

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
June 22, 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 6:35 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. There were none.

II. REGULARLY OCCURRING ITEMS:

A. ATTENDANCE:

1. The following members were present:

Dr. Flint King, Chairman
Ms. Lisa Narron
Mr. Hubert Reaves
Dr. J. Michael Howard
Dr. Kathryn Lawler
Dr. Justin Asbury
Mrs. Pat Sykes
Mr. Michael Norton
Mr. Gene Ward

2. Members absent:

Dr. Jerry Smith
Dr. Allen Williams

3. Staff members present:

David Stanley, Health & Human Services Director
Cris Harrelson, Health Services Director
Scott Milligan, Personnel Director
Cathy Lytch, Social Services Director
Danny Thornton, Environmental Health Director
Anita Hartsell, Veteran Services Director
Marjorie Rayl, Quality Assurance Specialist

4. Guests present: None

- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes for the monthly meetings held on **February 24, 2020** and **April 27, 2020** 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. Mr. Ward 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. **Mr. Stanley asked that “Energy Program Outreach Plan” be added as Item A under New Business. Mr. Ward moved to approve the agenda with the aforementioned change. Mrs. Sykes seconded the motion. The vote to approve the agenda with aforementioned change was unanimous. (Closed)**
- D. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
- 1. VETERANS SERVICES:** Mrs. Hartsell referenced the report noting their numbers have gone down as a result of COVID-19 and the fact that the department has been short-staffed. She added that in April, Mrs. Frankie Beam decided to retire as VSO. She advertised internally and the previous VS Technician, Mrs. Tracy Walts is now the new SO. Tracy had started training earlier this year with the State Training Officer to become an accredited VSO. A new VS Technician has also been hired, Ms. Kendra Starnes, who came from DSS. Staff is looking forward to her starting next Monday, June 29th. Mrs. Hartsell announced the committee met for the Veterans Experience Action Center event and determined, for the safety and welfare of everyone concerned, that due to COVID-19 the event would be cancelled for this year. If everything is approved through the school board, her office plans to host the event at South Brunswick High School during spring break next year. **(Info)**
 - 2. CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS:** Mr. Stanley noted the team has not met since the last Advisory Board meeting. The next meeting will be in August. **(Info)**
 - 3. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Mr. Thornton reported that there were no wastewater files exceeding the four week turn-around time frame for applications submitted. Throughout the pandemic the On-Site Wastewater Program has not noticed many changes and workload has remained constant. Staff are implementing safety precautions to help reduce exposure. The Food & Lodging side has seen modifications. Staff is working to update the database to facilitate guidance from the state. As guidance is pushed out, staff has been emailing the information to the affected facilities. In trying to reopen businesses coming out of the stay at home order, a team was developed to disseminate information. A press release went out on June 1st to promote the Count on Me program and anyone that completes it is encouraged to take a picture of their certificate to forward to the county to be placed on the social media account. Mr. Thornton noted that his staff is collaborating with the Kiwanis Club of Southport, Cooperative Extension, and the Brunswick County PIO to support this effort. Weekly surveys are being completed with daycare and nursing home facilities to learn what additional guidance is needed. Mr. Thornton explained that, due to the pandemic, the Secretary of Health and Human Services provided Food & Lodging with a delegated waiver authority for inspections required for fiscal year 19/20. Staff is making sure to complete all required inspections by June 30th. **(Info)**

4. **HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Harrelson reported that Health Services continues to provide essential services, such as Maternal Health, Family Planning, and Pediatrics. The Carolina Community Tracing Collaborative is being utilized to supply contact tracers to help bring some relief to Health Services nurses since COVID case counts have significantly risen in the past few weeks. The Collaborative is a partnership between AHEC and NCDHHS tasked to hire and train staff to assist local health departments with efforts to track the transmission of COVID-19. Mr. Harrelson announced Maureen Hubbard as new WIC Director. She is a former employee that has spent the last six years working with Pender County as their WIC Director. Mr. Harrelson noted we are currently advertising for a Nutritionist I and two Nutritionist II positions. WIC has received two special funding awards recently. The first was for \$46,274 and will be used for IT equipment to aid in implementing telehealth services. The second award was for \$19,073 and will be used for upgrading the WIC offices and for facilitating outreach activities. **(Info)**
5. **NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Discussion deferred until next meeting **(Info)**
6. **HHS CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENT REPORT:** Mr. Stanley noted that staff has decided to postpone surveys at this time in order for staff to focus on COVID duties. Staff hopes to phase these back in. **(Info)**
7. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch reported that staff continues to lease up families using phone interviews, emails and mail. VASH leased up one and two others decided to port to Columbus County due to difficulty finding housing here. Staff continues to move cautiously by calling ahead and asking screening questions before going out to homes. The updated 5-year plan was approved in February by the Commissioners and has been submitted to HUD and approved. The utility allowance was updated with no change in rates from last year. **(Info)**
8. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Staff continues to be busy and saw an increase in food stamp applications beginning in March and April (956). Mrs. Lytch noted the State has applied for and received a number of waivers. This includes automatic recertifications extended while under a State of Emergency. Other changes include waiving face to face interviews, either not doing an interview, or via telephone. The State is also one of the first to apply for the Pandemic EDP program where any child who normally receives free lunches gets enough food. Some had transportation problems. Those eligible receive an additional \$370. Those children not already receiving EBT cards received the pandemic card in the mail. Mrs. Lytch reported that foster care numbers are going up, 162 in May. Staff continues to provide essential services and maintain health and safety. Today staff started manning the county sewer and water assistance program. **(Info)**
9. **HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Mr. Stanley noted that Mr. Harrelson had already mentioned the open WIC positions. Also being recruited for are a Public Housing Supervisor, Child Support Agent, 2 Social Worker II Supervisors, a Social Worker III and continuously, Income Maintenance Caseworkers. **(Info)**

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT UPDATE:** Mr. Harrelson presented the 2019 Community Health Assessment (CHA) approved by NC DHHS last month. He noted that it is a snapshot of the county's health as shown by analyzing data from community health opinion surveys and statistical data from the NC Center for Health Statistics, CDC, US Census, and other sources. The next step is to develop an Improvement Plan that addresses the three health priorities identified by the CHA. Mr. Harrelson announced those priorities as Substance Misuse, Access to Healthcare, and Chronic Disease, adding that all three should be approached through the framework of our aging population. Chronic disease was the biggest health concern in the community according to 19.6% of respondents in the opinion survey. Using a printed PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Harrelson discussed each priority in greater detail. The full CHA was emailed to the Board prior to this meeting. Mr. Harrelson also noted, according to the US Census Bureau, Brunswick County will experience a 34% increase in the 65 years and older population by 2030. According to the opinion survey, Cognitive Disorder Screening (dementia or Alzheimer's) is the most needed health screening in the community. **(Closed)**
- B. **NC FLU SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY REVIEW:** Mr. Stanley noted this would be the last report on this season's flu data. He noted that 168 North Carolinians have passed away from flu-associated death. Most had other conditions. Last season there were 203 deaths. The peak of flu season this year was February 8-22. **(Closed)**
- C. **NC EARLY CHILDHOOD ACTION PLAN REVIEW:** Mr. Stanley requested this item be deferred to the next meeting. **(Open)**
- D. **COVID-19:** Mr. Stanley discussed the significant, statewide increase in COVID-19 cases, over 50,000 and over 1,000 deaths. This is over a 200% increase since June 2nd. There have also been increases in the region although Columbus County has slowed down. Horry County has increased over 300% with 100 or more new cases per day. There has been a change in the demographics of positive cases moving more towards the service industries such as food services and construction. The ages of those testing positive have also changed to 34% aged 25-49 with multiple cases in the same household. Only 25% of cases are now aged 50-64. Dr. Lawler asked if there is ever identification of frail elderly vs. healthy elderly when considering at-risk populations. Mr. Stanley said more is being looked into that but regardless of age, those with breathing/lung issues are more at risk. **(Open)**
- E. **PUBLIC WATER:** Mr. Stanley noted they are working to expand the capacity of the water system and adding filtration systems to take out the emerging contaminants, some of which aren't even regulated. The low-pressure reverse osmosis system removes the most. TA Loving Company is working on the discharge from the plant. Both projects expect to be operational in May 2023. Mrs. Sykes also noted that the bond report has been received showing a great interest rate, better than expected. **(Info)**

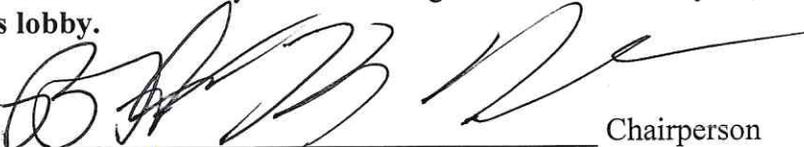
IV. NEW BUSINESS:

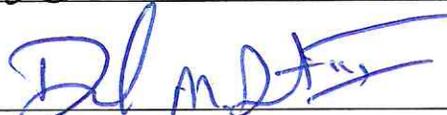
A. ENERGY PROGRAM OUTREACH PLAN: Mr. Stanley discussed the Energy Program Outreach Plan that is required each year by the State. It will be shared with the County Commissioners in July. **Dr. King made a motion to recommend the Energy Program Outreach Plan be sent to the Brunswick County Commissioners for approval. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The vote to forward the plan to Commissioners was unanimous.**
(Closed)

V. BOARD INPUTS: Dr. King asked if there were any additional Board inputs. Mr. Stanley announced that Dr. Howard's term ends with this meeting noting that he has been on this board for 16 years. Dr. Howard has been a part of many decisions regarding animal control, news crews, etc. Mr. Stanley added that it is good to know people here in a leadership role to call on for advice and he will be missed. **(Info)**

VI. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, **the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. with a motion by Mrs. Sykes. Mr. Ward seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

The next BCHHS Advisory Board meeting will be held on **July 27, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Health Services lobby.**


_____ Chairperson


_____ Secretary

Brunswick County Health and Human Services

Advisory Board Attendance Roster 2019-2020

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