

SCHD Advisory Committee
Dangerous Dog Appeal Hearing & SCHD Health Advisory Committee Minutes
May 14, 2024, at 6:30 pm

Dangerous Dog Appeal Hearing

Attendance

Board Members: Dr. Jeffrey Bell, Yire Hernandez, Russel Devane, Lethia Lee, Dr. Shane Sundlie, Katrina Boykin

County Employees: Wanda Robinson, Joel Starling, SGT. Jessica Kittrell, Cherish Allen

Speakers: Oscar Williams, Adam Phillips

- I. **Call to Order:** Dr. Jeffrey Bell called Hearing to order. The dog in question is Princess, owned by Oscar Williams.

II. **Dangerous Dog Hearing**

- a) Overview of Dangerous Dog Hearing Process: Dr. Jeffrey Bell reviewed Article 1A. Dangerous Dogs Sections (a) (1) a. and b; (2) a. b. and c. (See attached). Dr. Jeffrey Bell stated that all speakers will have three minutes to speak, speakers will then be asked questions by the Committee. He explained that it is important to stay on topic and give facts of exactly what happened and what was witnessed during the events that occurred on April 18, 2024.

b) Public Comment:

Dr. Jeffrey Bell called Oscar Williams to speak. He was sworn in under Oath by Wanda Robinson.

c) Discussion:

Mr. Oscar Williams: "Good evening, everyone. The first objection I have, the very first one, is Princess was in her yard. What's mine is my dogs. I do have signs up in my yard – "Beware of Dog", "No Trespassing", and one more, I can't think of right now. I think my main thing is, she was home. It's her premises. I just call it one of those things where she was trying to protect her premises. She has not been in any trouble before. That's basically, I'm not going to sit here and try to prolong this thing and say a lot of words, but that's what I got to say in defense of Princess, she's a good girl. I hate that it happened, Lord knows I hate it. I wouldn't want that to happen, not even to another dog. If there is any way I could reverse this thing, I would. She was home and she did what other dogs would do, protect the premises. In the camera, she was coming from the back yard and when he pulled up in the yard. I know this guy, he lives right down the street, friends, no animosity between us. Well, prior to this, there wasn't. He got out of the car, right in front of my house, and that's when she was coming from the back yard and barking. He got out and walked around the front of his car and up the steps. They were walking up meeting one another and met each other. Before there was any bite that took place they were as close as the length of this table, but he just kept walking up to my house, she was coming like walking towards him. He turned around, I don't know if it was his wife in the

car. She was blowing the horn, laying on the horn to get him back in the car. That's what got my wife's attention, the horn. His wife kept going get in the car, get in the car and he kept right on walking. When he turned, he stumbled and fell. When he fell things took place. Princess was protecting her domain. She didn't just run and jump on him or anything. That's just the way I see it.

Dr. Jeffrey Bell asked the Committee if they had questions.

Joel Starling-County Attorney asked Mr. Williams how he knew what happened during the incident if he was not there, as stated in the report. Mr. Williams explained he has a ring doorbell camera. Joel asked if the footage was available, Mr. Williams stated he could pull it up on his wife's cell phone, that he brought with him.

Dr. Jeffrey Bell explained that the committee must go by the law. He explained that the dog was unprovoked as no one was tormenting the dog. He was walking toward the front of your property up to the front door, not sneaking around the back.

Mr. Oscar Williams: "That is a form of being provoked, just coming on the property. He came onto the property with the signs out. We aren't talking about a person versus a person. We are talking about a person versus a dog. That's provoking right there, he continued to come with the dog barking. I could see if the dog was running and jumping, but she was barking and that's a sign. Seems like all the blame shouldn't be put on Princess. I am not the smartest person; I am just a normal guy and I just try to use some common knowledge. With the dog barking, he should have taken that sign that he may be in danger. The dog can't speak for herself; I have to speak for her. I do not agree with that, I believe provoke can have a two-fold meaning. She didn't dive on him and started doing that. You can hear the wife blowing the horn and hollering for him to get in the car, but he kept walking and that's provoking."

Wanda Robinson, Health Director asked why Mr. Melton was there. Williams- I have not talked to them. They are my friends of mine. He used to live next door with his parents. I still visit his parents, an elderly couple. I got his number, I've called, but they haven't returned my calls. I guess I understand that, and I don't hold anything against them. The information I received from the Sheriff's Department enlighten me on some things, but I have not talked to BJ. I have left messages and anything I can do let me know. I'm willing to pay doctor bills, whatever, just because she's mine. She's like my child and I would do anything for my child. I have offered myself to him.

Russell Devane asked Mr. Williams if he could explain why the committee is dealing with the same issue and same owner, once again.

Mr. Oscar Williams: "Sir, things happen more than once in your life, and in my life and in everyone else's lives. It's just one of those things that happened. Not the same dog. That's the best I can give you. We all stumble, we all fall. We do not get it right all the time, we get it wrong more than one time, we get it wrong more than two times. You, me, and everyone else.

Russell Devane explained that once a mistake is made, we should ensure that it does not happen again.

Dr. Jeffrey Bell asked Mr. Oscar Williams to work on pulling up the ring doorbell footage for the committee to view.

Sgt. Jessica Kittrell explained the purpose of the declaration in this incident was that Princess was in an attack that resulted in multiple injuries requiring Mr. Melton to be rushed emergently to Cape Fear Valley. It was an unprovoked incident that resulted in severe injuries that required hospitalization. Mr. Melton had extensive injuries with several bites and lacerations. He also had a scalp laceration that was a result of him falling on the porch prior to the attack, not Princess. She explained that approaching a residence in a not threatening manner would not fall under a provoked bite. She informed the committee that Braveheart, an already declared dog, was also part of this incident. She explained that Mr. Melton witnessed a gentleman picking up trash on the side of the road, that was yelling for help and noticed the dogs were near him. The purpose of Mr. Melton approaching the home was to notify them that their dogs were out and causing an issue. Mr. Melton made it to the doorstep before the incident occurred.

Mr. Adam Phillips (Attorney representing Mr. Melton) explained that it was his understanding that Mr. Melton and his wife were in the area trying to assist someone in need of help. Mr. Melton was trying to engage the dog back to the house. Mr. Phillips stated that he was unaware that Mr. Melton had familiarity with the house, and they were friends, as stated by Mr. Williams earlier. Mr. Phillips stated that Mr. Melton fell, and that is when he was attacked, which clearly makes it unprovoked. Mr. Melton was sent to Cape Fear, then airlifted to UNC Hillsborough. He was discharged with a stent in his eye and walking with a cane. The healing time is unknown. Mr. Phillips passed around photos of Mr. Melton's injuries to the committee. He stated that Mr. Melton is retired.

At this time Mr. Oscar Williams shared the doorbell video with the Committee. Mr. Williams stated that when he left the dogs were in the fence and he thought the gate was locked. He assumed he did not properly lock the gate and did not believe they jumped or escaped the fence. Normally his dogs are inside, as they are inside dogs.

No further discussion.

Dr. Jeffrey Bell requested that the Board vote if no other questions or discussion. He asked for a show of hands of all members that vote to uphold Sgt. Kittrell's determination that Princess is a Dangerous Dog. Six committee members raised their hand to uphold, zero opposed.

Determination that Princess is a Dangerous Dog; Upheld.

Dr. Jeffrey Bell explained this determination. Joel explained that once the written decision is received, Mr. Williams can appeal against that through superior court, if desired.

III. Adjournment: Dangerous Dog Appeal Hearing adjourned by Dr. Jeffrey Bell.

SCHD Health Advisory Committee Meeting

Attendance:

Board Members: Dr. Jeffrey Bell, Yire Hernandez, Russell Devane, Lethia Lee, Dr. Shane Sundlie, Katrina Boykin

County Employees: Wanda Robinson, Joel Starling, Kelly Parrish, Cherish Allen, Kory Hair, Tamra Jones

IV. Call to Order: SCHD Health Advisory Committee meeting- Dr. Jeffrey Bell

V. Approval of minutes

- a) March 18, 2024- SCHD Health Advisory Committee meeting minutes: Motion to approve made by Commissioner Lethia Lee, 2nd by Russell Devane. All in favor.

VI. Environmental Health Update- Kory Hair: Kory reviewed the PFAS handout. See attached. Information will be provided on the website. Committee reviewed an example of the letter citizens are getting from PFAS testing. Kory explained that the state took this upon themselves to perform the testing through the company DEQ. Unfortunately, Environmental Health does not pull and test water samples due to the testing restrictions on certain chemicals with State Lab. Although DEQ sends the results to the landowner and the Health Department, the landowner should call the number on their results page, not the Health Department or Environmental Health. The landfill was thought to have caused most positive PFAS tests, yet this has shown to not be the case. Kory stated that some of the tested wells around the landfill were negative and that some of the positives are not near the landfill, they were in other parts of the County.

VII. Child Fatality Committee Member Appointments: Wanda Robinson stated that there are two members that need to be added to the CFPT roster:

- a) Sgt. Kevin Pearson: Motion to approve as a "State Highway Patrol" member made by Russel Davane; 2nd by Lethia Lee. All in favor.
- b) Sarah Rosario: Motion to approve as a member who "lost a child prior to the age of 18" made by Russell Devane; 2nd by Lethia Lee. All in favor.

VIII. Policy Updates

- a) HIPAA Policy: Changes reviewed by Cherish Allen. Motion to approve the 2024 HIPAA Policy with changes made by Yire Hernandez; 2nd by Russell Devane. All in favor.
- b) FISCAL Policy: Changes reviewed by Tamra Jones. Motion to approve the 2024 FISCAL Services Policy with changes made by Yire Hernandez; 2nd by Russell Devane. All in favor.
- c) Board of Health Policy and Procedures: No changes. Motion to approve as written by Shane Sundlie; 2nd by Yire Hernandez. All in favor.
- d) Health Advisory Committee Operating Policy and Procedures: No changes. Motion to approve as written by Shane Sundlie; 2nd by Yire Hernandez. All in favor.
- e) Health Advisory Committee Conflict of Interest Policy: No changes. Motion to approve as written by Shane Sundlie; 2nd by Yire Hernandez. All in favor.

*Health Advisory Committee members reviewed the policies with no questions or recommendations: Health Advisory Committee Operating Policy and Procedures, Health Advisory Committee Conflict of Interest, Board of Health Policy and Procedures. Members that were not present received a copy of the policies to review via mail.

IX. COVID Update- No new update. COVID tests are still available in the Kiosk located at the front door of the Health Department.

X. Maternal Health Update: Unfortunately, the Health Department is losing Dr. Ferrell. Currently there are 83 clients in this clinic; 50% are high risk, 42 clients are uninsured. Kelly Stated that 27 clients out of the 42 uninsured are high risk. Wanda Robinson stated that the hospital is going to work with the Health Department to ensure that maternal health clients continue to be seen.

XI. Financial-Monthly Update: Tamra reviewed monthly report. No questions.

XII. Health Directors Report: Wanda Robinson asked the Committee how they felt about going back to having the meetings at Ribeyes, as they did pre-COVID. The Committee agreed to continue to have the meetings at the Health Department.

XIII. Public Comment: Veronica Stevens from Changing paths. Changing Paths is a new recovery center that is opening in Clinton. It will open in three phases. Currently the clinic is open. The second phase will be an inpatient center with fifty-six beds. This space is for individuals that may be going through detox. There will also be four beds for acute situations. The third phase will be the apartments. Individuals can come in for detoxing or acute care, once they have detoxed, they can move to the apartments to finish their treatment. This will allow them to live a "like-normal" lifestyle while still receiving treatment and care. The clinic will be an outpatient care and will provide treatment to help clients that would like to transition into recovery. Changing Paths will include Counselors, group therapy, AA meetings, and NA meetings. Quite a few community members are participating. Changing Paths will also see and treat pregnant women

needing these services. Ms. Stevens invited everyone to come and take a tour. She stated that there is not a facility not quite like this in Sampson County or surrounding counties. Katrina Boykin stated that she has been and toured this facility, and it is very inviting. Commissioner Lethia Lee stated that this has been her dream for Sampson County to have a center like this.

XIV. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Russell Devane; 2nd by Lethia Lee. All in favor.

Russell Devane 23 Sept 2024
~~Jeffrey Bell~~ Russell Devane, Date
Vice Chair

Wanda Robinson 9/25/24
Wanda Robinson Date
Secretary