Regular Called Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 16, 2017
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Bohan Auditorium – E. L. Richardson Health Center

Board Members Present

The Honorable Jeff Rader, Board Chair
Dr. Clyde Watkins, Jr., Vice Chair
Dr. Camara Phyllis Jones, Parliamentarian
Dr. Sonia Alvarez Robinson
Mrs. Delphyne Lomax Taylor
The Honorable Edward “Ted” Terry
Absent
Dr. Vasanne Tinsley

Staff and Guests Present

Sedessie Spivey
Otto Ike
Janet Kelly
Almanzia Opeyo
Angelle Rozier
Beth Ruddiman
Kenn Jones
Glynnetta Anderson
Ryan Cira
Brenda K. Smith
Paul Spadafora
Lis McWhorter
Bernie Hicks
Patrice Cannon
Aletha Dixon
Angela Bines
Geremy Lloyd
Courtney Underwood
Rosalind Hill
Cartesha Cox
Kelly Clay
Stefani Carter
Ellie Gonsalves

Patrice Okwunze
S. Elizabeth Ford, MD
Erica M. Brooks
The Regular Called meeting of the DeKalb County Board of Health was called to order by Board Chair, Commissioner Jeff Rader at 3:02pm.

Actions

I. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Rader asked if there were any discussion and/or revisions to the minutes of the September 28, 2017, Regular Called Meeting Minutes. Dr. Sonia Alvarez-Robinson offered the first motion to approve, and Delphyne Lomax-Taylor offered the second motion. Dr. Camara Jones asked for clarification on the notation regarding the purchase of supplies for the REACH program, citing that the wording could be confusing, (DeKalb County UGA Extension/4-H REACH Grant – Mobile Market Initiative – Contract Amendment #3). Chairman Rader proposed striking the word “purchase”. Chairman Rader then asked for further discussion, and if the remaining members would accept the removal of the word “purchase” as a friendly amendment. Dr. Alvarez-Robinson affirmed, further noting that she would only do so if the resulting statement proved accurate. Dr. Ford asked that the grant staff speak on the REACH grant to confirm. Sedessie Spivey explained the grant allows for the purchase of office supplies; however, produce cannot be purchased. Chairman Rader asked again if the explanation offered was amenable and if a friendly amendment would be accepted. Dr. Jones and Dr. Alvarez-Robinson affirmed. Chairman Rader reiterated that the minutes would be amended to include the “purchase of supplies, exclusive of produce.” Dr. Jones also noted the need to correct the spelling of NAACHO on page 6. Chairman Rader asked for other corrections, amplifications or amendments, seeing none the minutes were passed.

II. Approval of Contracts and Amendments

1. North DeKalb Health Center Emergency Standby Generator Purchase
2. T.O. Vinson Health Center Emergency Standby Generator Purchase

Dr. Ford began by providing background as to the request to purchase the emergency standby generators, and stressed previous mention to the Board of the need for standby generators due to power outages resulting in spoilage of immunizations and other supplies. Dr. Ford also highlighted the allocated funding in the 2018 budget to support the purchase of both standby generators. Dr. Ford asked that the Board consider the purchase price and the cost for labor/installation, simultaneously. Dr. Ford explained the difference in price between the two contracts. The first being the purchase and installation of a 350 watt, 1200 amp, natural gas generator for the North Health Center with a price of $236,337.00. The second generator for the T.O. Vinson Health Center has 2000 amps and totaled $261,830.00.

Discussion re-cap:

Chairman Rader: Are the generators priced evenly?
Dr. Ford: It is the same company; the labor is different because of the configuration of the buildings.
Dr. Jones: Why do they need different wattages?
Kenn Jones (Internal Services): The age of the buildings; when they were built, there was much more construction involved to allow for lighting connection.
Dr. Jones: Noted that a standard building has 300 watts; and asked if North is standard?
Kenn Jones: North is a smaller, the wattage is based on the electricity usage.
Drs. Jones Ford: We are asking why is it a higher wattage?
Kenn Jones: North has a higher peak.
Dr. Jones: Asked if the labor rate was based on the ease of installation.
Chairman Rader: Noted there were four bids on one and three on the other; and asked if they were issued at the same time?
Kenn Jones: Confirmed and offered Oak did not respond.
Chairman Rader: Asked is there is a service or maintenance agreement?
Kenn Jones: They are under warranty for the first year, after that the county will step in.
Chairman Rader: I would push for a maintenance contract. It would be great when buying capital equipment like this because the agency could get an extended warranty. The first year is fine but when the emergency comes you want to have it.
Kenn Jones: The county will continue to perform monthly inspections and maintenance.
Dr. Jones: Asked what would happen if the agency went 18 months without needing it and then after 18 months plus 1 day we need it and didn’t work? Are we out of warranty? What is 18 months after the delivery to the FOB point?
Kenn Jones: Whichever comes first.
Mayor Terry: What is the sourcing for the natural gas, are we going to be able to use the land field gas?
Chairman Rader: The BOH has true natural gas. The way that the land field gas works is that they put it into the pipeline and then you take credits out. It’s not like your land field gas is a special pipeline. You can’t identify that gas. The County is using natural gas to run equipment.

Following the discussion, Chairman Rader called for a motion to approve the purchase of the two standby generators. Dr. Jones offered the first motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Dr. Watkins, Jr. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comments

N/A

Board Comments

Dr. Jones spoke to the increase in maternal mortality gaps across the country and noted recent TB cases. Dr. Ford addressed the condition and status of the baby and mother referenced in the Board Report. Drs. Ford and Jones continued a brief discussion as to the treatment of some patients and mortality gaps.

Dr. Ford spoke to follow up action and research regarding marijuana prosecutions; she noted conversations with colleagues at Georgia State University and Morehouse College. Dr. Ford also provided an update on the work her CDC Preventative Medicine Fellow (Runa Gokhale), has done regarding smoking legislation in public eateries. Runa’s work covered Decatur, Savannah and Fulton County to date. Chairman Rader addressed the issue by reiterating the need to establish a Clean Indoor Air Ordinance for the County. Dr. Ford stressed her intentions to follow up with other members of the BOC in the new year. Mayor Terry shared his experiences working on the legislation in the City of Clarkston and highlighted push back from hookah lounges. He questioned if there was
any information noting the differences between hookah, vaping, cigarette, or cigar smoking. The members continued a brief discussion on the issue with Dr. Jones highlighting the need for education. Chairman Rader reiterating timing and approach and asked if there should be a consideration to ban all exotic forms of smoking. Dr. Alvarez-Robinson stressed the need for objective empirical evidence on health consequences and second-hand smoke. Dr. Alvarez-Robinson said having this information would better assist the Board in making any decisions before advocating for eliminating consumption of tobacco in any form.

Dr. Ford suggested that her CDC PMF, Runa, could gather information from her contacts within the CDC to get more clarity on the various delivery systems, types and their safety.

Chairman Rader asked if would it make sense to put the item on the agenda for an update in January, including information on other jurisdictions who has adopted more restricted policies.

Chairman Rader congratulated the City of Clarkston for its selection to join the 2018 National Fitness campaign and receipt of a $10,000 reward. He asked Mayor Terry if he’d like to comment.

Mayor Terry explained he met representatives involved in the National Fitness Campaign. In the 90’s, this group was responsible for the installation of bike trails, etc. In the Clarkston project, there are plans for bike and chin-up stations every quarter of a mile. Further, the 21st century version contains more focus on body weight. They are asking cities, counties to join this campaign. They have developed a twenty by forty foot you can complete it 7 minutes or extend it to 15-30 minutes. The initial $10,000 is the introductory award with a goal to find non-profits, governments to pay for the footprint. The City wants to build a bridge across 285 for pedestrians and bicyclist. In the city limits it will connect to the Stone Mountain trail with a continuous route from Stone Mountain to Decatur; with a pocket park on the Church Street side at 285 the cities all come together.

Adjournment

The Board Chair Jeff Rader called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Board unanimously offered the first motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mayor Ted Terry.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Rader at 4:33pm.

Submitted by: 
Erica M. Brooks, Recording Secretary

Approved by: 
The Honorable Jeff Rader, Board Chair