

DeKalb County Board of Health
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2015
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Bohan Auditorium

Board Members Present

Arlene Parker Goldson, Board Chair
Jeff Rader, Interim Vice Chair
The Honorable Edward Terry, Parliamentarian
Jacqueline Davis
Camara Jones, M.D, M.P.H., Ph.D.
Clyde Watkins, M.D.

Guests and Staff Present

S. Elizabeth Ford, M.D., M.B.A., Health Director
Sentayehu Bedane, M.D.
Katrina Green
Letha Baines
Christin Taylor
Beth Ruddiman
Althea Otuata
Brenda K. Smith
Zipatly Mendoza
April Hermstad
Jessica Grippo
Sam Culbreath
Carolyn Hodge-Armstrong
Don Brundage
Sedessie Spivey

Board Member Absent

Vasanne Tinsley, Ed.D.

Guests and Staff Present

Sandra Piñeyro, Rec. Secretary
Shequoia Harris
Aletha Dixon
Tesi Gillispie
Mia Young
Bernard Hicks
Dianne McWethy
Mandy Seaman
Alicia Cardwell Alston
Paul Spadafora
Velma Benton-Hamler
Alyssa Soluren
Dyron Stephens
Brandi J. Whitney

The regular Board meeting of the DeKalb County Board of Health was called to order by Board Chair Arlene Parker Goldson at 3:08 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – September 24, 2015

Board member Jones asked that the word “recognizing” be replaced with the word “rectifying” on page 2 of the Board meeting minutes (the minutes of the June 18 Board Retreat were corrected as well). The minutes should now read “Dr. Jones spoke about the upcoming American Public Health Association’s annual meeting where they are launching a national conversation on addressing racism to achieve health equity, which requires valuing all individuals and populations equally, *rectifying* historical injustices, and providing resources according to need.”

Board member Jones asked for clarity on a statement made by Board member Terry in the first paragraph of page 4. She asked if Board member Terry was satisfied with the wording and he

responded yes. Dr. Jones asked that this be noted in the minutes as an observation. Board Chair Goldson motioned to approve the minutes with corrections. The motion was seconded by Board member Jones, with all in favor.

Contract Approvals

Dr. Ford reviewed a contract with the City of Lithonia for a farmers market to be funded by the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) grant. The contract would create a farmers market in downtown Lithonia from December 2015 through September 2017 for at least 12 weeks per year. Staff is requesting that the Board of Directors approve the contract between the DeKalb County Board of Health and the City of Lithonia. Dr. Jones asked about the use of logos. It was noted that on page 3 of the contract it states that the City of Lithonia cannot use the Board of Health logo on any publicity about the program and cannot identify the Board of Health as a sponsoring agency without prior approval. Dr. Ford stated that the Board of Health has standards on the size of the logo. Chair Goldson asked for a motion to approve the contract as presented with no edits, amendments or additions. Board member Davis moved for approval of the Lithonia farmers market contract as written. The motion was seconded by Board member Terry, with all in favor.

An ETR Services, LLC contract was presented as an amendment to include an expanded scope of activities. The current contract budget was based on a limited scope of work that was developed in response to a request for proposals, but did not reflect the full scope of activities. The amended project cost is for an amount not to exceed \$183,641.68, which reflects an increase of \$84,319.33. Board member Jones pointed out that Article 7 of the contract should be corrected to read \$84,319.33, instead of \$99,322.35. The no-cost extension does not affect the work being done in Year 2. It helps carry out the various activities during Year 1. Chair Goldson asked for a motion to approve the contract with the correction on Article 7 to reflect the not to exceed amount of \$84,349.33, instead of \$99,322.35. Board member Jones so moved. The motion was seconded by Board member Terry, with all in favor.

Old Business – Clean Indoor Air Act (DeKalb County Smoke-Free Air Ordinance)

Dr. Ford reported on her attendance at the American Public Health Association's annual conference. She studied how New Orleans was able to pass a clean indoor air ordinance and suspects that they had strong political support to make it happen and, additionally, they were supported by the Affordable Care Act. New Orleans also had a very strong, targeted media campaign. Dr. Ford spoke with Interim Vice Chair Rader and she believes that we do not have the support of a majority of the Board of Commissioners to pursue a stronger clean indoor air ordinance. She feels that the first step should be to make Board of Health campuses smoke-free. Based on history, Dr. Ford feels that we will not be seeing support from the Board of Commissioners for changes anytime soon. However, she would share with them the new information about New Orleans and Savannah. Interim Vice Chair Rader suggested a

DeKalb County Board of Health Regular Board Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2015

Old Business – Clean Indoor Air Act (DeKalb County Smoke-Free Air Ordinance), cont'd.

presentation by Savannah to the Board of Directors to start a discussion on how they passed their ordinance. Board member Terry disagrees, stating that he feels this is the best time to put forth controversial issues. He feels that if the Board of Directors develops an ordinance or policy, then we would be able to actually give the Board of Commissioners specifics, rather than speaking in theory. Board member Terry further stated that if we give the Board of Commissioners clear guidelines and policies, they could state what they agree or disagree with and then all can come to a compromise. Board Chair Goldson thinks that this idea has benefits and a strategy could be developed during the election year. She recommends discussing who the advocates are outside of the Board of Health and have them push the envelope. It also would be helpful to draft a plan similar to Savannah and New Orleans before either one is invited to visit.

Dr. Jones asked who is responsible for crafting the ordinance. She wants to support Board member Terry in what he has stated and also feels that an election year is a great time to bring forth important issues. Board member Jones asked for an explanation of the risks associated with bringing forth a stronger ordinance. Dr. Ford responded that the risk is that the Board of Commissioners is mandated to support the Board of Health with approximately \$1.3 million annually. Historically, they have always supported us above and beyond that. Last year we received an extra \$200,000 even in the midst of their cutting departments. Dr. Ford is hesitant to risk the good will for a campaign that she is not sure is going to be successful.

Dr. Ford understands that the Board of Directors is comfortable with moving forward. However, as the manager of the agency's funds, she has concerns.

Mrs. Goldson said that the risk is real with a lot of money on the table. She said that the Board of Directors wants to maintain the political good will and make sure that we have good relationships with those people who make decisions about the budget. As stewards, and the people who are legally responsible for the Board of Health's operations and budget, the Board of Directors has concerns about the risk, whether it is real or perceived. On the other hand, we also have a responsibility to the residents of DeKalb County to advocate for and champion things that would improve their health. It is a delicate balance. Chair Goldson stated that there needs to be more discussion on how we would approach this issue so that we do not put the Board of Health and the 700,000 residents of DeKalb County at risk. We have to identify champions outside of the agency who would feel comfortable bringing forth the issue.

Board member Terry stated that there should be no political retribution for trying to do our job. He further stated that the history and the perception of DeKalb County is that it is corrupt and political, yet he would like to remain optimistic that it will not continue to be. Board member Terry further stated that the Board of Directors needs to approach the Board of Commissioners with new information to consider, since it has been four years since the last amended ordinance was proposed. He feels that there is a way to reach a consensus with the

DeKalb County Board of Health Regular Board Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2015

Old Business – Clean Indoor Air Act (DeKalb County Smoke-Free Air Ordinance), cont'd.

Board of Commissioners.

Board member Jones stated that Board member Terry is in a great position as a mayor and a great advocate for the cause for the City of Clarkston. She suggested using Clarkston as a model and presenting it as an example. This would give Board member Terry an opportunity to get out front on the issue and educate his constituents. She feels that if Board member Terry is successful in Clarkston, then that would be a great benefit. Board member Terry responded that if the Board of Health would come up with an ordinance, then he would gladly introduce it to the Clarkston City Council. There are three new council members being sworn in at the first of the year. The number one public health issue in America is tobacco use. Board member Terry believes that this should be at the top of the list and he would like to introduce it and lead the way.

Dr. Ford said that the plan is to start with the Board of Health and then proceed to Clarkston. Hopefully between making the Board of Health facilities and Clarkston smoke-free, we would have more of a push. Dr. Ford believes that this is a more reasonable way to move forward than to go back to the county commissioners without anything else changing in the county.

Board member Jones would like to see county ordinances that have passed and the history of all the drafts. Board Chair Goldson said there are lessons learned from the past and feels that we could benefit from having a refresher course, in addition to the City of Clarkston strategy that Board member Terry outlined.

Board member Goldson said that the Board of Directors can go back to all the champions who were part of the conversation on the passing of the current ordinance.

Dr. Ford will share the current ordinance with Board members Jones and Terry. She asked that the Board of Directors think about what they want to be different and then come up with some iterations. Board members Jones and Terry will work on the ordinance as a sub-committee. The preliminary findings will be submitted at the January 2016 Board meeting.

Director's Board Report

Please see attached report.

Financial Status Report

Please see attached Financial Summary.

Public Comments

No public comments.

DeKalb County Board of Health Regular Board Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2015

Board Comments

Board member Jones wanted to know if the Board has dentists and nurses that regularly visit each school. Dr. Ford responded that the dental staff visits schools on periodic events.

Board member Terry wants the Board of Directors to consider inviting the media to “tell our story” on what DeKalb County is doing for refugees and to concentrate on the health screening. He also would like to bring someone in to do an energy efficiency assessment of Board of Health facilities. Board Chair Goldson stated that there is a difference between “telling our story” and inviting media in to our story.

Board member Jones asked about the history of school health clinics in DeKalb County and wondered if the Board of Directors would want to reestablish them. Dr. Ford responded that the Board of Health is partnering with Emory on this issue. The Board of Health recently received a planning grant for school health in the amount of \$7,500. Dr. Ford said that it should not be difficult to set up a network of retired doctors that would work in the clinics. The turnover in the school system has made it difficult to move things forward in trying to place nurses in the schools. Success depends on whether or not the superintendent considers it a priority.

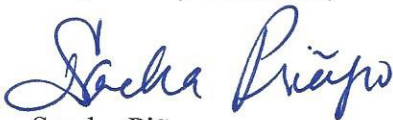
Board member Terry recommended offering health policy internships. He also would like to receive social media updates from the Marketing and Business Development Division.

The Board of Directors presented Board Chair Arlene Parker Goldson with a plaque of appreciation for her six years of service on the Board of Directors, for her long-time commitment to the DeKalb County Board of Health and to DeKalb County. Mrs. Goldson’s term expires on December 31, 2015.

Adjournment

Chair Goldson moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Board member Davis, with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Piñeyro
Recording Secretary

Approved by:



The Honorable Jeff Rader, Interim Vice Chair
The Honorable Edward Terry, Board Parliamentarian