

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
January 24, 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 6:30 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. Mr. Harrelson announced Sheila Rains, RN as Health Services Employee of the Quarter. He read her nomination which praised her for being knowledgeable and compassionate. Sheila makes sure the active TB patients are taken care of. She handles most of the intake of communicable disease reports of foodborne illness, bite reports/handling rabies questions and issues, as well as working in the STD clinic to assess and treat patients.
- II. REGULARLY OCCURRING ITEMS:**
- A. ATTENDANCE:**
1. The following members were present:
    - Dr. Flint King, Chairman
    - Mr. Hubert Reaves
    - Mr. Gene Ward
    - Dr. Justin Asbury
    - Mr. Michael Norton
    - Ms. Cindy Carver
    - Dr. Jerry Smith
    - Dr. Allen Williams
    - Ms. Lisa Narron
  2. Members absent:
    - Mr. Marty Cooke
  3. Staff members present:
    - David Stanley, Health & Human Services Director
    - Cris Harrelson, Health Services Director
    - Cathy Lytch, Social Services Director
    - Anita Hartsell, Veteran Services Director
    - Cherie Browning, Director of Nursing
    - James Murray, Business Manager
    - Marjorie Rayl, Quality Assurance Specialist
  4. Guests present: None

- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes for the monthly meeting held on **November 22, 2021** were reviewed. Dr. King asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were none. **Mr. Ward moved to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Williams 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. Reaves moved to approve the agenda as presented. Dr. Williams seconded the motion. The vote to approve the agenda as presented was unanimous. (Closed)**
- D. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
- 1. VETERANS SERVICES:** Mrs. Hartsell announced that a new Veteran Services Officer (VSO) was hired, Lee Foreman. The Navy veteran started on December 29<sup>th</sup> and is a wonderful addition to the department. He has already begun his training with the N.C. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and should be an accredited VSO by this time next year. Mrs. Hartsell reported that Tom Cerniglia, with the American Legion, held an awards ceremony on January 10<sup>th</sup> where he gave recognition to participants of the VEAC events. Brunswick County Commissioners and Mrs. Hartsell both received awards for their contributions to the events. **(Info)**
  - 2. CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS:** Ms. Browning reported that the team met on December 14<sup>th</sup>. There were no cases to review but the team discussed suicide awareness. The next meeting is scheduled on February 8<sup>th</sup> with three cases to review. Mr. Stanley noted that some of the reviews may be from a previous quarter due to the State being somewhat delayed in reporting. Ms. Browning added that the deaths are always reviewed a year after death but could be longer. Reviews are done for deaths of children age 17 and younger. **(Info)**
  - 3. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Mr. Harrelson reported the Environmental Health Programs. For new wastewater applications, there are 81 active files as of January 11<sup>th</sup> with 28 files over the 4-week turnaround time frame. Several factors lead to the backlog including being short-staffed and the training time it takes to get new interns authorized by the State. In addition, staff performed 44 site evaluations, issued 34 improvement permits and 45 construction authorizations. Staff is also working to complete end of year Management Entity inspections. They completed 85 inspections this month with 60% of inspections completed for the year. Mr. Norton asked to explain the purpose of Management Entity inspections. Mr. Stanley explained that Management Entity inspections are for more complicated wastewater systems which require a pump and more treatment than a conventional system. The systems are expensive, may be next to SA waters, etc. The State wants a higher scrutiny to ensure the system is working as it was designed and to determine if maintenance needs to be done to prevent catastrophic failure. These systems also require a sub-surface wastewater operator. The Food & Lodging program is also training a new intern. With the staff shortage, they have re-prioritized moving forward. The priority list includes inspecting all highly susceptible populations; inspecting every facility in the county at least one time; and inspecting risk category 4 facilities at least three times per fiscal year. **(Info)**

4. **HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Harrelson gave a Community Health Assessment update noting staff recently met with representatives of Novant and Doshier hospitals to discuss their upcoming community health needs assessments. Mr. Harrelson announced that BCHS has recently received funding for a School Health Liaison position to be funded only through FY 21-22. The person will act as the lead contact for school-related COVID activities. BCHS also, through the legislative process, put in for the county enough funding for communicable disease to hire another couple of nurses with 2-year funding. He feels this funding will continue for a while and staff are including the position in the county budget to ask for support. BCHS will also be receiving American Rescue Plan funding to support the public health workforce, specifically in schools. Agreement Addenda 620 will provide funding for school nurses or school-based health services personnel through FY 22/23. Brunswick County will receive \$118,783 which is determined by calculating 50% per capita (student population) plus 50% of the CDC's Social Vulnerability index. **(Info)**
5. **HHS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT:** Mr. Harrelson reported that WIC staff administered an 8-question survey to their clients and 33 responded. Of those responses, 29 scored the WIC program at 100% satisfaction and four scored at 91% satisfaction. **(Info)**
6. **NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mr. Harrelson noted this was discussed in the Health Services report regarding new funds from the American Rescue Plan. **(Info)**
7. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch noted she has received several letters and phone calls from landlords thanking the Board for the incentive payments. Staff are reviewing options for opening the waiting list. More information will be forthcoming. **(Info)**
8. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch discussed the Recipient Eligibility Determination Audit (REDA) which is a product of Session Law 2017-57 and is conducted in each county every three years. Brunswick County Round 3 results are due to be reported in the next couple of months. The audit looks to ensure benefits are only provided to those individuals who are eligible for Medicaid. Twenty cases per month are randomly selected each month for 10 months. Counties are expected to meet three accuracy standards: Active Accuracy Rate – Eligible applicants are approved 96.8% of the time; Negative Accuracy Rate – Eligible applicants are not denied, withdrawn, or terminated 96.8%; and, Internal Error Rate – The eligibility determination process is free of technical errors, that do not change the outcome of the eligibility determination, 90% of the time. During Round 1 of REDA, 17 of 30 counties met the active accuracy rate and 11 of 30 counties met the negative accuracy rate. In Round 2, 19 of 35 counties met the active accuracy rate and 10 of 35 counties met the negative accuracy rate. Mrs. Lytch added that for any county which does not meet the bench mark a corrective action plan is issued. **(Info)**
9. **HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Mr. Stanley reported nine open positions asking the team to remind people to go to the county website for more information. **(Info)**

### III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **COVID-19:** Mr. Harrelson reported a 500% increase in the average number of cases per day over the last month (from 39/day to 208/day) with 54% of cases in the 25-64 year old range and 15% in children ages 17 and younger. This does not include the 1400 cases received today from the 3-day weekend. Brunswick County percent positive has increased to 40%. The State goal is to be less than 5% positive. In comparison, New Hanover County is 38.1%. Mr. Stanley referenced slide 10 in the packet to see other counties. Mr. Harrelson noted the vaccination rate remains high at 65% of the population vaccinated with at least one dose and 61% of the population fully vaccinated. At the drive-through vaccination site in Shallotte, all booster doses for those who have been fully vaccinated and meet the eligibility criteria are offered. This includes the Pfizer booster for children ages 12 – 15. Staff administered 877 vaccines during the past month, an average of 63/day. Pfizer vaccines for children ages 5-11 are offered in Building A. Over the last 4 weeks, 154 pediatric doses have been administered, an average 10/day. Overall in Brunswick County, 1,316 children have been vaccinated with at least one dose, 16% of this population. **(Open)**
- B. **COVID-19 RESPONSE PLANNING STATUS:** Mr. Harrelson announced extended hours for COVID vaccinations on Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in Building A. On Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup> vaccines will be available from 9:30 a.m. through 12 p.m. COVID testing is in high demand in Brunswick County. The hospitals, providers, and FQHCs have been bombarded with requests. To help alleviate a little of the strain, Health Services has requested a State vendor to come to offer free COVID testing to the community. Mr. Harrelson also mentioned that every home in the United States is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. Orders usually ship in 7-12 days. The website is: <https://www.covidtests.gov/> BCHS does not accept results from at home tests and they are not included in reporting. Mr. Stanley noted that if people test early on, as soon as exposed, they may not have enough of the virus in their system to show a positive result. Usually if people test once symptomatic there is a pretty good result. **(Open)**
- C. **MEDICAID TRANSFORMATION UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley reported there are no new updates at this time. **(Open)**
- D. **VACANT HHS ADVISORY BOARD POSITION:** Mr. Stanley reported he is hopeful someone will be applying soon. **(Open)**
- E. **BRUNSWICK WELLNESS COALITION UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley noted that the coalition was started by a grant from Duke Endowment which is beginning to run its course and is looking at sustainability options. **(Open)**

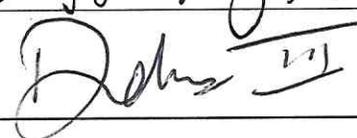
### IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **VACCINE ORDER FY 2023:** Mr. Stanley distributed the annual flu order to the team noting it is time to place it. The order is the same as last year and includes private doses only. **Dr. King moved to approve the Flu Order as presented. Mr. Narron seconded the motion. The vote to approve the order was unanimous. (Closed)**

- B. NEW COUNTY MANAGER APPOINTMENT:** Mr. Stanley announced to the team that current Deputy County Manager, Steve Stone is now County Manager as Mr. Woodruff is retiring at the end of the month. Mr. Stone has worked for Brunswick County for a couple of decades and Mr. Stanley enjoys working with him. **(Closed)**
- C. NEW COUNTY COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT:** Mr. Stanley reported that at the December Commissioner Meeting during Board Assignments and reassignments County Commissioner Marty Cooke was appointed to take Commissioner Pat Sykes place on the Advisory Board. **(Closed)**
- D. CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR ELECTIONS:** Mr. Stanley noted that each year this Board asks if the current Chair and Vice Chair would like to continue on and if there are any nominations of other Board members. Both Dr. King and Dr. Williams agreed to continue in their roles. **Mr. Stanley asked for a call of nominations for Chair. Dr. Williams moved to nominate Dr. King as Chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Norton. Mr. Stanley opened the floor for discussion. Hearing none, nominations were closed, and Mr. Stanley called the question. The vote of approval was unanimous. Dr. King asked for a call of nominations for Vice Chair. Dr. King moved to nominate Dr. Williams as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ward. Dr. King opened the floor for discussion. Hearing none, nominations were closed and Dr. King called the question. The vote of approval of was unanimous. (Closed)**
- 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 7:15 p.m. with a motion by Mr. Ward. Mr. Norton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

The next BCHHS Advisory Board meeting will be held on **February 28, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Health Services lobby.**

  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Chairperson

  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary

# Brunswick County Health and Human Services

## Advisory Board Attendance Roster 2021-2022

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