

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
February 27, 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. There were none.

II. REGULARLY OCCURRING ITEMS:

A. ATTENDANCE:

1. The following members were present:

Mr. Marty Cooke
Dr. Justin Asbury
Dr. Jerry Smith
Ms. Cindy Carver
Dr. Allen Williams
Mr. Gene Ward
Ms. Lisa Narron
Mr. Hubert Reaves
Mr. Travis Pickens

2. Members absent:
None

3. Staff members present:
David Stanley, Deputy County Manager – Health & Human Services
Anita Hartsell, Veteran Services Director
Cathy Lytch, Social Services Director
David Howard, Health Services Director
Cherie Browning, Director of Nursing
Marjorie Rayl, Quality Assurance Specialist
Josh Cumbee, Environmental Health Program Specialist

4. Guests present: None

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes for the monthly meeting held on **January 23, 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. Mr. Reaves seconded the motion. The vote to approve the agenda was unanimous. (Closed)**

D. **STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **VETERANS SERVICES:** Mrs. Hartsell reported that the CVSO Act has been officially re-introduced in the House (HR 984) and Senate (SB 106). The objective of the CVSO Act is to expand community-based outreach to help veterans access benefits and support services. VA statistics show that as of FY2020, about 9 million veterans were enrolled in the VA Healthcare System, 5 million were receiving disability compensation and 3 million were active VA home loan participants, with other VA programs showing similar rates of underutilization. This Act will authorize \$50 million annually for five years to expand and support CVSOs or similar local entities. The Senate bill received a mark-up hearing in the Senate on February 16th and was moved with no issue. This the first step in getting a full vote in the Senate this session and is very encouraging to see it happen this early in the 118th Congress. **(Info)**
2. **CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS:** Ms. Browning reported the Child Fatality Prevention Team met and reviewed several cases. There were no system problems found. **(Info)**
3. **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Josh Cumbee reported wastewater program staff continues to work on a backlog. A few applications are still 10 weeks out. All new staff is now authorized for on-site wastewater and wells. The goal in the next couple of months is to have all applications within the 4-week turnaround. As of February 10th, there were 42 active files with 50% outside of the four weeks. Staff completed 64 site evaluations, issued 50 improvement permits and 66 construction authorizations. They also inspected 20 new wells and sampled over 30. Food and Lodging staff completed 172 inspections, conducted 78 site visits, and issued 12 permits. Of the inspections, 11% did not comply with the cold-holding standards. Mr. Cumbee announced the annual Golden A Awards ceremony is being held on March 27th in the Odell Williamson Event Center. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with the program beginning at 6:00 p.m. Members of this Board are invited. Mr. Cumbee discussed pool season, April 1st through October 31st. There are about 350 public pools to be inspected with most owners wanting their pools open by Memorial Day. There are currently nine specialists authorized in pools and one undergoing the process now. Mr. Stanley noted that any visits to private pools are complaint-driven. **(Info)**
4. **HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Howard discussed Management Support being short a couple of staff members, one being in billing. Both positions have now been filled with one already working and the other in the process of moving from the other side of the state. House Bill 108 was passed which allows funding for Communicable Disease to continue at \$25 million per year for the State. Brunswick County will receive around \$300,000 based on the current formula used previously. **(Info)**

5. **HHS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT:** Mr. Howard noted that staff is busy with multiple quality improvement projects. He reviewed the recent Patient Satisfaction Survey results in the Maternal Health section. All results were very positive and he is impressed with the many positive comments written in noting the respect and caring quality of staff. **(Info)**
6. **NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mrs. Lytch discussed House Bill 76, “Access to Healthcare Options”. The House introduced its Medicaid expansion bill and set it on a fast track for review and approval. It would expand through NC Health Works to adults aged 18-64 with incomes of 133% of poverty or less. Individuals could begin applying December 1, 2023. A floor amendment offered and approved unanimously by the chamber would provide \$50 million in nonrecurring funds in 2023-2024 to be distributed to all counties for administrative costs of Medicaid eligibility determinations. A second amendment would require NC DHHS to develop a plan for work requirements and obtain CMS approval. The third amendment would establish the Doctors and Nurses in Rural Areas Forgivable Loan Pilot Program. The House approved the bill on the second reading. **(Info)**
7. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch reported that staff continues to work on the waiting list. The lack of affordable housing continues to be a barrier for program participants. Mrs. Lytch is trying to make appointments with apartment complexes not currently involved with the HCV program to see if they would accept one or two vouchers. If so, they would need to decrease the rental rate for the units. Mr. Cooke asked if there is any incentive to do this. Mrs. Lytch explained the landlords receive routine rental payments through HUD. Mr. Stanley explained another incentive is the landlords in the program do have a section 8 staff member which inspects the property periodically. **(Info)**
8. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch discussed the end of continuous coverage for Medicaid beneficiaries. Recertifications start in April and if a participant does not meet the qualifications they will lose benefits, some as early as May. A call center has been set up as staff prepares for the influx of questions. An FAQ document is being set up to assist those answering the calls. The Food and Nutrition Benefit Supplemental Payments are ending in February. Just released today, the Tailored plan that was to launch April 1st has been extended to October 1st due to not having enough primary care providers to provide a seamless transition in care. The State has sent letters to everyone. Mrs. Lytch announced that March is Social Worker Appreciation Month and she is thankful for the Commissioners approving 11 new Income Maintenance Caseworker positions to meet timeliness and quality measures. **(Info)**
9. **HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Mr. Stanley asked if anyone knows of someone interested in a Health and Human Services position to please review the county website for opportunities, there are many. **(Info)**

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **VACANT HHS ADVISORY BOARD POSITIONS:** Mr. Stanley noted the Board vacancy for an Engineer and a Veterinarian. Applicants must have a current license and be a resident of Brunswick County but may work elsewhere. Interested parties should apply, the process can be reviewed on the county website. **(Open)**
- B. **COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT:** Mr. Stanley announced the report has been sent to the State and staff is waiting to receive comments back. The next step is to work on the Community Health Improvement Plan, which staff has already begun. **(Open)**
- C. **LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION:** Mr. Stanley is very proud of Accreditation Coordinator Marjorie Rayl and the entire health services team's accomplishment of being recommended for Accreditation with Honors. For a county of this size, missing only one of 147 activities is impressive. The honor will not be official until the Accreditation Board approves it at the May meeting. Mr. Stanley also thanked Commissioner Cooke, Commissioner Chairman Randy Thompson, and Health and Human Services Advisory Board Chairman, Dr. Allen Williams for participating in an interview with the Site Visit team who were very impressed at our supportive leadership. **(Closed)**

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

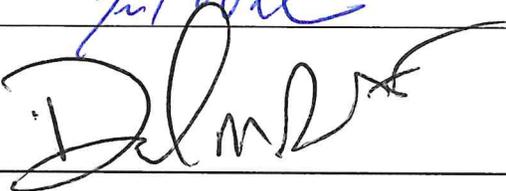
- A. **GOLDEN A AWARDS:** Mr. Stanley explained that the Golden A Awards are a way of honoring our food service businesses who have maintained a grade of 95 or higher for all inspections in the year. Former Chair, Dr. King was a part of the implementation of the program. The awards are being held in the Odell Williamson Event Center and all Board members are welcome to attend. The awardees that come are very proud of their accomplishment and post their plaques in their businesses. Mr. Reaves will be doing the invocation. Since the event is on the same evening as the March Board meeting, the meeting will be held on the stage of the Odell Williamson Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. **(Closed)**
- B. **ADDITIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDING:** Mr. Stanley announced another \$11 billion in funding being received by the State who will use the same metric as previously to split funds between the counties. One piece already in place is the mental health professional to be hired in DSS to assist with Child Health welfare cases. Other departments, agencies, and non-profits in the county are working to submit projects for the funding. **(Closed)**
- C. **OPENING OF THE HEALING PLACE OF NEW HANOVER COUNTY:** Mr. Stanley noted that one of the items on the Commissioner's agenda last week was the non-medical detox facility in Wilmington. It is a "wet facility" which means they take you as you are. There are 100 beds for women and 100 beds for men. There are different phases of detox and The Healing Place will provide housing and a 12-step detox. They do not provide medical oversight, it is a peer lead program. The typical time frame for someone to go through the program is approximately six months. Brunswick County has agreed to cover the costs of 20 beds (10 male/10 female). Mr. Stanley invited Board members to attend the tour of the facility tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. at 1000 Medical Center Drive in Wilmington. **(Closed)**

V. **BOARD INPUTS:** Dr. Williams asked if there were any additional Board inputs. Dr. Williams discussed the idea of this Board meeting quarterly in an effort to save money and staff time preparing for the meetings. Additional meetings could be scheduled if needed. Mr. Stanley suggested placing the idea on the agenda for March for further discussion. **(Info)**

VI: **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, **the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m. with a motion by Mr. Cooke. Ms. Carver seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

The next BCHHS Advisory Board meeting will be held on **March 27, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Odell Williamson Auditorium.**


_____ 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	*	O
Asbury	X	X	X	X	X		X	X				
Carver	X		X	X	X		X	X				
Cooke	X	X	X	X	X		X	X				
Narron	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				
Reaves	X	X	X		X		X	X				
Smith	X	X	X	X	X		X	X				
Ward	X			X	X		X	X				
Williams	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**