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Time Posted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Posted by: Evelyn Baker  
Witnessed by: \_\_\_\_\_

**MINUTES OF A  
SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE  
JACKSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON  
FEBRUARY 28, 2007**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in Special Meeting on February 28, 2007 at 8:30 am, Health Department, 538 Scotts Creek Rd., Sylva, North Carolina.

Present:

Brian T. McMahan, Chairman  
Joe Cowan, Vice Chair  
Mark Jones, Commissioner  
Tom Massie, Commissioner  
William Shelton, Commissioner  
Kenneth L. Westmoreland, County Manager  
Evelyn Baker, Clerk to Board

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to receive an overview of the services provided by the Health Department.

Paula Carden, Health Dept. Director, stated the Health Dept. was established in 1934 and fully accredited in 2006. She stated that the goal of the department is to enhance, ensure and protect the health of families and the top five concerns in the county are substance abuse/violence, access to health care, obesity, dental needs and asthma/air quality. Highlights of a power point presentation are as follows:

(1) **Administrative Unit:** The mission is to provide leadership and guidance to the staff in order to successfully meet the needs of the community, ensure that goals are met, and make service the major focus and maintain internal and external integrity.

(2) **Management Support.** Functions include reception, data entry, switchboard, records maintenance, epilepsy medication component, accounts receivable, and maintain vital records.

(3) **Laboratory.** The key roles are to provide comprehensive clinical lab services, Job Corps, reference lab for area healthcare providers, water testing, work-site wellness programs, collection site for DNA samples, and clinical testing. Over 1,200 water tests were performed in 2005-06 including 80 public water systems in addition to serving 6,000 clients.

(4) **Personal Health Clinic:** The goal of clinical services is to provide high quality, timely, efficient and cost effective services so that the well-being of clientele is best achieved. Functions include adult health, BCCCP/Wise woman, child health, communicable disease, educational student clinical rotation, immunizations, maternal health, sexually transmitted disease, school nurse, tuberculosis, women's preventative health. The specialty clinics unique to the county are a Pediatric Heart Clinic and Regional High Risk Maternity Clinic. The health department is currently working collaboratively with other Western North Carolina counties and EBCI for preparedness plans to mesh and pool resources.

(5) **WIC and Nutrition**: Women, Infants, Children (WIC) is a federally funded program designed to prevent health problems before they exist by providing nutrition education, supplemental foods, and referrals to other social and health programs including voter registration. \$451,345.35 was spent in grocery stores in the county last year using the WIC vouchers. Studies show that every dollar spent on a pregnant woman in WIC saves \$3.13 in Medicaid costs during an infant's life, reduces anemia, low birth weight, infant mortality, and premature births. A registered dietitian is on staff as well as a certified diabetic educator.

(6) **Dental Program**: The mission is to reduce dental disease and improve oral health among low-income children and adults in and around the county. The program includes school dental health, pre-school preventive services, adult-age Medicaid eligible patient services, community dental education.

(7) **Family Outreach Services**: These services include intensive home visitation to pregnant women until infant reaches age 1, offers outreach, advocacy, education and support services, and works jointly with maternity care and child service coordinators as a link between the clinic and the client's home and community. Jackson County is now second to the lowest county in the state for adolescent pregnancy.

(a) The SmartStart Program health consultant assesses health and safety needs and practices in the childcare setting, helps caregivers develop strategies for caring for children with special needs, establishes policies and procedures for health and safety emergencies, and conducts childcare staff training.

(b) The Child Passenger Safety Seat Program serves all county residents and designed to offer a safe, secure way to transport children. New car seats are free of charge to citizens. Unfortunately, the Dept. of Insurance will no longer provide car seats and new funding sources will need to be located.

(c) The Health Education/Health Promotion Program's services include school health, youth programs, worksite wellness and seniors' fitness program. North Carolina ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in the country in the highest rate of overweight and obese adults (Jackson County has 58% adults and 50% for children).

(8) **Teleconferencing and Volunteering**: Teleconferencing provides local access to distant classes and meetings. The volunteer program serves the department by providing hours of skilled labor, serves the community by increasing the quality and quantity of work accomplished, services the citizens by providing an opportunity to serve and give back to the community.

(9) **Environmental Health**: The Environmental Health Section provides food, lodging, institutions, and pool inspections, onsite waste water program, straight piping elimination program, well program, water supplies, lead abatement program, rodent and vector control, health complaint investigations, home assessments, and the animal shelter. Pool inspections require many, many visits to the sites. Since the implementation of the Well Program in 2001, 98% of the new wells drilled in the county have safe drinking water. The Animal Shelter's key roles are rabies control, maintain animal shelter for cats and dogs, adopt and redeem cats and dogs, euthanize cats and dogs, investigate complaints and animal bites. One of the highlights of the Health Dept.'s accreditation was the state's Site Visit Team's visit to the shelter. They came back with accolades that it is one of the best in the state.

(10) **SPACE NEEDS**: The building renovations have been helpful. The dental office and teleconference center are located in outside modular units. It would be advantageous to have those operations in the building.

Ms. Carden stated that the Health Department's jobs are to: *"Prevent the preventable, correct the correctable, cure the curable, but our first step is to detect the detectable"*.

There being no further business, Commissioner Shelton moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

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Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk

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Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman