

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
July 24, 2023 6:30 p.m.**

- I. CALL TO ORDER/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:** The regular monthly meeting of the Brunswick County Health and Human Services Advisory Board was called to order by Dr. Allen Williams at 6:34 p.m. in the Health Services Board Room (Building A).
- A. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Dr. Williams asked for public comments. There were none.
- B. SPECIAL PRESENTATION:** Dr. Williams asked if there were any special presentations. Mr. Thornton introduced Rasheedah Salley-Bryant, Environmental Health Technician as Health Services Employee of the Quarter. Mr. Thornton said he is very thankful her for joining his team after working on the health side for three years. He read her nomination which praised Rasheedah for being patient while working with clients and very helpful in training new technicians. Dr. Jones distributed information on the NC State University endowed scholarship in veterinary medicine created by him and five other close friends of the late Dr. Bennie Flint King, former Chair of this Board. Funds go directly to the university. He added they are very close to the scholarship becoming perpetual.
- II. REGULARLY OCCURRING ITEMS:**
- A. ATTENDANCE:**
1. The following members were present:
 - Mr. Marty Cooke
 - Ms. Cindy Carver
 - Dr. Allen Williams
 - Mr. Hubert Reaves
 - Dr. Travis Pickens
 - Dr. Kevin Jones
 - Ms. Lisa Narron
 2. Members absent:
 - Dr. Justin Asbury
 - Mr. Gene Ward
 3. Staff members present:
 - David Stanley, Deputy County Manager – Health & Human Services
 - Cathy Lytch, Social Services Director
 - David Howard, Health Services Director
 - Cherie Browning, Director of Nursing
 - Danny Thornton, Environmental Health Director
 - Marjorie Rayl, Quality Assurance Specialist
 4. Guests present: None

- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes for the monthly meeting held on **April 24, 2023** were reviewed. Dr. Williams asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were none. **Ms. Carver moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Narron seconded the motion. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous. (Closed)**
- C. AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:** Dr. Williams asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. There were none. **Dr. Pickens moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Cooke seconded the motion. The vote to approve the agenda was unanimous. (Closed)**
- D. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
- 1. VETERANS SERVICES:** Ms. Hartsell is very grateful that the Veteran Services Technician position was approved for her department. She is getting ready to start interviews this week and looking forward to filling the position soon. The PACT ACT deadline is fast approaching. The act was signed into law last August and adds new presumptive conditions and locations for certain veterans who were exposed to burn pits and other toxic exposures in service. Any veteran may file a claim, but for those filing for conditions added under the PACT ACT and to potentially receive back pay back to 08/10/22, they must file their claim by 08/09/23. The VA is widely publicizing this which has kept her staff busy. Any claims received after 08/09/23 will be given an effective date of when the claim is received by the VA. **(Info)**
 - 2. CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS:** Ms. Browning noted the team has not met since April. The next meeting will be on August 8th. **(Info)**
 - 3. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Mr. Thornton reported the Wastewater Protection Program's goal is a 4-week turnaround. The oldest application is now six weeks, so staff is getting closer to that goal. Of the 15 active files as of July 11th, 72% are within that goal. Staff performed 72 site evaluations, issued 53 improvement permits and 62 construction authorizations, inspected and permitted 24 wells and sampled 27. Food and Lodging staff inspected 192 establishments, made 55 site visits, reviewed nine plans, and issued 12 permits. Mr. Thornton explained that seasonal pools have one inspection between April and October while year round pools are inspected twice within the year. Mr. Reaves asked if a property owner can install his own well. Mr. Thornton noted that, though it is allowed, the well must still meet the same standards and a driller rig is needed to properly meet the grouting requirements. He added that his staff does not inspect irrigation wells, only drinking wells. Although they must meet the same standards as drinking wells, the DEQ inspects irrigation wells. **(Info)**
 - 4. HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Howard reported staff is analyzing all sections to increase services post COVID. WIC Staff is attempting to recertify participants since the waivers are ending. WIC staff will see participants in person beginning August 1st. Health Education staff is planning a lot of external education and programs and internally working on the CHA and then the CHIP which is due in November. Staff is also working on CQI. A new Health Educator position which will focus on opioid crisis and substance misuse was approved and is in the process of being selected. Several applications have been received. **(Info)**

5. **HHS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT:** Mr. Howard announced that staff is improving signage down the Building A sidewalk to make it easier for the public to reach our services. New signage will be in English and Spanish. He hopes that this will free up front desk staff from directing people to the right door. The DSME program is setting goals to improve participation. Staff is looking at making changes within the initial visit. Barriers to the program include transportation and participants thinking the first appointment is enough information. **(Info)**
6. **NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Ms. Lytch discussed House Bill 815 *The Loving Homes Act*, which provides an exception to the current rule which allows no more than five children in a family foster home at any time including the foster parent's own children. Family foster homes may be exempt from this requirement if documentation is submitted that siblings will be placed together and the foster home complies with all other licensure requirements. Mr. Cooke asked about the rule that foster homes fence in their entire property if there is water within 1000 feet. Ms. Lytch reported it was an administrative rule and has since been changed so that it is no longer a deterrent. **(Info)**
7. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Ms. Lytch announced that public housing staff conducted a walk-in education and outreach session on July 13th. Fifteen landlords attended, however, none had any available units. Vouchers are available but due to the fair market rents (FMR), landlords have a hard time accepting those amounts. HUD has proposed changes to how they determine the FMR and are conducting a study. The new FMR (effective October 1st) will hopefully be calculated with the new method. **(Info)**
8. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Ms. Lytch reported the new mental health and substance abuse clinician was hired on April 24th and as of, June 30th has seen 57 clients. The goals are to complete assessments within 30 days and to preserve placement at 50% of the cases she responds to. She meets people where they are whether at homes, jail, at social work visits. Ms. Lytch discussed Medicaid Expansion that is expected to go into effect 30-60 days after the budget is passed. She will be on a call tomorrow that will help counties to be prepared, as it could start as early as October 1st. **(Info)**

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **VACANT HHS ADVISORY BOARD POSITIONS:** Mr. Stanley reported that Dr. Smith has resigned from this board due to moving out of the county, leaving an open at-large position. Also still open is the engineer position. The county clerk has received an application for the at-large position, but so far as he knows, none for the engineer. **(Open)**
- B. **COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT:** Mr. Stanley noted the CHA was presented to the Board of County Commissioners at their last meeting and he recommended closing this item. This Board agreed. Mr. Stanley added that the Community Health Improvement Plan is the next process. **(Closed)**
- C. **LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION:** Mr. Stanley reported that staff were presented with the Re-Accreditation w/Honors at the last Board of County Commissioners meeting. Mr. Stanley added that only one activity out of 147 was not met and he thanked the team for their efforts. **(Closed)**

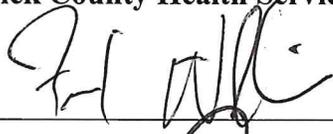
IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. FISH ADVISORIES:** Mr. Stanley reported that, on July 14th, NC DHHS sent messages to the media about PFAS and elevated PFOS being found in Cape Fear River fish. The information was shared on the Brunswick County Health Services website and social media. The State has talked about posting signage at boat ramps. **(Closed)**
- B. LAB SERVICES:** Mr. Stanley said the Health Services team has been looking at current services and operations and plan to bring recommendations at the next meeting as it relates to laboratory services. **(Closed)**
- C. OPIOID SETTLEMENT UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley reported our team met with municipalities on July 6th to explain the settlement, where the money comes from and what it can be used for. Ideas or suggestions for use can be forwarded to Mr. Howard. Funding decisions are ultimately made by the County Commissioners.
- D. SHELTERING PLAN UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley announced that the shelter plan reviews including staffing and equipment have been completed.
- E. MEDICAID TAILORED PLANS START DELAYED:** Mr. Stanley reported that the tailored plans were supposed to be in place in October but have been delayed yet again. The State is trying to reduce the number of LMEs.
- F. VETERAN SERVICES MOVING OFFICES IN BUILDING F:** Mr. Stanley noted that staff over the next month will be moving toward the back of Building F in a larger space.
- G. APPROVED FY/24 BUDGET:** Mr. Stanley gave an update on the approved county budget. Staff are already beginning to look at next year's budget.

V. BOARD INPUTS: Dr. Williams asked if there were any additional Board inputs. There were none. **(Info)**

VI: ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, **the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m. with a motion by Ms. Narron. Ms. Carver seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

The next BCHHS Advisory Board meeting will be held on **September 25, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Brunswick County Health Services Boardroom.**



Chairperson



Secretary

Brunswick County Health and Human Services

Advisory Board Attendance Roster 2023-2024

NAME	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Asbury												
Carver	X											
Cooke	X											
Jones	X											
Narron	X											
Pickens	X											
Reaves	X											
Ward												
Williams	X											

A = Month Appointed/Installed

C = Conflict with CC's Meeting

O = Off Board

X = In Attendance

V = Vacancy

AA = Approved Absence

Blank Space = Absent

Quorum equals six members present.

^ = Specially Called Meeting

*** = No Meeting**