

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
September 26, 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. Mr. Ohmer announced Phyllis Capps, Adult Medicaid Supervisor, as Social Services Employee of the Quarter. Phyllis joined the Brunswick DSS team in 2013. She was nominated by four of her coworkers who praised her for her proficiency in all Medicaid programs, positive attitude, and always being willing to help in any way.
- II. REGULARLY OCCURRING ITEMS:**
- A. ATTENDANCE:**
1. The following members were present:
 - Dr. Flint King, Chairman
 - Mr. Hubert Reaves
 - Mr. Marty Cooke
 - Dr. Justin Asbury
 - Dr. Jerry Smith
 - Mr. Michael Norton
 - Ms. Cindy Carver
 - Dr. Allen Williams
 2. Members absent:
 - Mr. Gene Ward
 - Ms. Lisa Narron
 3. Staff members present:
 - David Stanley, Deputy County Manager – Health & Human Services
 - Anita Hartsell, Veteran Services Director
 - Danny Thornton, Environmental Health Director
 - Rich Ohmer, Social Services Deputy Director
 - Marjorie Rayl, Quality Assurance Specialist
 4. Guests present: None
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes for the monthly meeting held on **August 22, 2022** were reviewed. Dr. King asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were none. **Mr. Reaves 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. **Dr. Williams moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Norton seconded the motion. The vote to approve the agenda was unanimous. (Closed)**

D. **STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **VETERANS SERVICES:** Mrs. Hartsell reported that her office is assisting with the Veterans Benefits Live, VA in My Town event, formerly known as the Veterans Experience Action Center Event or VEAC. The event assists veterans in applying for VA benefits and with clearing up any issues they may have with pending claims. VA raters from the Winston Salem VA Regional Office will be at the event to work veteran claims. This event takes place in Wilmington at the American Legion Post #10 from Thursday, November 17th through Saturday, November 19th. She also discussed the new Veteran parking spaces on the Brunswick County Government Complex. A total of 30 reserved parking signs for veteran customers have been installed in honor of their service to our county and country. Mrs. Hartsell initiated the project in May and the Operations Services Department took it on and funded the project during this fiscal year. The installation of signs was completed on September 8th. **(Info)**
2. **CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS:** Mr. Stanley reported no meeting has been held since the last Board meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for October 11th. **(Info)**
3. **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Mr. Thornton reported the wastewater protection staff is continuing to make progress but still 10-12 weeks out on new applications. As of September 9th, there were 132 active files with 80 being greater than four weeks. The active files meeting the 4-week turnaround are 39%. He added that staff remains very positive as they work through the challenges. He announced all three recently filled positions have completed their CIT training in Raleigh. They will now complete mock inspections here which will be presented to the State for review. Once they pass the review the State will return to authorize the staff. Staff issued 82 site evaluations, 63 improvement permits, and 74 construction authorizations. Twenty-three new wells were inspected and 21 wells were sampled. Food & Lodging wrapped up the quarter without completing all inspections. A new staff member has become authorized for restaurants/lodging and the State will return to complete the authorization for institutions. Other staff who were on leave are now back. Staff inspected 95 establishments, made 109 site visits, reviewed eight plans, and issued 10 permits. Of establishments inspected, 15% did not meet cold-holding requirements. Mr. Norton questioned if the cold-holding non-compliance sites are from the same facilities or new issues. Mr. Thornton stated that some facilities struggle due to refrigerator/freezer failures to hold temperatures at 41°F. One restaurant was recently closed due to these issues but was able to reopen the following day. Mr. Reaves asked what caused the State to change the threshold to 41 from 45. Mr. Thornton explained the Federal government made the change based on how quickly listeria grows at those temperatures. North Carolina adopted the Federal Food Code which included the lower temperature requirement. **(Info)**

4. **HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Stanley reported that staff is back to offering our typical flu outreach at many communities, every school and pop-ups for the general population. Staff is also offering the bivalent COVID boosters, both Pfizer and Moderna. **(Info)**
5. **HHS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT:** Mr. Stanley reviewed the Family Planning patient satisfaction surveys. Of the 49 surveys received, 37 selected excellent, 11 good, and one fair. A comment on ease of scheduling suggested weekend hours. **(Info)**
6. **NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley discussed an infrastructure grant opportunity from ARPA dollars in order to strengthen public health efforts. There is \$150-\$160 million available with 40% directed assistance to local health departments. The States must apply for this opportunity that includes several dollars for additional staffing if received. **(Info)**
7. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mr. Stanley reported the housing subcommittee met prior to this Board meeting to discuss the Section 8 work requirements for participants. HUD allows this although counties must apply first before implementing. The subcommittee is interested but would like to see exceptions for residents who are elderly, handicapped, etc. A discussion followed. **Dr. Williams made a motion to send a draft letter requesting approval of Section 8 Payment Standard Change Request to Brunswick County Commissioners for review and submission to HUD. Dr. King seconded the motion. The vote to forward the Section 8 Payment Standard Change Request to the Commissioners for approval was unanimous.** The committee has also asked that staff create a preference list instead of waiting until a need exists. Seven new vouchers have been added that could be used in cases of homelessness which is not currently identified as a preference. The committee asked staff to create a written policy to present at the next Board meeting. Mr. Stanley discussed the Stability Voucher program which is not directly used by the Brunswick County Section 8 program. It requires the BOCC to partner with the PHA by handling the applications and forwarding to Mrs. Lytch's team to issue the vouchers. There are many challenges with available housing and all are competing for the same inventory. A commitment is needed by October 20th. The committee decided there was not enough information at this time and also have a concern of possibly negatively affecting the PH program. Mr. Stanley said more information will be collected in case an opportunity comes up in the future. **(Info)**
8. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mr. Ohmer discussed Operation Stop CPS, a group created by a former child welfare worker who is trying to abolish CPS in North Carolina and other areas. Mr. Ohmer stated the goal of DSS is to get children back with their families. He added that Social Services duty is keeping the child safe. Staff does not want to take a child into custody and it only happens by court order by a judge. The order is for seven days only and then a hearing is held with the family. DSS has 60 days to prove they should maintain custody of the child. Mr. Ohmer said there are around 140 children in foster care and about 1/3 of those are with family members. The judge oversees the process the entire time. **(Info)**
9. **HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Mr. Stanley reported 12 open positions are listed on the county website. **(Info)**

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **COVID-19:** Mr. Stanley reported that Brunswick County is in the green signifying low level according to the CDC. COVID is still circulating but there doesn't seem to be as many hospital admissions although some people still have a difficult recovery. There is a shorter duration of sickness with most people. **(Open)**
- B. **COVID-19 RESPONSE PLANNING STATUS:** Mr. Stanley announced staff is now administering the new bivalent boosters. COVID test kits are still available at Health Services. Staff is continuing outreach. **(Open)**
- C. **VACANT HHS ADVISORY BOARD POSITION:** Mr. Stanley had a commitment but the person changed their mind. **(Open)**
- D. **COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT:** Mr. Stanley said the process is moving along and he hopes to have some primary data to share in October. Town Hall meetings are being held with the outcome to include two to three health priorities to work on over the next three years. **(Open)**
- E. **SECTION 8 PAYMENT STANDARD:** Mr. Stanley reported the request for the BOCC to allow rents to be increased to the maximum that HUD allows was approved at the last meeting. This allows adjustments to be made by Mrs. Lytch's staff as needed. **(Closed)**

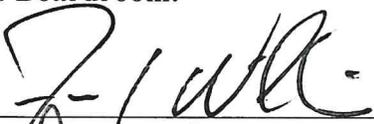
IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION:** Mr. Stanley noted Ms. Rayl, Accreditation Coordinator, has been working diligently to submit information electronically in advance of the Site Visit on February 2, 2023. There may be an opportunity for a Board member to participate in the interview process. **(Open)**
- B. **PUBLIC HEALTH RADIOS:** Mr. Stanley reported the radios have been purchased and will hopefully be here soon to replace the old ones. **(Closed)**
- C. **NCACC FY 23 LEGISLATIVE GOALS PROCESS:** Mr. Stanley reviewed the State and Federal Goals the BOCC will present to the NCACC for FY 2023. State goals include: seeking additional State funding to support local adult/senior day services; legislation to review and update flood maps more frequently; opposing efforts to divert state fees or taxes, increasing funding for transportation construction and maintenance needs; and supporting hold harmless provisions, a continuation of a current NCACC goal. Federal goals include seeking legislation or policy changes to expedite the FEMA process and requesting Congress to support an exemption for water systems from financial liability for PFAS cleanup. **(Info)**

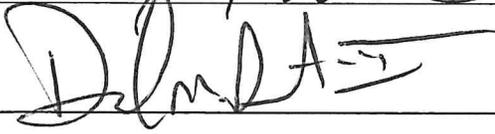
V. **BOARD INPUTS:** Dr. King asked if there were any additional Board inputs. There were none. **(Info)**

VI: **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, **the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. with a motion by Dr. King. Dr. Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

The next BCHHS Advisory Board meeting will be held on **October 24, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Health Services Boardroom.**



VICE
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									
Carver	X		X									
Cooke	X	X	X									
Narron	X	X										
Norton	X		X									
Reaves	X	X	X									
Smith	X	X	X									
Ward	X											
Williams	X		X									
Optometrist	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**