. Heise and Mr. Thaxton applauded Frankfort for having an open mind and being willing to work on this issue.

Dr. Heise stated that she would like to return to the Board in September with a policy and protocol for how an SAEP could work in Carroll County; and then present it to the Board for a vote. Since the implementation of a SAEP is an unfunded mandate, Dr. Heise plans to implement the program within the current budget of Three Rivers.

Action: Mr. Osborne made the motion for Three Rivers to do more research, observe the Pendleton County SAEP, and then return with a SAEP policy and protocol for examination at the next Board meeting. Dr. Habas provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Thaxton reassured the Board they could contact him or Dr. Heise at any time with any questions, comments, or suggestions for the SAEP program. Ms. May requested Mr. Thaxton to present this information to the Fiscal Court and the City Council since they may be unaware of this program and its potential implications.

Topic: Adjournment

Action: Dr. Habas made the motion to adjourn. Judge Westrick seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Sandra W. May
Board Chairman 10/2/2015
/Date

Gregory H. Hise
District Director 10/8/15
Date

Claudia Delp
Board Secretary 10/2/15
Date