

**Carroll County Local Board of Health Meeting Minutes**  
**First National Bank of Carrollton**  
**October 2, 2015**  
**12:30 p.m.**

**Members Present:**

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

**Members Absent:**

Dr. Cecil Martin  
Dr. Mark Miller

**Community Present:**

Shirley Oder  
Wilbert Oder

**Staff Present:**

Rachel Dermon  
Ashley Froman  
Allison Napier  
Justin Pittman  
Candice Selph  
Michelle Wilburn

**Welcome and Remarks:** Chairperson, Sandra May, called the meeting to order at 12:36 p.m. A quorum was present.

Justin Pittman, Deputy Director of Three Rivers District Health Department, expressed Dr. Georgia Heise's regret of not being present for the meeting. He explained Dr. Heise was in Washington D.C. to work with national advisors on how public health will be funded in the future.

**Topic:** Recognition of Mr. Wilbert Oder

**Discussion:** Ms. May welcomed former Carroll County Local Board of Health Chairman, Mr. Wilbert Oder, and his wife, Shirley Oder, to the meeting. In appreciation and recognition of Mr. Oder's thirty years of service to the Carroll County Local Board of Health, Ms. May presented a plaque to Mr. Oder on behalf of the Board. Mr. Oder expressed his appreciation and thanks, and the Board responded in kind.

**Topic:** Approval of April 2, 2015 Minutes

**Discussion:** Ms. May asked the Board to review the minutes from the April 2, 2015 meeting.

**Action:** Dr. Richard Kates made the motion to approve the April 2, 2015 minutes with an amendment to provide additional clarity that reads: "The building [Carroll County Health Center] is owned by the Board of Health and most of its parking lot is owned by the county." Dr. Ben Kutnicki seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Topic:** Approval of June 12, 2015 Minutes

**Discussion:** Ms. May asked the Board to review the minutes from the June 12, 2015 meeting. The minutes were reviewed with no discussion.

**Action:** Bill Osborne made the motion to approve the June 12, 2015 meeting minutes. Chad Franklin provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.

**Topic: Old Business**

**Topic:** Update on the Carroll County Memorial Hospital Expansion Project

**Discussion:** Ms. May shared with the Board that she had been in contact with Dennis Raisor, the Board Chairman for Carroll County Memorial Hospital. Mr. Raisor expressed that the hospital board was open to hearing suggestions for the expansion project from the health department. Judge Bobby Lee Westrick suggested a meeting between the two groups since he had heard that suggestion from the hospital also.

**Action:** David Wilhoite made the motion to initiate a meeting between the Carroll County Memorial Hospital Board and the Carroll County Local Board of Health. Dr. Philip Habas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Topic:** Senate Bill 192

**Discussion:** Mr. Pittman reminded the Board of Jim Thaxton's presentation at a previous meeting regarding the heroin epidemic and Senate Bill 192. This bill included provisions for the health department in conjunction with the Fiscal Court and cities (when applicable), to establish and conduct a Syringe Access Exchange Program (SAEP) with Board of Health approval.

Mr. Pittman directed the Board's attention to several documents in their packet. The first document included a policy and "Recommended Procedure" for Syringe Access Exchange Programs (SAEPs) that had been developed and passed by the District Board of Health on September 9, 2015. In the last line of the policy, Mr. Pittman pointed out that the recommended procedures by the District Board could be amended or modified as necessary to meet the needs of the local community.

The other two documents included the actual Senate Bill 192, as well as the "Best Practices Procedure." Mr. Pittman reminded the Board that the "Best Practices" procedure was currently in effect in Pendleton County. The Fiscal Court approved a SAEP to be run through the Pendleton County Health Center, which began on September 28, 2015. However, as of yet, no participants have come. He explained that this was not wholly unexpected since Lexington's SAEP only had ten participants the first day.

Mr. Pittman began by explaining the differences between the two procedures. Overall, the "Recommended Procedures" adopted by the District Board are more restrictive in nature, while the "Best Practices" are more adaptive. The first major difference is a service age restriction. In the "Recommended Procedures" document, ages sixteen (16) and older are eligible to participate in the program. The "Best Practices" document does not specify an eligible age. Judge Westrick interjected that this starting age is arbitrary, and likely based on the fact that they could drive themselves to the health center. Michelle Wilburn reminded the Board that federal funding



under Title X allows health departments to provide birth control, and sexually-transmitted disease testing to anyone of any age. If the patient is a juvenile, they can still be served without a guardian's consent.

Dr. Habas inquired whether or not people under the age of sixteen have been shown to use heroin. Mr. Pittman responded that the under sixteen population is not necessarily a target group since it is less frequent, but not out of the question. Ms. May stated that the start of heroin use is probably dependent on the condition of many home environments. She emphasized that there has been a bigger interest in the heroin problem in Carroll County over the last few months.

Dr. Kates expressed a concern that a heroin user might send their child into the health department to get needles. Therefore, he felt that the age limit of sixteen might be a good qualifier. David Wilhoite disagreed and preferred to keep an age limit out of the discussion in order to eliminate any possible barriers to participation.

The second difference could be noted under the section entitled "Referrals to Clinical Nursing Staff." The "Recommended Procedures" dictates that initial consultations include mandatory submission to testing for pregnancy (if applicable), and other diseases. In the "Best Practices" document, consultation will only recommend screenings to participants in the program.

Dr. Habas and Dr. Kates wondered if disease rates have decreased as a result of SAEPs. Mr. Pittman responded that when SAEPs were utilized, disease rates did fall. Dr. Habas recalled Mr. Thaxton sharing that thirty percent (30%) of SAEP participants usually enroll in treatment programs.

Dr. Kates inquired how Three Rivers would track who has diseases and if it would remain anonymous. Mr. Pittman responded that the participants would be identified by numbers and not names; and that any interaction through the SAEP program would be tracked separately through the SAEP. If the participants were referred to treatment, it is likely that their addiction history would eventually end up in a medical record—but not initially. Bill Osborne followed up by asking if Three Rivers can track trends and rates of diseases such as Hepatitis and AIDS. Mr. Pittman replied that we receive regular reports. Over the last few years, Ms. May has noticed a trend that has brought the community down as a result of drug use that has even affected schools and test scores.

The third and final difference between the documents involves procedures for syringe distribution. In the "Recommended Practices" document, it specifies that first-time participants can receive up to forty (40) syringes. The following visit will be a one-for-one exchange. The "Best Practices" document specifies that users can participate without exchanging needles for three (3) visits. If no needles are brought back after the third visit, they will no longer be eligible to participate in the program. Mr. Pittman reminded the board that the R.C. Durr Foundation has provided Three Rivers \$75,000.00 to help fund our SAEP programs.

In closing, Mr. Pittman shared that the other three local Boards of Health have unanimously voted to implement the "Best Practices" procedure; and have asked the health department to

report on the data being gathered from the SAEP in six months. He reminded the Board that whatever was voted on today would also have to be approved through the Fiscal Court and the City Council.

Dr. Kutnicki interjected that decisions about the days of operation and the types of publicity needed for this program would also be decisions for the Board to discuss. He also shared that if users presented at the health department on a day with the SAEP was not being conducted, the staff should be equipped to take care of them. Mr. Pittman agreed that Three Rivers would serve them as needed, even if the SAEP is advertised for only one day a week.

Dr. Habas inquired if the SAEP was going to be open to any and all participants, or just county residents. Mr. Pittman replied that this decision was for the Board to determine, and shared that the other local boards have not made a specification. Greg Goff emphasized the need to consult law enforcement agents to ensure safety and that current drug statistics are correct. Judge Westrick emphasized concerns among Fiscal Court members that an influx of heroin users could be seen in the county if the SAEP is implemented. He shared that he preferred the program to be a regional effort rather than county-specific.

**Action:** Dr. Kutnicki made the motion to initiate a SAEP in Carroll County. Dr. Habas provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.

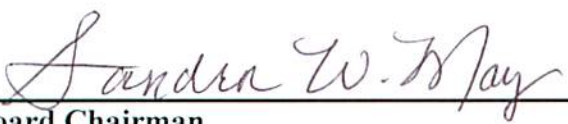
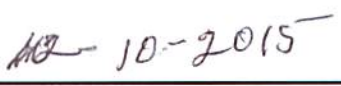

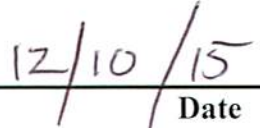
Dr. Habas made a follow-up motion to initiate the SAEP under the "Best Practices" procedure with the provision of reevaluating the program in six (6) months. Dr. Kates expressed a wish to implement that procedure but with the added restriction of the sixteen and above age limit. Dr. Habas amended the motion to include the sixteen and above age limit within the "Best Practices" procedure. Dr. Kates seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Topic: New Business**

**Discussion:** There was no new business to discuss.

**Topic: Adjournment**

**Action:** Dr. Habas made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Wilhoite provided a second. The meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

 _____ Board Chairman	 _____ Date
 _____ District Director	 _____ Date