

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
November 22, 2021 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 6:31 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
 - Mr. Hubert Reaves
 - Mr. Gene Ward
 - Dr. Justin Asbury
 - Mr. Michael Norton
 - Ms. Cindy Carver
 - Mrs. Pat Sykes
 - Dr. Jerry Smith
 - Dr. Allen Williams
 2. Members absent:
 - Ms. Lisa Narron
 3. Staff members present:
 - David Stanley, Health & Human Services Director
 - Cris Harrelson, Health Services Director
 - Cathy Lytch, Social Services Director
 - Anita Hartsell, Veteran Services Director
 - Danny Thornton, Environmental Health Director
 - James Murray, Business Manager
 - Marjorie Rayl, Quality Assurance Specialist
 4. Guests present: None

- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes for the monthly meeting held on **October 25, 2021** were reviewed. Dr. King asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were none. **Mr. Ward moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Reaves 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. **Mrs. Sykes 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 that her office is down one staff member. The position has already been advertised and she is reviewing applications to find another Veterans Services Officer. She also discussed NC taxes for military retirees. Retirees who had five or more years of creditable military service as of August 12, 1989, received full exemption from paying taxes on their military retirement in North Carolina. Anyone who did not meet the service requirement before 1989 had to pay taxes on their military retirement. Last week, Governor Cooper signed Senate Bill 105 into law eliminating tax on military pension income. The following criteria must be met: Served at least 20 years; or, medically retired under 10 USC Chapter 61. (This deduction does not apply to severance pay received by a member due to separation from the member's armed forces.) Payments of a plan defined in 10 USC § 1447 to a beneficiary of a retired member eligible to deduct retirement pay under the criteria just mentioned. This is effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2021. **(Info)**
 - 2. CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS:** Mr. Stanley reported the team has not met. The final meeting of 2021 will be held on December 14th. **(Info)**
 - 3. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Mr. Thornton reported 88% of active applications have met the four-week turnaround goal. Workloads continue to increase with 76 site evaluations, 45 improvement permits, and 66 construction authorizations being completed last month. Staff also inspected 24 new wells and sampled 15. Food and Lodging has two vacant positions and, as a result, Mr. Thornton added that they may not meet 100% of the required inspections this quarter. Cold-holding checks found 18% did not comply with guidelines. Mr. Thornton noted that staff responded to 16 COVID complaints. They performed 183 inspections, reviewed 10 plans, and issued 21 permits (including new and transitional). **(Info)**
 - 4. HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Harrelson reported that, in October, Brunswick County WIC had 3,010 participants, an increase of 34.2% from the beginning of COVID and 10.8% from the beginning of this year. This is the first time ever to reach over 3,000. Federal waivers will continue through April 2022. Clients are enjoying curbside services. Staff is also partnering with Health Education staff to target the underserved population. **(Info)**

5. **HHS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT:** Mr. Stanley noted there was no report this month. **(Info)**
6. **NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mrs. Lytch discussed Safe and Appropriate Placement under Session Law 2021-132. When a child presents to the Emergency Department and does not meet the criteria for involuntary commitment, but DSS has no available placement, DSS must contact the LME/MCO within 24 hours and has five days to find placement. This is a child that is not for family foster due to increased level of care needed. If unable to find placement, the NC DHHS rapid response team is notified to provide a check and balance that all options have been explored. As of January 2022, if the child remains in the hospital, the hospital or LME/MCO can place a motion for payment of bills for the time the child is in the hospital. Mrs. Lytch will keep this Board informed. **(Info)**
7. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch reported the CARES Funding landlord payments have been made and letters sent out. They are very appreciative and thankful. **(Info)**
8. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch announced the WAVES4Kids holiday party will be on December 5th at The Barn. Staff are preparing for the holiday season and are setting up Angel Trees at local Walmart stores and also creating an Amazon Wish List for the wards and older children in foster care. Letters are being sent to community groups and local businesses regarding how to assist with foster child wishes. The Amazon gifts ship straight to the county for distribution. Mrs. Sykes recommended that a press release go out as well. Mrs. Lytch noted that the LIHEAP program will open on December 1st for individuals who receive adult services and those over age 60. LIHWAP (water program) also opens on December 1st. Both programs are 100% federally funded. Providers signed up include Brunswick County Utilities, H2G0, and the City of Southport. Participants must have had their water disconnected or, are at risk of disconnection. To apply they must provide proof of disconnection and be an active food stamp recipient. There is no limit to the dollar amount to reconnect/maintain service. Providers can sign up any time. A potential participant will be denied if their provider has not signed up. **(Info)**
9. **HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Mr. Stanley noted the previously mentioned Veterans Service Officer and Environmental Health Specialist position vacancies. Other vacancies include: Public Health Nurse; two Income Maintenance Caseworkers (IMC), part-time/temporary IMC; and Social Worker for CPS Investigations. **(Info)**

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **COVID-19:** Mr. Stanley reviewed the COVID-19 Partner Briefing that was included in the packets noting overall monthly numbers are going down including number of cases and percent positives. The same is being seen in New Hanover, Columbus and Pender counties. Last week Brunswick County showed a slight uptick in percent positives. Vaccine rates show 63% of the population has received at least one dose. **(Open)**

- B. **COVID-19 RESPONSE PLANNING STATUS:** Mr. Stanley reported vaccines are still available for adults at the Shallotte drive-through site and pediatric shots are available in the boardroom. Flu vaccines are also offered at Building A. Pfizer and Moderna boosters are available to anyone after 6 months from their last COVID vaccine and the J&J booster after two months. Cris added that 169 pediatric doses have been given since November 5th. Overall, 434 kids have received at least one dose, 5% of the population. Mr. Stanley announced that the National Guard will continue to assist until February, if needed. **(Open)**
- C. **MEDICAID TRANSFORMATION UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley reported that the LME/MCO tailored plans for medical/mental health have been delayed five months due to COVID. The projected start date is now December 1, 2022. **(Open)**
- D. **VACANT HHS ADVISORY BOARD POSITION:** Mr. Stanley would like to hold this item for the January meeting as he hopes to have a few names at that time. **(Open)**

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **BRUNSWICK COUNTY BLUEPRINT 2040:** Mr. Stanley distributed a flyer and referenced the link at the bottom to access the current plan. The process allows stakeholders and the community to plan land use for the next 20 years. Last Thursday was a wonderful event with many people interested in our utilities, parks, and other items related to growth. Mr. Stanley noted that Brunswick County is still one of the fastest growing counties in the state. Mr. Norton added that the Comprehensive Land Use Plan is paired with the Parks & Recreation Master Plan and it is working well to plan together. It is important to look at housing types to be sure affordable housing is in the plan. He added the issue has come up many times to assure young graduates are able to find affordable housing. The plans will be presented back to the Commissioners around April. **(Closed)**
- B. **WEST NILE VIRUS CASE:** Mr. Stanley discussed the recent case noting he has not been able to find a previous case reported in Brunswick County. This case was an active hunter who spends a lot of time in the woods. The virus is contracted when a person is bitten by a mosquito with the virus. A release has been sent to the public advising general prevention measures to limit mosquito bites. Symptoms are flu-like such as fever and feeling achy. The distinguishing issues are swelling of the nervous system and headaches which are severe. **(Closed)**
- C. **BRUNSWICK WELLNESS COALITION UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley explained that the coalition was created a few years ago with a grant from the Duke Endowment. The coalition is nearing the end of the first part of the grant process and must show that their efforts can remain sustainable. Their mission is dealing with chronic health conditions such as obesity, heart disease and diabetes. He added that there will be more in the news as they look for ways to sustain their important efforts. **(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 7:14 p.m. with a motion by Mr. Ward. Dr. Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

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


_____ Chairperson


_____ Secretary

Brunswick County Health and Human Services

Advisory Board Attendance Roster 2021-2022

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