

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
October 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. Allen Williams at 6:37 p.m. in the Health Services Lobby (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
    - Mr. Michael Norton
    - Ms. Cindy Carver
    - Dr. Allen Williams
    - Mr. Gene Ward
  2. Members absent:
    - Ms. Lisa Narron
    - Dr. Flint King, Chairman
    - Mr. Hubert Reaves
  3. Staff members present:
    - David Stanley, Deputy County Manager – Health & Human Services
    - Cris Harrelson, Health Director
    - Anita Hartsell, Veteran Services Director
    - Danny Thornton, Environmental Health Director
    - Cherie Browning, Director of Nursing
    - Cathy Lytch, Social Services Director
    - Marjorie Rayl, Quality Assurance Specialist
  4. Guests present: None
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes for the monthly meeting held on **September 26, 2022** 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. Ms. Carver 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. Mr. Stanley asked that “Review of 2021 SOTCH” be added as new Item “C” under New Business. Mr. Cooke moved to approve the agenda with aforementioned addition. Ms. Carver seconded the motion. The vote to approve the agenda was unanimous. (Closed)

D. **STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **VETERANS SERVICES:** Mrs. Hartsell announced that the County Commissioners passed a resolution last Monday in support of Operation Green Light for Veterans. The county has declared November 7<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup> as a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform transitioning from active service. The Commissioners encourage citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying a green light in a window of their place of business or residence. The county will be shining green lights upon the courthouse and will change the lighting on the Charters of Freedom display in front of the courthouse to recognize and honor veterans during this week. Mrs. Hartsell also reminded the Board that her office is assisting with the Veterans Benefits Live, VA in My Town event, in Wilmington on November 17<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion Post 10. This event assists veterans in applying for VA benefits and with clearing up any issues they may have with pending claims, as raters from the Winston Salem VA Regional Office will be at the event to work veteran’s claims. (Info)
2. **CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS:** Ms. Browning reported the Child Fatality Prevention Team meeting was held on October 11<sup>th</sup> to review two cases. There were no system problems found. The December meeting was cancelled due to already reaching their quarterly meeting requirement. The next meeting will be in February. (Info)
3. **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Mr. Thornton reported the Wastewater Protection Program staff are still working a 10-12 week backlog. The three recently hired, on-site staff continue to work through the authorization process. As of October 3<sup>rd</sup>, there were 115 active files with 74 being greater than a 4-week turnaround (30% within 4 weeks). Staff completed 64 site evaluations, 37 improvement permits, and 45 construction authorizations. They also inspected 36 new wells and sampled eleven. Mr. Thornton discussed a change in interpretation of the 6” soil cover for site modifications being required to be completed prior to the issuance of the septic system authorization to construct. Staff is now issuing the improvement permit and construction authorization at the same time. This allows the building permit to be obtained sooner. It benefits the contractor who no longer must wait for the inspection before completing the installation. He clarified that this was not a new rule but a change in the State’s interpretation saying the 6” cover is no longer a site modification. The Food & Lodging staff completed 153 inspections, 94 site visits, inspected nine plans, and issued five permits. Mr. Thornton answered a question from the last meeting on whether the cold-holding failure numbers included repeat inspections from the same restaurants. He reported that since January 1, 2022, there were 172 inspections with cold-holding violations and 19 (11%) were repeats. (Info)

4. **HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Harrelson reported staff has offered flu vaccine in 19 schools and 14 pop-up clinics so far. The adult COVID boosters are available by appointment at pop-ups and at the main Health Services building in Bolivia. He also announced WIC flexibilities have been extended until April 11, 2023. Brunswick County WIC has seen a 7.45% increase since the pandemic. WIC has been selected as one of six counties in the state to participate in the pilot of a USDA/Tufts Telehealth Intervention Strategies for WIC grant which aims to decrease barriers of access to WIC services and increase focus on tailored nutritional needs. Mr. Harrelson announced his retirement on December 1<sup>st</sup> and said he appreciated the support from this Board. **(Info)**
5. **HHS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT:** Mr. Harrelson reviewed the Patient Satisfaction Surveys for the Immunizations Clinic. All respondents chose excellent or good regarding their visit experience. There were many positive complements written in and 25 people felt our hours were good with three preferring either weekend or earlier hours. **(Info)**
6. **NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mrs. Lytch announced the Managed Care Tailored Plans have been postponed due to the network not being where it needs to be. To ensure beneficiaries can seamlessly receive care on day one, the new launch date is April 1, 2023. They will not have any delays beyond that. Tailored Plan Case Management for individuals with significant behavioral health conditions, intellectual/developmental disabilities and traumatic brain injury will still launch on December 1, 2022. **(Info)**
7. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch noted that Public Housing received approval from the County Commissioners to set rates at 110% of Fair Market Rent, FMR. HUD released the FMR for the new Federal fiscal year and the new rates went into effect on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The rates have increased, but there are still difficulties in finding rentals, and landlords continue to increase their rent, including a senior apartment complex. Mrs. Lytch spoke with a HUD liaison last week, questioning why Brunswick County is significantly lower than the Wilmington FMR. Mrs. Lytch discussed the local preference option which allows someone assistance (in certain cases) when the list is closed. **Mr. Ward made a motion to request the County Commissioners to add “Homelessness” and “Risk of Homelessness” (as defined by HUD) to the Local Preferences list. Mr. Norton seconded the motion. The vote to request the County Commissioners add Homelessness and Risk of Homelessness to the Local Preference list was unanimous. (Info)**
8. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch announced that, beginning in December, NCDHHS will begin sending energy payments to providers for the CIP, LIEAP, and Water Programs. The electronic payments will be sent two times per month allowing vendors to receive the payments sooner. Mrs. Lytch explained that in the past DSS had to process the paperwork then forward to Finance for checks to cut and mailed. Beginning in December staff will authorize the payments and the State will send payments to vendors as a lump sum with a detailed report. Mrs. Lytch discussed Health Choice, a comprehensive health coverage program for low-income children that don't qualify for Medicaid and can't afford private insurance. The system has an annual fee, as well as copays. She reported that Health Choice will transition to Medicaid in April 2023.

Mrs. Lytch discussed a “perfect storm” on the horizon for her staff. The state continues to believe that Medicaid Expansion will be approved by the end of this year or next year. The Medicaid Public Health Emergency (PHE) extension will continue until January 2023. These benefits automatically roll. Some people don’t qualify but her staff can’t discontinue the benefits while under the PHE. CME must give the state at least a 60-day notice for PHE ending. Staff will need to continue to process recertifications, but also review all individuals who were approved but not eligible for Medicaid. Federal Marketplace Open Enrollment is November 1, 2022 through January 15, 2023. All applications for individuals denied are sent to DSS to determine if individuals/families are eligible for Medicaid. Many are not eligible based on today’s criteria. Staff are trying to develop a plan of action for the increased workload. **(Info)**

9. **HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Mr. Stanley reported 17 open positions are listed on the county website. **(Info)**

### III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **COVID-19:** Mr. Stanley reported that Brunswick County is still in the green signifying low level community spread according to the CDC. **(Open)**
- B. **COVID-19 RESPONSE PLANNING STATUS:** Mr. Stanley noted that staff is still heavily involved in offering vaccines at outreaches. Appointments can be made through the county website. **(Open)**
- C. **VACANT HHS ADVISORY BOARD POSITION:** Mr. Stanley reported the position is still open. **(Open)**
- D. **COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT:** Mr. Stanley projects in the next few days he will have a draft report. The CHA core team is scheduling listening sessions in January. They have completed 800 surveys, 50 key interviews, and two focus groups. **(Open)**
- E. **LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION:** Mr. Stanley noted that evidence used to be collected as paper in a rolling file cabinet but is now uploaded to a website. The upload is required to be completed on November 1<sup>st</sup> for this Accreditation cycle. Staff has done a great job and is ready for the deadline. Each cycle is normally four years but, due to COVID, this cycle is six years. The site visit team will be here in February to review evidence and ask any additional questions regarding our evidence. **(Closed)**

### IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **HHS ADVISORY BOARD CALENDAR FOR 2023:** Mr. Stanley referenced the 2023 Meeting calendar that was included in packets and asked if the Board would consider approving it. It follows the same format as last year with no meeting in May and December. **Mr. Norton made a motion to accept the 2023 Health & Human Services Advisory Board Calendar as presented. Dr. Asbury seconded the motion. The vote to accept the 2023 Board Calendar was unanimous. (Closed)**

**B. EBOLA UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley discussed the Ebola outbreak in Uganda. Brunswick County has travelers from Uganda who are routed to specific airports where the CDC staff reviews the cases, monitors, and classifies the risk. The State and County where the travelers live are notified. Mr. Stanley noted a few years ago staff participated in an exercise with the hospital for this type of scenario. Staff is working to update those plans. County health department staff would not be caring for those patients, as they require a higher level of care. If there were a case today, they would remain in place until an assessment level is decided and then, depending on medical necessity, likely be taken by ambulance to New Hanover Regional Medical Center or Emory Hospital in Atlanta, Ga. for advanced care. **(Closed)**

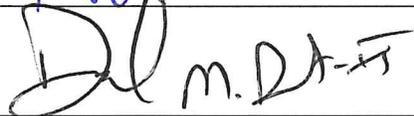
**C. REVIEW OF 2021 SOTCH:** Mr. Harrelson reviewed the 2021 State of the County Health Report (SOTCH) which was just approved. A SOTCH is prepared each year a Community Health Assessment (CHA) is not completed. This SOTCH was based on the 2019 CHA priorities. **(Info)**

**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 7:35 p.m. with a motion by Ms. Carver. Dr. Asbury seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

The next BCHHS Advisory Board meeting will be held on **November 28, 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	X			*					*	
Asbury	X	X	X	X								
Carver	X		X	X								
Cooke	X	X	X	X								
Narron	X	X										
Norton	X		X	X								
Reaves	X	X	X									
Smith	X	X	X	X								
Ward	X			X								
Williams	X		X	X								
Optometrist	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**