

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
January 22, 2018 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 6:36 p.m. in the Health Services Board Room (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 and there were none.
- II. REGULARLY OCCURRING ITEMS:**
- A. ATTENDANCE:**
1. The following members were present:
 - Dr. Flint King, Chairman
 - Ms. Lisa Narron
 - Dr. Jerry Smith
 - Dr. Kathryn Lawler
 - Mr. Michael Norton
 - Dr. Allen Williams
 - Mr. Haywood Miller
 - Mrs. Pat Sykes
 - Mr. Gene Ward
 2. Members absent:
 - Dr. J. Michael Howard
 3. Staff members present:
 - David Stanley, Health & Human Services Director
 - Cris Harrelson, Health Services Director
 - Jay Murray, Business Manager
 - Anita Hartsell, Veterans Services Director
 - Cathy Lytch, Social Services Director
 - Danny Thornton, Environmental Health Director
 - Cherie Browning, Director of Nursing
 - Marjorie Rayl, Quality Assurance Specialist
 4. Guests present: None

- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes for the monthly meeting held on **November 27, 2017** were reviewed. Dr. King asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. **There were no corrections. Mrs. Sykes moved to approve the minutes as written. 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 and there were none. **Dr. Williams moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The vote to approve the agenda was unanimous. (Closed)**
- D. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
- 1. CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS:** Ms. Browning reported the Child Fatality Prevention Team will meet on February 13th with one case to review. **(Info)**
 - 2. HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Harrelson noted the increase of flu cases being in the news. It is widespread in Brunswick County as well as in North Carolina and the nation. The rise has been in December through January. Novant Health Brunswick Medical Center has seen 125 flu cases with 69 positive cases just since January 1st. There have been 42 deaths in North Carolina, including one in Brunswick County. Flu cases are predominantly type A. Health Services has worked with the schools and Brunswick Community College on a press release targeting prevention. The message is to get the shot and if you get sick to stay home to prevent others from catching the flu. The press release included a picture of Brunswick County Schools Superintendent Les Tubb receiving his vaccination. Many local news outlets are getting the information out. Mr. Harrelson also praised the Immunization team on their efforts to get children their required vaccinations. The Annual State Assessment noted Brunswick County at 96% for children aged 24 – 35 months. The State goal is 90% and the State average is 85%. **(Info)**
 - 3. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Mr. Thornton reported staff is working hard at getting their numbers down. Due to the weather, applications are not coming in as rapidly as they had been. **(Info)**
 - 4. HHS CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENT REPORT:** Mr. Thornton reported that about 100 surveys were mailed out to customers. The reviews were good for customer service. There were multiple comments written about the turnaround time. Mr. Stanley reported that turnaround times are improving thanks to the hard-working staff. **(Info)**

5. **VETERANS SERVICES:** Mrs. Hartsell reported that the new Veteran ID cards, rolled out by the VA at the end of November, have been put on hold. The new card is just to show their veteran status. Currently, veterans can go to www.vets.gov and scroll to the bottom to click on the link that says, "Apply for Printed Veteran ID Card". They will then be redirected to a page that will allow them to enter their email address so they will receive notification of when they can continue the process to apply for the card. Mrs. Hartsell said the COLA adjustment for VA compensation rates went into effect on December 1, 2017 giving a 2% COLA for 2018. The VA pays after the month is over with so the COLA would not have been seen until their January check. Mrs. Hartsell gave a presentation on the services her office provides to Novant Health on December 13th. **(Info)**

6. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch reported that the subcommittee found that the risk with home ownership is no greater risk than paying the financial institution. Mrs. Lytch will move forward to develop a policy to review. She appreciates Dr. Williams, Mr. Ward and Mr. Norton coming in early to meet. Staff is continuing to work on removing individuals from the waiting list. Twenty-nine vouchers have been issued. Once issued, recipients have up to 120 days (4 months) to lease up. **(Info)**

7. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch announced that 12 new families became licensed foster families in Brunswick County. She added that Tamela Jones continues to recruit new families. There are 11 families that started training two weeks ago. The classes are 10 weeks long and are held on Thursday evenings from 6 – 9 p. m. As part of the process, a home study must be done. One barrier is having water near the home. Homes that are near a retention pond without a barrier, cannot be licensed. The entire property, including the driveway would have to be enclosed. Beach front homes have the same issue and there is no certain age limit that would allow licensure. Mrs. Lytch has had discussions with the State about the issue. The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) opened in December for those ages 60 and over, as well as, those residents who are disabled. Staff went out to the Senior Centers as well. A total of 570 applications were taken in December with 494 approved. Applications were opened to all residents January 2nd through January 17th. A total of 1096 applications were accepted during this brief time that included three and a half weather days and two holidays. These Federal funds, that are offered to help offset heating expenses, have now been exhausted. Mrs. Lytch announced that the update moving Child Welfare into NC-FAST has been pushed back twice due to system issues. The rollout is planned for the end of May. Five pilot counties have recommended that other counties not move forward until the system issues have been resolved. When the system is down, staff can't access reports or information. Mrs. Sykes asked if there was any information on food stamps not being available to those who use drugs, such as being done in Wisconsin. Mrs. Lytch has not heard anything but noted that residents with drug-related charges must go through a substance use assessment. **(Info)**

8. **HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Mr. Stanley announced that staff is actively recruiting for 17 positions, some of which recommendations have been made for. Open positions include: 5 Social Worker IIIs, Social Worker Supervisor, 2 Economic Services Supervisors, and an Income Maintenance Caseworker. Open on the health side are: Lead Public Health Nurse, 2 Public Health Nurses, Lab Tech, Processing Supervisor, Senior Processing Assistant, Senior Office Assistant. **(Info)**

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley noted the continuing resolution to reopen government for three weeks. Some of the programs that were impacted in the 2013 shutdown were: WIC and Social Services programs (Child Care Development Fund, LIEAP, TANF and Public Housing). On the Veteran Services side, local staff use very few federal dollars but the veteran's benefits are affected. **(Info)**
- B. OPIOID/STEPPING UP INITIATIVES:** Mr. Stanley announced the next Stepping Up meeting, to be cleared by County Administration, is slated for March 19th. He has had separate meetings with Sheriff's Office staff. Mr. Stanley and Mrs. Sykes will be meeting with New Hanover County this week to look at a treatment project slated to be built in Wilmington and Greenville. **(Open)**
- D. PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY:** Mr. Stanley briefed on a water presentation previously presented to the County Commissioners. **(Open)**

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. TRILLIUM UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley briefed on a presentation of Trillium Health Resources Annual Report for Brunswick County, previously presented to the County Commissioners. Mrs. Sykes expressed the need for someone from Brunswick County to be on the governing board. Mr. Stanley noted that the Opioid Cures Act first year funding for Trillium was 1.2 million dollars. This money was utilized in the first six months seeing 1,300 new individuals receiving treatment. A discussion followed. **(Info)**
- B. HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE:** Mr. Stanley discussed that current HIE exchanges do not fully comply with certain federal regulation concerning minor consent. Mr. Stanley added that, until issue resolved with HIE, BCHS will not open our files for sharing identifiable health information. **(Info)**
- C. ANNUAL FLU ORDER:** Mr. Stanley asked that this item be postponed until the February meeting in order to get the next month of flu data to compare. Staff has until the end of March to place their order. **(Info)**

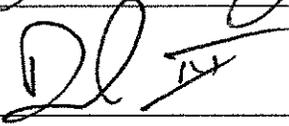
- V. BOARD INPUTS:** Dr. King asked if there were any additional Board inputs. There were none. **(Info)**

VI: **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, **the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m. with a motion by Mrs. Sykes. Dr. Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

The next BCHHS Advisory Board meeting will be held on **February 26, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.**

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Chairperson

Handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Williams'.

Secretary

Brunswick County Health and Human Services

Advisory Board Attendance Roster 2017-2018

NAME	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
King	X	X	X	X	X	*	X					
Miller	X	X		X	X	*	X					
Williams		X	X		X	*	X					
Smith	X	X	X		X	*	X					
Ward	X	X			X	*	X					
Norton		X	X		X	*	X					
Howard	X		X	X		*						
Sykes				X	X	*	X					
Lawler		X	X	X	X	*	X					
Narron	X	X	X	X	X	*	X					

A = Month Appointed/Installed

C = Conflict with CC's Meeting

O = Off Board

X = In Attendance

AA = Approved Absence

Blank Space = Absent

Quorum equals six members present.

^ = Specially Called Meeting

* = No Meeting