

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
November 23, 2020 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 6:34 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
 - Dr. Jerry Smith
 - Mr. Hubert Reaves
 - Mrs. Pat Sykes
 - Mr. Michael Norton
 - Dr. Allen Williams
 - Mr. Gene Ward
 2. Members absent:
 - Dr. Justin Asbury
 - Dr. Kathryn Lawler
 - Ms. Lisa Narron
 3. Staff members present:
 - David Stanley, Health & Human Services Director
 - Cris Harrelson, Health Services Director
 - Cathy Lytch, Social Services Director
 - Cherie Browning, Director of Nursing
 - 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 **October 26, 2020** were reviewed. Dr. King asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were no corrections. **Dr. Williams moved to approve the minutes as written. Mrs. Sykes 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. Mr. Ward 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 the expansion of the VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. The VA first developed the program after 9/11 to assist those veterans who were seriously injured in the line of duty and would permanently require assistance with their activities of daily living due to the veteran's inability to care for themselves. This program provides monetary compensation to the veteran's designated caregiver for providing this specialized care. The program was only for veterans who served after 9/11/2001. The new expansion was recently released to include eligible veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty in the active military, naval or air service on or before May 7, 1975. Two years after this expansion, this program will expand again to include eligible Veterans from all eras who have a serious injury, incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval or air service. **(Info)**
2. **CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS:** Ms. Browning reported that CFPT has not met since the last report. The next meeting will be held virtually on December 8th. **(Info)**
3. **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Mr. Thornton noted that staff has met all expectations for wastewater files and the four-week turnaround goal. Food & Lodging staff continues to see cold-holding issues, currently 16% not meeting parameters. Most are directly related to ambient air issues. Staff has received 31 complaints related to the COVID-19 executive order. Staff is responding and providing information on the order. The Count on Me Brunco Team met again on November 16th and heard from two guest speakers in the food service industry. Other members were interested in hearing what they were doing. Mr. Thornton reported that as the quarter is coming to an end, staff is working hard to maintain 100% of inspections. Due to some facilities not complying with the executive order, the State has given guidance that staff is not required to enter those facilities. **(Info)**
4. **HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Harrelson reported that 3,349 flu vaccines have been given so far this season through the drive-through and outreaches. This is a 29% decrease from last year. He suggested one reason for the decline may be the COVID limitations on outreach, for example, requiring appointments rather than walk-ins. Due to the decreased demand at the drive-through, the "in-house" flu clinic is now a "drive-up" campaign. Patrons can drive up to designated parking in front of Building A and staff comes out to administer the vaccine. Mr. Harrelson announced that Health Services staff member, Laura Quarino, was nominated for and won the Health Care Hero Awards in the Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant category as presented by the Greater Wilmington Business Journal. Laura has been with the department since July 2012 and represents the best of quality care and patient empathy. Mr. Harrelson reported that COVID modifications have been in place since April on how families receive WIC services. Families have been served by phone primarily with a few utilizing curbside pickup.

These modifications have resulted in staff serving around 2,750 participants each month since October 2020. This is up from an average of about 2,400 before COVID. The last participation rate was 109%. **(Info)**

5. **NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mr. Harrelson reviewed the 2020 Legislative Priorities for Public Health developed by the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors. They are: Provide additional State funding to address increased demands associated with communicable and emerging infectious diseases; Close the Medicaid coverage gap; and, Restore Women's & Children's Health Block Grant funding to local health departments. He added that the association has recently hired a lobbyist to assist with obtaining these priorities and will work with the Legislature in the upcoming session. **(Info)**
6. **HHS CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENT REPORT:** Mr. Stanley noted this is on hold until in-person services resume as normal. **(Info)**
7. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch announced the new Public Housing Supervisor started this month. Interviews are being conducted for the Occupancy Specialist position which closed on Friday. Mrs. Lytch reminded the Board of the recent change to the priority list allowing a bypass to prevent childcare placement. Just this month, it avoided having two children from entering foster care. **(Info)**
8. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch discussed the LIHEAP program noting a letter has been sent to all individuals who applied and were denied last year. The mailing included an application to complete and return. Applications can be mailed, emailed, or taken over the telephone, but they are not accepted in person. Those 65 and older who received LIHEAP payments last year will automatically receive them this winter. Mrs. Lytch reported that Session Law 2017-57 mandated that the State develop a certification program for NC FAST. Implementation will be in early 2021 and certification requirements will need to be met by new and existing Income Maintenance Caseworkers. Core functions will need to be completed by all staff who have access. The test will be a pass/fail. Level I certification for staff working in eligibility determinations will require a passing score. New staff will need to complete and pass within 90 days of employment while existing staff will have 18 months to complete. Mrs. Lytch discussed the number of child welfare cases which continues to increase. With 180 children in care, there is an increase in number of reports, as well as, number of children entering foster care. She added the severity of the reports also continues to increase. Mrs. Lytch announced the Child Welfare Angel Trees are up at local WalMart stores. Duke Energy has adopted several families. Mrs. Lytch read a heartfelt story written by a social worker regarding last year's gift giving impact. **(Info)**
9. **HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Mr. Stanley reported Income Maintenance Caseworker and Child Welfare Social Worker remain continuous postings similar to some of the Sheriff's Office postings. Other positions in DSS include: Social Work Supervisor II in Child Protective Services and Income Maintenance Supervisor in Adult Medicaid. Health Services is looking for contract nurses to assist in COVID challenges. **(Info)**

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **COVID-19:** Mr. Stanley reviewed the COVID-19 Partner Briefing, which was distributed at the meeting. He pointed out 500 residents were isolating in their homes, and there have been 55 deaths, half in long term care facilities. There has been a statewide surge in rural areas with pretty significant increases. He noted the NCDHHS Alert System which color codes counties in red, orange or yellow. As of this date, Brunswick is in yellow meaning significant levels and Columbus is in the red zone showing dangerous numbers. The tool is to assist local business leaders in making decisions. Mr. Stanley reported that people are often more contagious when they are less symptomatic. **(Open)**
- B. **COVID-19 RESPONSE PLANNING STATUS:** Mr. Stanley reported vaccine is expected to arrive possibly sometime in December or early January. The exact date and number of vaccines to arrive is unknown. The initial vaccines will be given to healthcare workers and then spread out to include a larger target. The first vaccine, from Pfizer requires ultra-cold storage. As the FDA approvals come out, staff is working to be ready. He added that last month there were more exposures and more sickness. Testing has never been higher than it is now. **(Open)**
- C. **COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT ACTION PLAN UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley announced the Action Plan has been approved and good comments were received. He hopes to have it available to share in January. **(Open)**
- D. **NC LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION:** Mr. Stanley reported the Accreditation Board, of which he is a member, met last Friday. The board discussed several items impacting quality improvement for the State accreditation process as well as accreditation action on some health departments. **(Info)**

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **BCCCP MONITORING REPORT:** Mr. Stanley explained a recent satisfactory State monitoring of the BCCCP program. **(Info)**
- B. **BOARD REMINDERS:** Mr. Stanley wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year. He appreciates everyone. Mr. Stanley also asked that the team review the 2021 meeting dates, and if so inclined, accept them. **Dr. King made a motion to accept the 2021 Health & Human Services Advisory Board Meeting Dates as presented. Dr. Williams seconded the motion. The vote to accept the 2021 Meeting Dates 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 7:32 p.m. with a motion by Mr. Ward. Mrs. Sykes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

The next BCHHS Advisory Board meeting will be held on **January 25, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Health Services lobby.**


_____ Chairperson


_____ Secretary

Brunswick County Health and Human Services

Advisory Board Attendance Roster 2020-2021

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