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Board of Health reviews annual report

by By Kelli Easterling
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The Richmond County Board of Health met Tuesday night and reviewed the 2010-2011 Annual Report.

“This has been our most difficult budget year yet,” said Tommy Jarrell, RCHD health director.

Some topics touched on were:

Through the WIC program, \$1,352,372.44 in food vouchers were redeemed in Richmond County grocery stores.

More than \$1,475,000 in free prescription medications were dispensed through the Pharmacy Assistance Program - at no cost to the health dept.

Patients seen through the Community Care Clinic have documented reductions in blood pressure, better diabetes control, weight loss and smoking cessation.

A total of 1,251 dogs and 358 cats were retrieved by animal control officers and taken to Richmond County Humane Society. The RCHS euthanized 2,109 dogs and 1,056 cats.

A total of 1,209 services were performed through the Dental Clinic for Children during the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

The RCHD registered 4,028 patients for various clinics. The three leading clinics were: Flu/Vaccine with 1,236 patients;

Family Planning, with 1,193 patients; and Childhood Immunizations, with 1,001 patients.

A total of 2,485 immunizations were given during the past fiscal year.

A total of 385 children were born in the county last year. 425 deaths were recorded.

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Clinic served 75 patients last fiscal year. Two patients were diagnosed and directed for early treatment.

Seven employees left the organization, and 34 new employees were added to the staff.

Also at the meeting:

Pam Easterling and Dan Wright reported on new services provided by Sandhills Alternative Academy, and success rates.

In addition to six hour day treatment programs, the Academy is now offering Intensive In-Home Services and Substance Abuse Counseling.

“We started the intensive in-home services in order to continue on past the six hours that we were serving during the day treatment,” said Easterling. “We are already starting to see positive results from going this extra step to help make individuals and families more successful.”

Since the in-home treatment program started in January 2011, no clients in danger of being placed outside the home have been relocated.

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