

The Fayette County Board of Health met on Tuesday, March 9, 2004 in the Public Meeting Room in the Fayette County Administrative Complex, 140 Stonewall Avenue, Fayetteville, Georgia.

Board of Health Members Present:

Dr. John DeCotis
Thomas Faulkner, MD
Lynette Peterson
Lyn Redwood
Judi-ann Rutherford
Dr. Michael Dr. Strain
A.G. Mr. VanLandingham

Staff Members Present:

Pam Crews
Merle Crowe
Rick Fehr
Cynthia Grant
Carl Knapp
Rodney Hilley
Dennis Davenport, Attorney

CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Strain called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM January 13, 2004:

Motion was made by Ms. Peterson to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. VanLandingham. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved as written, with Ms. Rutherford abstaining.

OLD / UNFINISHED BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT:

Environmental Health Fee Waiver Update: Mr. Davenport mentioned the fee waiver memo (attachment #1) received by the board in their packet. He said the basis for requesting such a waiver was financial hardship or non-profit status. He said he and Mr. Fehr had met and discussed the circumstances, and had concluded that a case-by-case basis would be best, as opposed to a blanket fee waiver policy. Dr. Strain clarified that was the current policy and felt that it should be continued. Mr. Davenport mentioned that if the board desired to change the policy that he would be happy to research and compose such a recommendation. Dr. Strain thanked Mr. Davenport and Mr. Fehr for their work. There was no further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Environmental Health Proposed Fee Change: Mr. Fehr said that new Environmental Health fees were to be proposed at the next meeting, if approved by the District Office after review. He said that a copy of the proposed fees would be sent to the board for their consideration, prior to the meeting. Ms. Redwood asked what changes would be included. Mr. Fehr said there were four new fees for verification of field line replacement area. He said those fees would be recommended after meetings with the Fayette County Building department. He said there was one fee to be reduced if no field work was required by staff for certain permits. He said fees would increase for inspection of restaurant and tourist accommodations, swimming pools, and plan reviews. He said plan reviews were part of application fees, but in some

cases plans were presented without payment of an application fee, and therefore no compensation was received by Environmental Health. He said the last fee was a fee of fifteen dollars would be charged for classes to be given to families on injury control. He said this was felt to be a better use of staff time, rather than giving individual consultations.

PRESENTAION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2005 BUDGET:

Ms. Crowe presented the budget to the board. She mentioned that the board had received a copy of the budget and hoped everyone had had a chance to look it over. She reviewed the Summary Sheet (attachment #2) and opened the floor for questions. Ms. Peterson asked if Grant-in-Aid was from the state and if it reflected the expected cut in funding; Ms. Crowe replied that it was and that it reflected a five percent cut. Ms. Redwood asked about the increase in pharmaceutical expense of twenty thousand dollars. Ms. Crowe replied that travel vaccines were very expensive and that costs continued to rise; she said those costs were recovered from patients, but that the vaccines had to be paid for up front.

Mr. VanLandingham said that the Fiscal Year 2004 Revenue Report total showed more revenue for eight months than the budgeted amount for Fiscal Year 2005 Prior Year Program Income (PYPI), and wanted clarification. Ms. Crews explained that the Revenue Report listed all revenue sources: including funding from WIC, Grant-in-Aid, County Participating and patient fees; whereas PYPI only included fees collected from patients during the current fiscal year. Ms. Crowe further explained that PYPI was then divided by twelve and used as operating funds the next fiscal year. Dr. Strain questioned the budgeted reduction in Environmental Health fees. Ms. Crowe replied that Environmental Health fees were current year fees and that they were not used unless absolutely necessary. Mr. Fehr said Environmental Health fee collections were down partly due to reductions in building permit applications. Mr. VanLandingham asked if Environmental Health was granted a fee increase if those fees would then not show until the next year. Ms. Crowe replied that was correct.

Dr. DeCotis asked what services had been cut back due to budget cuts. Ms. Crowe replied that none had been cut back; that nurses were putting in many hours, both before and after clinic hours. She mentioned that the FY 2005 Budget included a full-time Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to relieve some of the burden on Registered Nurses (RNs). She gave an example: currently an RN goes out to audit immunization records of Day Care facilities and schools, as required by law, but that an LPN could perform this duty and free up an RN who could be better employed in clinic. Dr. DeCotis wanted to know if overtime was paid to nurses; Ms. Crowe replied that they were professionals and received no overtime pay. She said that compensation time was given whenever possible. Ms. Redwood commended staff, saying they had done a really good job under difficult circumstances.

Motion to approve the budget was made by Ms. Redwood, seconded by Ms. Rutherford. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS:

Mr. Fehr gave a brief staff report. He said he was pleased to announce that Fayette County resident Michelle Monroe had been hired as Environmental Health Specialist I.

JARRETT PRICE:

Mr. Davenport updated the board on the Jarrett Price case, wherein Mr. Price requested reimbursement of costs incidental to sewage repairs. He said Mr. Price sued the board in the magistrate court for this expense but that the case had been dismissed as of February 2004.

ANTI-SMOKING ISSUE:

Ms. Redwood mentioned recent anti-smoking legislation. She said the bill included a provision to limit municipalities from passing similar legislation. She asked if the board would like to express its opinion on this issue, since it had been attempting similar action; board members agreed. Dr. Strain said that the bill had been passed by the senate and a vote was pending in the House of Representatives. Ms. Redwood distributed a handout and volunteered to draft a letter in support of the legislation for the board's consideration. Motion was made by Ms. Peterson to draft a letter in support of an Anti-Smoking Resolution. Ms. Redwood seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Mr. VanLandingham felt that it was ironic that the Fayette County commissioners were discussing passing liquor by the drink, which was detrimental to health, while remaining unwilling to support anti-smoking legislation, which was supportive of good health. Mr. VanLandingham said Ms. Chaney had appeared on television and was well-received and articulate. He praised the job she was doing. Ms. Peterson mentioned that the Board of Health was listed as a supporter of anti-smoking legislation in the full-page advertisement placed in the paper by the coalition. The motion passed unanimously.

MARNELL:

Ms. Redwood said she had been notified that Marnell Mobile Home park was up for re-permitting of its sewage disposal plant. She said the permit would expire December 5, 2004 and that she had attempted to contact the EPD engineer but had no success. She said there were still a few violations and that she would follow up and report back to the board.

DEVELOPMENTAL TASK FORCE:

Ms. Redwood said she had attended a Developmental Task Force meeting as discussed in the January meeting, and that ten members had attended. She said the ongoing task was to find adequate facilities for that group, and that any support would be helpful.

ADJOURMENT:

Motion was made to adjourn by Ms. Peterson, seconded by Mr. VanLandingham. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 am.

Michael Dr. Strain, Chair

Merle Crowe, Secretary