

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
August 22, 2022 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. Flint King at 6:35 p.m. in the Health Services Lobby (Building A).

A. PUBLIC COMMENT: Dr. King asked for public comments. There were none.

B. SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Dr. King asked if there were any special presentations. There were none.

II. REGULARLY OCCURRING ITEMS:

A. ATTENDANCE:

1. The following members were present:

Dr. Flint King, Chairman
Mr. Hubert Reaves
Ms. Lisa Narron
Mr. Marty Cooke
Dr. Justin Asbury
Dr. Jerry Smith

2. Members absent:

Mr. Michael Norton
Ms. Cindy Carver
Dr. Allen Williams
Mr. Gene Ward

3. Staff members present:

David Stanley, Deputy County Manager – Health & Human Services
Cris Harrelson, Health Director
Cathy Lytch, Social Services Director
Anita Hartsell, Veteran Services Director
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 **July 25, 2022** were reviewed. Dr. King asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were none. **Mr. Cooke moved to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Asbury seconded the motion. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous. (Closed)**

C. **AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:** Dr. King asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. There were none. **Mr. Cooke moved to approve the agenda as presented. 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 on August 10th the Sergeant 1st Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, (PACT ACT) was signed into law. This act expands health care and benefits to veterans who were exposed to toxins and other hazardous materials during their military service. Some main highlights include adding hypertension and monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) as presumptive conditions for Agent Orange exposure and five new locations added for presumptive exposure to Agent Orange. Three new locations for radiation exposure have also been added. Twenty new presumptive conditions have been added for Gulf War Era and Post 9/11 veterans based on burn pit and toxic exposures. Mrs. Hartsell added that the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 was lumped in with the PACT ACT and now allows veterans, along with their family members who were residing at the base with them, to file civil lawsuits against the U.S. Government for harm caused by at least 30 days of exposure (including in utero exposure) to water at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and the Marine Corps Air Station New River. Punitive damages are not available for claims brought under the Act and awards will be offset by the amount of any disability award, payment, or benefit received by the claimant from any program administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Medicare program, or the Medicaid program in connection with health care or disability relating to exposure to water applied by or on behalf of the U.S. Government at these locations. This is not something the Brunswick office is able to assist with. **(Info)**
2. **CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS:** Mr. Stanley reported there were two cases reviewed with no system problems at the August 8th Child Fatality Prevention Team meeting. The next meeting is October 11th. **(Info)**
3. **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Mr. Thornton reported the wastewater protection program continues to have a backlog of 10-12 weeks. Staff has updated their messaging. Three new on-site specialists have been recruited and started their CIT training today through the State. There will be additional training in September. It will be December or January before they are up and running. As of August 10th, there were 126 active applications with 79 over the 4-week turnaround target, leaving 30% within four weeks. Staff issued 72 site evaluations, 60 improvement permits, and 67 construction authorizations. Staff inspected 23 wells and sampled 19. Food & Lodging staff inspected 95 establishments, made 93 site visits, reviewed 10 plans, and issued 14 permits. Of establishments inspected, 24% did not meet cold-holding requirements. Mr. Thornton is working to schedule the new Food & Lodging specialist for authorization by the end of August or the first week of September. He added that throughout the challenges this year, staff stay motivated and dedicated and a pleasure to work with. Mr. Thornton thanked his leadership for efforts in trying to get colleges to incorporate the CIT training into their degree programs. **(Info)**

4. **HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Harrelson reported that the 90-day notification letter for the BCHS accreditation cycle has been received, meaning that evidence must be submitted by November 1st. The actual site visit will be in Spring 2023. He noted that staff is readying for flu season. Appointments will be available to schedule on-line or by phone with a planned start date of October 1st. He is excited this year to resume flu vaccine outreach in public venues such as the schools, community centers, and parks, as well as in businesses and HOAs. Staff will move the COVID clinic into the boardroom and utilize the new immunization area for flu. Mr. Cooke asked if the Trillium mobile unit for Brunswick County is able to link their services with BCHS. Mr. Stanley said he would put them in touch with Mr. Harrelson. Mr. Harrelson answered a question from the previous meeting noting the Women's Health clinic hours are Monday through Friday from 8:15am to 4pm. **(Info)**
5. **HHS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT:** Mrs. Lytch reported that her leadership staff continually performs audits as a second party review to assure staff is meeting quality and timeliness standards and to provide feedback to the worker allowing them to make corrections where feasible. Through the process staff are able to see their weaknesses and strengths. Unit training is available as well as targeted personal trainings. The State enforces timeliness standards at a 90% rate and eligibility performance at 96.8%. Through these audits she can see rates as a whole for the department or per caseworker. **(Info)**
6. **NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mrs. Lytch announced that the NC Medicaid Managed Care Tailored plans go into effect on December 1st. Automatic enrollment began on August 15th based on the beneficiary's Medicaid status and county. Beneficiaries who qualify for a Tailored Plan will receive a notice in the mail letting them know their choices, including opting out. The choice period is August 15th through October 14th. If they have questions they should contact the ombudsman's office. **(Info)**
7. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch reported that annual reports have been submitted to HUD. Staff continues to explore options of work requirements for program participants and have reached out to HUD to see when she will be able to apply for the Move to Work program. Currently, Charlotte is the only NC participating city. **(Info)**
8. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch lead a discussion on the needs for providers for children with mental health/behavioral needs. She noted that DSS agencies across the country are struggling to find appropriate placement for these children. She reminded the Board of Session Law 132 which allows hospitals to file a court action to receive payment for hospital resources in these instances. Mr. Cooke suggested approaching the General Assembly, a new model is needed. Mrs. Lytch is working with the State. There are currently no group homes in Brunswick County but one may be opening back up. **(Info)**
9. **HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Mr. Stanley reported seven open positions are listed on the county website. **(Info)**

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **COVID-19:** Mr. Stanley noted there are very few changes since his last report. Brunswick County remains at the yellow level with the case rate at 305 per 100,000 residents. The hospitalization rate is about the same at 5.9%. **(Open)**
- B. **COVID-19 RESPONSE PLANNING STATUS:** Mr. Stanley reported staff is offering more outreach including Town Creek Park on September 7th and 21st. **(Open)**
- C. **VACANT HHS ADVISORY BOARD POSITION:** Mr. Stanley is still waiting for a commitment. **(Open)**
- D. **OPIOID SETTLEMENT STATUS:** Mr. Stanley reported that, of the 18-year total of \$13,609,604, Brunswick County has received around \$500,000. The BOCC will be getting proposals and project status to review ideas for the funding. Mr. Harrelson met with internal county customers last Friday. There are a lot of good ideas to consider. **(Closed)**
- E. **COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT:** Mr. Stanley said targets are being met with the next emphasis being town hall meetings and sharing data. An invitation will be shared with this Board. **(Open)**
- F. **PUBLIC WATER:** Mr. Stanley stated the NC DEQ submitted a report that Chemours has sampled some private wells and so far, six samples have shown to be above the EPA recommended health risk levels. Chemours's communicates directly with homeowners and is starting to supply bottled water to those homes. **(Closed)**
- G. **COUNTY NUCLEAR DRILL:** Mr. Stanley believes the drill went extremely well. The Emergency Services director has not received any negative feedback. Brunswick County Health Services staff spent two days working with the drill. Highlights from the Hot Wash noted staff worked well together as a team. Mr. Stanley said their work during hurricanes and other emergencies have given them much experience. **(Closed)**

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **SECTION 8 PAYMENT STANDARD CHANGE REQUEST:** Mr. Stanley said that the subcommittee reviewed the request and agreed to the changes prior to sharing the information in today's Board packets. Mrs. Lytch explained that the current pay standard of 90-110% had, over time, slowly increased to this level. She is now requesting that everything be changed to 110%. Participants, once issued a voucher, are having a hard time using it due to the high rental rates in Brunswick County. Currently staff has to request a change to make each increase and it is not a quick process. She would like the staff to have the ability to adjust the rates as needed, within the parameters. Mr. Cooke added that this is a good way to do it and questioned the need for a higher ceiling. Mrs. Lytch noted that it must be raised to 110% first in order to be eligible for higher rates. **Dr. King made a motion to forward the Section 8 Payment Standard Change Request to the Brunswick County Commissioners for approval. Ms. Narron seconded the motion. The vote to forward the Section 8 Payment Standard Change Request to the Commissioners for approval was unanimous. (Open)**

- B. **MONKEYPOX UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley reported 217 cases of Monkeypox in North Carolina. There are no known cases in Brunswick County so far. One case was announced in New Hanover County today. Those who seek vaccine are referred to New Hanover County for services. **(Closed)**
- C. **TOBACCO-FREE POLICY:** Mr. Stanley noted that the Brunswick County Board of Health had in the past agreed to a no tobacco policy and 50 foot radius around the Health Services building. Medicaid has added a new requirement that must be met to include the parking lot and vaping. The county has designated smoking areas for employees. **Dr. Asbury made a motion to recommend to the Brunswick County Commissioners to sign the Tobacco-Free policy to include new Medicaid requirements of vaping and the addition of the Building A parking lot. Ms. Narron seconded the motion. The vote to recommend the Commissioners sign the Tobacco-Free policy as presented was unanimous. (Open)**

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

VI: **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, **the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. with a motion by Dr. Asbury. Ms. Narron seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

The next BCHHS Advisory Board meeting will be held on **September 26, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the 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				*					*	
Asbury	X	X										
Carver	X											
Cooke	X	X										
Narron	X	X										
Norton	X											
Reaves	X	X										
Smith	X	X										
Ward	X											
Williams	X											
Optometrist	V	V										

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**