

The Fayette County Board of Health met on Tuesday, May 11, 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 Strain
A.G.VanLandingham

Staff Members Present:

Michael Brackett, MD
Merle Crowe
Rick Fehr
Cynthia Grant
Rodney Hilley
Dennis Davenport, Attorney

CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Strain called the meeting to order at 7:37 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 9, 2004:

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

OLD / UNFINISHED BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT:

Environmental Health Proposed Fee Change:

Mr. Fehr presented the board with proposed changes in fees. He mentioned that no vote was expected today. He said the proposal (see attachment #1) had one small change; that the word "may" would be changed to "will." He offered to answer questions.

Ms. Peterson asked what kind of increase would be represented by these fees.

Mr. Fehr replied that under the item On-Site Sewage Permit Re-application, requiring no field work, the fee would be reduced from \$275 to \$175. He said all the remaining fees were new.

Dr. Strain asked how the numbers were determined. He said the commissioners and public would like to have this information, since these were new fees.

Mr. Fehr replied that they were based on historical fees and average staff time necessary to perform those services.

Mr. VanLandingham asked how much revenue was expected from the increase, and if there was a way to compare expected revenue with historical revenue.

Mr. Fehr explained that since these were new fees that there was no way to compare. He said that a meeting with Ms. Venice, Fayette County Planning Director, Mr. Mundt, County Building Director, and himself it had been determined that certain building permits were being issued on lots having sewage systems, with no review for required replacement areas. He said that all parties agreed that all future building permits must be reviewed by Environmental Health, to ensure that sewage system replacement areas would receive attention. He said that this new requirement caused additional uncompensated work for staff, leading to this fee proposal. He clarified that permits for additional work such as swimming pools, decks, and so forth would require this review. He said that in the few months this requirement had been in effect, staff reviewed 3—7 permits per day.

Mr. VanLandingham asked the difference in fees between a 15 vs. 16 seat restaurant.

Mr. Fehr replied that the breaking point was somewhat arbitrary and that the size of the establishment affected the plans submitted, as well as necessary review time. He said there was no magic number, and the demarcation for fee increases could certainly be changed at the board's discretion.

Ms. Peterson questioned the zero persons seated category; Mr. VanLandingham said it would be a carry-out establishment. He wondered if there was a better way to establish the breaking point.

Dr. Strain asked about benchmark studies in other counties. Mr. Fehr answered that some counties were charging these fees.

Rodney Hilley said that other counties used a similar breakdown for their fees. He said he had reviewed the plan.

Dr. Strain asked that the fee packet be compared with state data prior to a vote. He asked that a comparison be given: a cost comparison of each line (A,B,C,D) under on-site sewage, this year vs. next year. He said he understood that plans could be reviewed but not followed by permit application, which would use manpower without compensation. He said sending the requested comparison by email would be fine.

Ms. Redwood asked for an example of a tourist accommodation, and further explanation of the initial application.

Mr. Fehr explained that tourist accommodations were primarily hotels and motels, but that could include campsites, although there were none in Fayette County. He said a tourist accommodation permit fee of \$300 was already being charged. He said upon approval of the new fees, \$300 would be charged for plan review, and applied to the actual permit when it was in force. He clarified that in the past plans had been submitted for review but no permit application was actually made, which used staff time without compensation. He explained that should this fee package be approved by the Board of Health, state law required it be presented to, and approved by, the County Board of Commissioners. He said these fees would not affect the budget for Fiscal Year 2005, due to the time required to obtain the necessary approvals.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pneumonia Case Cluster: Ms. Grant informed the board that a Physician's Assistant called the CDC because a number of pneumonia cases had presented to their practice. She said that the district epidemiologist let her know about these cases. She said 36 cases were involved, ranging from ages 11 to 81, median age 43, from January 2—April 14th. She said the duration of the illness was 7 to 21+ days. She said the range of symptoms were those to be expected with pneumonia. She said the investigation began on April 7, and that no sputum was collected, therefore no organism was on hand to identify cause. She said that case numbers had now declined, and that an investigation was ongoing. She said a request to the doctor's office of sputum samples for analysis had been made.

Ms. Grant said that one of the questions asked was how diagnosis were made. She said that some chest x-rays were made. She said broad-spectrum antibiotics were tried but that the only thing that worked were the drugs *Rocephin and Augmentin*. She said further investigation would help to narrow down what was going on. She said there was nothing to differentiate this physician's practice from any other in the area, and that no pneumonia notifications from the hospital or from other practices had been received. She mentioned that most of the affected patients did not have a productive cough, which was atypical.

Dr. Strain said that proximity to Atlanta would encourage calling in to CDC such as had happened, and that it would be good to keep an eye on this situation.

STAFF REPORTS:

Ms. Grant gave a brief staff report. She said that the "*Aligning Faith and Health: Seasons of Opportunity*" Conference was going on May 12—14 in Barnesville, and that she would be speaking at the 4:00 pm session on May 12. She said her topic was "*Faith, Health, Healing and Strengthening our Youth.*"

She said a grant had been written to obtain portable massage tables, in order to better perform clinical breast exams at Health Fairs. She mentioned the problems experienced at the recent Holy Trinity Hispanic Health Fair, in attempting such exams on ordinary tables. She mentioned the success of that fair: hearing, vision, and dental exams were given, as well as 38 clinical breast exams performed, with 18 referrals were given for mammograms.

DR. STRAIN: Dr. Stain read into the minutes a letter he and Dr. Brackett received from DHR (Department of Human Resources). See attachment #2.

Ms. Redwood said that the next meeting of the Developmental task force was the first week in June, she thought the second.

MCINTOSH TRAIL APPOINTMENT:

Ms. Crowe said she had been made aware of 2 vacancies on the McIntosh Trail board, and that she had attempted to get in touch with director Cathy Johnson. She said Jane Manley had returned her call and would notify the board when a suitable candidate(s) was found. She said the law required the Board of Health to nominate the candidate.

There were no other staff reports.

ADJOURMENT:

Motion was made to adjourn by Dr. DeCotis, seconded by Ms. Rutherford. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 am.

Michael Strain, MD, Chair

Merle Crowe, Secretary