

Lowndes County of Board of Health
May 23, 2017
Minutes

Members Present

Dr. Mark Eanes, Chairman
Dr. Randy Smith, Secretary
Mayor John Gayle
Bill Slaughter

Members Absent

Wes Taylor
Dr. Mary Margaret Richardson – Vice-Chairman
Myron Faircloth

Others Present

Dr. William R. Grow
Tad Williams
Sherrie White
Teresa Giles
John Sparks
Kyle Coppage
Patrina Bowles
Norma Jean Johnson
Brenda Nash
Kimberly Cannon

Call to Order

- A meeting of the Lowndes County Board of Health was held Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at 7:30 a.m. in the large conference room at the Lowndes County Health Department.

Public Comments

- There were no public comments.

Approval of January 24, 2017 (Attached)

- The minutes from the January 24, 2017 Lowndes County Board of Health meeting were approved with no opposition.

Business

Financial Information – Sherrie White (Attached)

FY2018 Budget

- The FY2018 Budget for the Lowndes County Health Department was presented.
- There was a \$404,901 increase in the FY2018 budget. This is in part due to the two percent salary increases for health department employees, fringe benefits, and the Inter/Intra Agency line items.
- Ms. White informed the Board that Lowndes' budget is in good shape.
- Mayor John Gayle made a motion to approve the Lowndes County Health Department's FY2018 Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Randy Smith. All approved and the motion passed.
- Ms. White informed the Board that revenue continues to come in. An additional \$10,000 is being requested from the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners for the hypertension clinic to accommodate the increase in clients. The Miller Foundation has also committed \$10,000 for the clinic.
- Lowndes County has a healthy fund balance.

Partnership Health Clinic Update – John Sparks

- Mr. Sparks announced that Partnership will be a 501(c)(3) charitable clinic due to South Georgia Medical Center releasing them from the status of a free clinic to a charitable clinic. This will allow Partnership to use a sliding fee scale and to also accept Medicaid and Medicare clients. No one will be turned away for their inability to pay for services.
- Partnership will receive direct referrals from South Georgia Medical Center's discharge planners who will schedule appointments.

- The clinic will become fully charitable once the necessary documentation for Medicaid and Medicare provider numbers has been assigned, a process that can take up to six months.
- Bids are being accepted to purchase malpractice coverage for all volunteers and a private human resource company has been hired. All Partnership employees except John Sparks, has been moved from the District's payroll to the private company.
- A second disbursement from South Georgia Medical Center is forthcoming. When received, this amount will bring the balance under \$100,000. A final payment in July will pay off that balance. Mr. Sparks expressed his appreciation to the Board for supporting Partnership.

Public Health Updates – William R. Grow, MD, FACP (Attached)

- Dr. Grow gave a status on the M&M software conversion for the District. The Lowndes County Health Department is currently being activated. CPT codes have been updated and the new system has decreased the amount of paperwork staff completes. By the end of the year all the health departments will be using M&M.

Nurse Manager's Report – Norma Jean Johnson (Attached)

- Ms. Johnson announced the hiring of Kim Davis, RN and Crista Hewitt, Lab Technician. There is one RN position open for the Perinatal Case Management (PCM) department.
- The health department went live with the Mitchell & McCormick software on May 15, 2017.
- A new vaccine freezer was purchased to replace an existing machine with a bad seal.

Environmental Health Update – Kyle Coppage (Attached)

- The Environmental Health Activity and Inspection report was presented.
- A resolution to adopt the rules and regulations mandated by the State of Georgia for on-site sewage management systems, food service establishments, tourist accommodations as well as portable sanitation was presented. Adoption of these rules will assist with enforcement and to also help the environmentalists get into magistrate court instead of state court. Bill Slaughter made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor John Gayle. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- The proposed fees for the Lowndes County Health Department's Environmental Health were provided. There has not been a fee increase since 2004. There are some modest increases as well as some decreases. Mr. Slaughter asked if all counties were on the same fee schedule. Mr. Williams indicated that Lowndes is the first board approached with the proposed fees. Each board of health will be asked to consider the proposed fee changes. Bill Slaughter made a motion to approve the Environmental Health Fee Updates. The motion was seconded by Mayor John Gayle. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Announcements

- There were no announcements.

Adjournment

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Randy Smith, Board Secretary
Brenda Nash, Typist