

BRUNSWICK COUNTY SUBSTANCE USE, ADDICTION, AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

September 5th, 2024

5:00PM – 6:30PM

Brunswick County Health Services

25 Courthouse Drive, Building A, Bolivia, NC 28422

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Brunswick County Substance Use, Addiction, and Mental Health Commission monthly meeting was called to order at 5:02PM on September 5th, 2024, in the Brunswick County Health Services Boardroom and on Microsoft Teams Video. Laura Trueman, Member-At-Large, leading meeting as designated by Josh Torbich, Chair and Bill Eberle, Vice-Chair, both absent. Introductions took place for all present, new appointee Anthony Grimaldi (Local Mental Health Clinician) present and introduced.

a. Approval of August Meeting Minutes

Motion: Trueman

Seconded by: Seamon

Changes/Comments: Josh Torbich, Chair, not present – will sign approved minutes at next meeting.

b. Agenda Approval

Motion: Trueman

Seconded by: Seamon

Changes/Comments:

c. Attendance

Member Name	Position Held	Term Expiration	Present Y/N
Kathleen Gomes	District 1	June 30 th , 2028	N
Joshua Torbich	District 2; Chair	June 30 th , 2028	N
William Eberle	District 3; Vice-Chair	June 30 th , 2025	N
Samantha Hickman	District 4	June 30 th , 2025	N
Jeremy Gunn	District 5	June 30 th , 2026	Y-V
Jennifer Faircloth	Board of Education	June 30 th , 2027	N

Johnnie McAdams	Chief Superior Court Judge	June 30 th , 2025	Y
Acacia Alston	Sheriff's Office	June 30 th , 2026	Y
Jeremy Seamon	Member-At-Large	June 30 th , 2027	Y
Laura Trueman	Member-At-Large	June 30 th , 2027	Y
Cecilia Peers	Trillium Regional Director	June 30 th , 2028	Y
Anthony Grimaldi	Local Mental Health Professional	June 30 th , 2028	Y
Guest Name	Agency/Title		
Jane McDonald	Prevention Specialist – Coastal Horizons (Virtual)		
Cyndi Thompson	Director of Operations – Volunteers of America Chesapeake & Carolinas (Virtual)		
Dr. Ron Flack	Vice President – Volunteers of America Chesapeake & Carolinas (Virtual)		
Dwane Richardson	Executive Assistant – Christian Recovery Centers, Inc.		
Steven Hendricks	Resident – Christian Recovery Centers, Inc.		
Carla Colflesh	CEO – Medaci Wellness Institute		
Justin Mohaska	Operations Director – Medaci Wellness Institute		
David Howard	Brunswick County Health Services, Health Director		
Travis Greer	Brunswick County Health Services, Health Educator		
Olivia Jarvis	Brunswick County Health Services, Health Educator		

d. Staff Reports & Presentations

i. ACEs & Prevention

Notes: Presentation given by Olivia Jarvis, Health Educator. Discussion followed of what could be taken away from the information shared. Discussion of struggles of Brunswick County residents and families specifically. Financial resources and access is difficult to find. No resources or follow-up after completion of drug treatment court other than NA/AA/CR meetings. Big adjustment from the consequences in the program to no consequences at all after completion. Discussion of “just say no” campaign and no instruction of what to do after, or instruction of what to “say yes to” to build resilience. Highlighted need of sober community support and establishment.

e. Guest Reports & Presentations

- i. VOA Chesapeake & Carolinas Report: “Good day to everyone again. Just as an FYI, Volunteers of America Chesapeake and Carolinas has been awarded a SAMHSA SUD Prevention Grant, affectionally named, the Quad County SAVE Program. We will be serving Bladen, Pender, Columbus, and Brunswick Counties. This program is set to launch 10/1/2024. Initially one of our initiatives will be to develop a QUAD County Coalition with providers, partners, people with lived experience, and various walks of life. Over the next 90 days, we would be honored to share this program with this group as well as to partner with all of you in serving North Carolinians in this area. We will be releasing a few new job opportunities to gain individuals from the area to develop the team in this area. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.” - Dr. Ron Flack, Jr. rflack@voacarolinas.org
- ii. Update from Carla Colflesh, Medaci Wellness Institute: Just drafted and sent in their policies and procedures to the state for review. They should be hearing back in the coming months and would like to work on some sober community support activities.

f. Public Comments

II. QUARTERLY FOCUS

a. Prevention

Notes: Discussion transitioned into upcoming presentation regarding the quarterly focus on prevention and desired content.

III. QUARTERLY UPDATE & RECOMMENDATIONS TO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

a. Quarter 3 Update (10/21/2024 at 6:00pm)

- i. Content/Information
- ii. Review of Deadlines
- iii. Scheduling & Assignments

Notes: Discussion of upcoming plan and research needed. Dani (BCHS Intern) inquiring about school prevention strategies and programs, Brooke (BCHS Intern) researching evidence based, recommended programs from NIDA/SAMHSA/CDC. This will establish a baseline for prevention strategies in youth. Ask Jennifer Faircloth who she would recommend speaking to the commission regarding school-based prevention. Olivia will reach out and schedule. Commission would also like to hear from Juvenile Court Judge Hankins, Acacia to work on this, local Youth Pastors/Youth Groups (Father Bill to reach out), Coastal Carolina Outreach leaders & youth (Olivia to coordinate), Cecelia can request input from Trillium

youth Care Managers to provide feedback. Baseline information from youth could include where they see themselves or peers exposed to or acquiring drugs, what makes them decide to begin using these substances, what are their viewpoints? Identification of where to intervene – where youth are beginning and how to combat this beginning point. Lack of treatment programs for youth. Laura asked Jeremy Seamon to put together a summary of the levels of treatment availability for youth for the upcoming BOC report. ACEs presentation provide generic strategies for addressing prevention as a framework, highlight what already exists and how/what in the county already vs what is still missing to inform recommendations. Olivia to work on this to send out. Cecelia to work on gathering on what trillium has to offer for these specific services. Director of Operations at CRCI from Seahaven could also provide some insight, input from Dwane to work on with Josh following meeting. Mr. Howard inquired about possibility of pulling local ACEs data from providers and how feasible that could be. Discussion of data focused vs solution focused presentation and how to incorporate solutions into the outline of quarterly update format using the preventing aces presentation framework. Perhaps a recommendation to BOC of aces screening necessity. Duke data set did pick out some statistics of ACEs.

IV. ASSIGNMENTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

V. DISCUSSION TOPICS & COMMISSION INPUTS

- a. Travis shared that the Poe Health Education Center will be coming to the county to host a Drugs Uncovered Event at one of the schools. Potentially hosted at North Brunswick High School if possible.

VI. PROJECT UPDATES – brief summary of all items provided by staff.

- a. enCompass & Responding to Addiction
- b. Naloxone Resolution Approval
- c. International Overdose Awareness Day Events
- d. Mental Health First Aid Trainings

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Trueman

Second: McAdams

There being no further business, the Brunswick County Substance Use, Addiction and Mental Health Commission monthly meeting was adjourned at 6:54 PM. The next scheduled meeting will be held at 5:00PM on October 3rd, 2024, in the Brunswick County Health Services Boardroom in Bolivia, NC.





Chairperson