

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
April 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 6:31 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. Stanley introduced Dr. Jones, new Board Member. Dr. Jones spoke about his love for Brunswick County and how he was following in his father's footsteps who is also a Veterinarian and had been on the Board of Health in Lincoln County.
- II. REGULARLY OCCURRING ITEMS:**
- A. ATTENDANCE:**
1. The following members were present:
 - Mr. Marty Cooke
 - Dr. Justin Asbury
 - Ms. Cindy Carver
 - Dr. Allen Williams
 - Mr. Gene Ward
 - Mr. Hubert Reaves
 - Dr. Jerry Smith
 - Dr. Travis Pickens
 - Dr. Kevin Jones
 2. Members absent:
 - Ms. Lisa Narron
 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 **March 27, 2023** were reviewed. Dr. Williams asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were none. **Mr. Cooke moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Ward 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. **Ms. Carver moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The vote to approve the agenda was unanimous. (Closed)**

D. **STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **VETERANS SERVICES:** Mr. Stanley noted that the VA has been promoting video telehealth appointments a lot to make it easier for clients. If the veteran is having issues with connecting there are options for discounts or covering costs for broadband and phone services. Staff will be glad to guide them for assistance. **(Info)**
2. **CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS:** Ms. Browning noted the team met on April 11th and found no system problems. The next meeting will be on June 13th. **(Info)**
3. **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Mr. Thornton reported that staff is working through a 5-6 week backlog. Of the 27 active files, as of April 14th, 68% are within the 4-week goal. Staff performed 69 site evaluations, issued 12 improvement permits, 67 construction authorizations, inspected 23 wells and sampled six. Food and Lodging staff inspected 181 establishments, made 125 site visits, reviewed nine plans and issued 12 permits. Pool season is in full swing with about 30% of inspections completed. Inspections are scheduled based on when owner/operators submit their request. They are completed with two weeks of receipt. **(Info)**
4. **HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Howard reported the Community Health Assessment (CHA) has been officially approved by the State and gave kudos to Travis Greer and the team. The next step is to develop the Community Health Improvement Plan which looks out three to four years and guides overarching goals. Mr. Stanley added that the State is intrigued by the modeling used and statistics gathered by staff. Every county is responsible for doing this but some counties struggle with the process. Staff will also be updating the Strategic Plan which includes internal goals in providing services. Mr. Howard noted that COVID numbers are improving and the community level remains low. The transmission level remained high until last week when it dropped to substantial. The Public Health Emergency ends on May 11th and staff is looking at our response. There is still a challenge in our billing with health plans denying claims or paying certain administrative fees only. Staff is monitoring with the State and CDC the recent outbreaks of Marburg virus in Tanzania and Equatorial Guinea. Text messages are sent to travelers to monitor their symptoms. The CDC alerts the State if the traveler's final destination is North Carolina. The disease is related to haemorrhagic fever. **(Info)**

5. **HHS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT:** Mr. Howard discussed a recent quality improvement project on the Diabetes Self-Management Education (DSME) program, which is specific evidence-based education to teach people how to manage their diabetes (typically Type II). The program includes a one on one session and then two 4-hour group sessions. The QI project looked at 54 referrals where 38 people had completed the individual session (via phone) but did not follow through with the group sessions. Sixteen people did attend. Some of the barriers include travel to the site, newly diagnosed people being in the denial phase and lack of motivation. Staff is receiving good referrals through the on-line referral form. Insurance is billed and there is a sliding fee for those without insurance. The group sessions are held at a county Senior Center. **(Info)**

6. **NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mr. Cooke removed himself from the meeting prior to this discussion. Mrs. Lytch discussed Senate Bill 625 “Child Welfare, Safety, and Permanency Reforms”- An act to make various changes to the laws affecting juveniles and associated services, which was introduced in early April. This law would require the county DSS legal counsel to prepare abuse, neglect, or dependency petitions to be signed by the DSS director, require county DSS to be represented by legal counsel in abuse, neglect and dependency proceedings and require initial and ongoing training for the attorney. It also establishes 10 conflicts of interest and sets a conflict reconciliation process, changes the grounds for terminating parental rights and allows parents to petition for restoration. NC DHHS could access all county child welfare records and report deficits to county commissioners, managers, and board.

Mr. Howard reported that funding for Communicable Disease, through House Bill 108, has been decreased from \$25 million to \$12 million to be used for dedicated staff and equipment. He also noted there has been a lot of activity around House Bill 190 which relaxes some of the requirements for limited environmental health authorizations to allow category 1 and 2 food service and wells, as well as other changes. Some counties struggle to find qualified candidates to fill vacancies. Mr. Howard also discussed Food & Lodging institution inspections to drop category 4 to include inspections required only three times a year with an optional educational visit and changing to five days for re-inspections if a critical item is discovered or a request by the restaurant, which is typically 14 days. Mr. Thornton added that if the new score is less than what was posted, it must remain at the higher score. **(Info)**

7. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch reported the public hearing was held at the April 17th Commissioners meeting. The agency did not receive any comments in the office or at the hearing related to the department’s goals and objectives. The letter has been forwarded to HUD. **(Info)**

8. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch announced the Public Health Emergency ending on May 11th, which ends Medicaid Continuous Coverage. Recertifications will take place over the next 12 months. Staff is beginning to receive a lot of questions. Next month participants will start losing their coverage. On April 3rd, Commissioners signed a proclamation recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. On March 31st, staff planted the pinwheel garden (Pinwheels for Prevention) on the walking trail. Pinwheels are a national symbol of child maltreatment prevention across the United States. The pin wheel is reflective of the bright future all children deserve and that we all have a stake in nurturing positive childhoods. There was a recent issue with a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) in Rabon, NC. The facility was licensed for 12 youths (middle school boy age) and there were 11 children in the home with four being in DSS custody. The families were called to pick up their children and DSS agencies are faced with trying to find placement for the children. Finding places for children that have behavioral needs continues to be a struggle. **(Info)**

9. **HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Mr. Stanley noted vacancies are posted on the county's website and the county is doing job fairs. He suggested removing this item and discussing specific items as needed. The Health & Human Services Advisory Board concurred to remove the employee vacancies report. **(Info)**

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **VACANT HHS ADVISORY BOARD POSITIONS:** Mr. Stanley reported he is still looking for an engineer. The engineer must be a Brunswick County resident and have an active license. An application must be submitted to the clerk. **(Open)**

- B. **COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT:** Mr. Stanley noted the CHA will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners to fulfill our Accreditation requirements. **(Open)**

- C. **LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION:** Mr. Stanley reported the meeting is coming up on May 19th where the Board will vote on the recommendation of Reaccreditation with Honors. **(Open)**

- D. **HHS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING FREQUENCY:** Mr. Stanley noted the revised calendar which shows future meetings being held on the odd months with no meeting this May due to being previously scheduled as a non-meeting month. Dr. Williams assured the Board that he will call a meeting if needed. Staff will e-mail reports, as well as any other pertinent information, the months the Board does not meet. Meeting agenda packets will also be sent electronically with paper agendas available at the meetings. Mr. Stanley noted that the 2024 calendar will be reviewed/approved in November. **Ms. Carver made a motion to approve the revised Health & Human Services Advisory Board 2023 Meeting Calendar. Mr. Reaves seconded the motion. The vote to approve the revised Health & Human Services Advisory Board 2023 Meeting Calendar was unanimous. (Closed)**

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

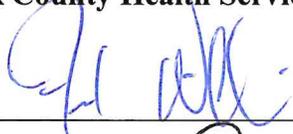
- A. COMMISSIONER RESOLUTION OPPOSING SENATE BILL 673:** Mr. Stanley noted this bill would be a negative impact by allowing surface water transfers without obtaining permission. Water could be drawn out of one river and diverted to another basin such as the Neuse which would reduce Brunswick County’s amount of water flowing to the river. This is of great concern with the amount of growth seen here. **(Closed)**

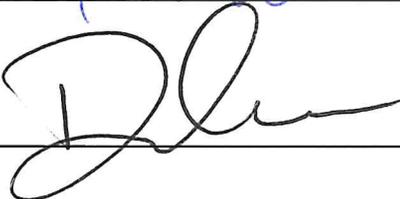
- B. COMMISSIONER RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 544:** Mr. Stanley discussed the Commissioner support of Representative Miller’s House Bill. Not all beach towns restrict shark fishing tournaments during tourist season. This bill would make it unlawful to hold these tournaments between May 1 and October 31st. People would still be allowed to shark fish individually. **(Closed)**

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 7:20 p.m. with a motion by Mr. Ward. Dr. Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

The next BCHHS Advisory Board meeting will be held on **July 24, 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 2022-2023

| NAME | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| King | X | X | X | | | * | O | O | O | O | * | * |
| Asbury | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | | |
| Carver | X | | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | | |
| Cooke | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | | |
| Jones | | | | | | | | | | A | | |
| Narron | X | X | | | X | | X | X | X | | | |
| Norton | X | | X | X | X | O | O | O | O | O | O | O |
| Pickens | V | V | V | V | V | | X | X | | X | | |
| Reaves | X | X | X | | X | | X | X | X | X | | |
| Smith | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | | X | | |
| Ward | X | | | X | X | | X | X | X | X | | |
| Williams | X | | X | X | X | | X | X | X | 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**