

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
October 25, 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 6:36 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  
Ms. Lisa Narron  
Mr. Gene Ward  
Dr. Justin Asbury  
Mr. Michael Norton  
Ms. Cindy Carver

2. Members absent:

Mrs. Pat Sykes  
Dr. Jerry Smith  
Dr. Allen Williams

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  
Marjorie Rayl, Quality Assurance Specialist

4. Guests present: None

- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes for the monthly meeting held on **September 27, 2021** were reviewed. Dr. King asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were none. **Ms. Carver 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. **Mr. Ward moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Narron seconded the motion. The vote to approve the agenda as presented was unanimous. (Closed)**
- D. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
- 1. VETERANS SERVICES:** Mrs. Hartsell noted that Veterans Day is coming up on Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, a day set aside to remember and thank veterans for their service to our country. She recognized and thanked members Dr. Jerry Smith and Mr. Hubert Reaves for their service. Mrs. Hartsell announced ceremonies at St. James Town Hall (American Legion Post 543); VFW Post 8866 in Holden Beach; and VFW Post 10226 on Oak Island, all being held at 11 a.m. on November 11<sup>th</sup>. The Town of Sunset Beach will hold their ceremony on Veterans Day as well but at 1 p.m. There will also be a ceremony held at the Mulberry Park Veterans Memorial Garden in Shallotte on Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. **(Info)**
  - 2. CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS:** Mr. Stanley reported the State has not submitted the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter death reports, so there are no cases for review in October. The next meeting will be on December 14<sup>th</sup>. **(Info)**
  - 3. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Mr. Thornton reported 86% of active applications have met the four-week turnaround goal. Workloads continue to increase each month with 78 site evaluations, 48 improvement permits, and 53 construction applications being completed last month. Staff also inspected 25 new wells and sampled eight. Food and Lodging has rolled out the new 2017 Food Code that went into effect on October 1<sup>st</sup>. It included a large summary of changes but the most impactful is the Operator/Manager must demonstrate knowledge of items such as how and when to take temperatures and the process in cooling down foods. It will take more time with the operator being more engaged in the process. Cold-holding checks in September found 29% out of compliance. Mr. Thornton noted that staff responded to sixteen COVID complaints. **(Info)**
  - 4. HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Harrelson gave a WIC update noting that United States Health & Human Services renewed the Public Health Emergency Declaration for another 90 days, which extends WIC current flex processes until April of 2022. WIC expenditures in Brunswick County were over \$1.5 million. In November and December WIC participants will receive an additional \$24-\$70 based on their category. The State vendor unit is working with Walmart to allow participants to use self-checkouts. Brunswick County WIC staff serviced 2,990 participants, an increase of 31.5% from the beginning of COVID, 10% from the beginning of this year.

5. **HHS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT:** Mr. Harrelson reported surveys were completed by 56 Maternal Health clients last spring. Most responses were excellent or good. Three suggested weekend hours and five wanted extended hours. Most patients were very satisfied. **(Info)**
6. **NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mrs. Lytch discussed Session Law 2021-132 *An act to make revisions to the Juvenile code pursuant to recommendations by the court improvement program.* Section 7-7B-904 discussed treatment needs of parents and adds the following language: If the court has ordered an individual to comply with a plan of treatment for substance use disorder, including opioid dependency, that individual shall not be in violation of the terms or conditions of that part of the court's order if he or she is compliant with medication-assisted therapy. Also amended is G.S. 7B-905-1. While parents are visiting with their children and test positive, the visitation cannot be suspended. A motion is to be filed with the court to see if a change in visitation is needed. **(Info)**
7. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch reported the wait list is down to 68 applicants. When the list is down to around 10 she would like to open a lottery for a certain amount of time to submit applications. This will hopefully avoid people lining up around the building and spending the night outside as they did last year. Mrs. Lytch is gathering information and will ask the committee to meet and bring forward their recommendations. **(Info)**
8. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch discussed the SNAP allotments and Thrifty Food Plan (TFP). Starting October 1<sup>st</sup>, maximum SNAP benefit amounts (excluding pandemic-related increases) will be 21% higher than they would have been if the USDA had not re-evaluated the TFP. Mrs. Lytch announced the WAVES4Kids holiday party will be on December 5<sup>th</sup> at The Barn. Staff are preparing for the holiday season and will be setting up Angel Trees at local Walmart stores the week before Thanksgiving and will also be creating an Amazon Wish List for the wards and older children in foster care. **(Info)**
9. **HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Mr. Stanley reported open positions in Environmental Health as Specialist and Program Specialist. DSS has several Social Worker positions in all programs, as well as a need for Income Maintenance Caseworkers and a Program Administrator. He asked that interested persons be directed to the Brunswick County website. **(Info)**

### III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **COVID-19:** Mr. Harrelson reported COVID cases are trending down but still high at 8.5% positivity. In comparison, the percent positivity for New Hanover County is 4.6%, Columbus County is 8.4%, Pender is 7.5% and the state overall is 4.4%. **(Open)**

- B. **COVID-19 RESPONSE PLANNING STATUS:** Mr. Stanley said that staff continues to respond to new vaccine approvals while running the drive-through clinic in Shallotte as the primary focus. Staff will wait to see how much demand and impact additional approvals have. He reported 370 vaccinations were given today with a goal of 500/day. Staff will shift as needed after seeing how the rest of the week goes. Mr. Stanley noted that as soon as they have a handle on demand he would love to see staff shift to offering other vaccines more places in the county. Dr. Asbury asked if students are required to have a negative test to return to school. Mr. Stanley said not for students who are positive, they would return at the end of their isolation, no test required. However, if a student is exposed and quarantined, a negative test after day 5 would allow them to go back to school after 7 days instead of 10 days. **(Open)**
- C. **MEDICAID TRANSFORMATION UPATE:** Mr. Stanley noted staff has no updates to report for this meeting. **(Open)**
- D. **VACANT HHS ADVISORY BOARD POSITION:** Mr. Stanley reported he is still working to secure someone for the vacancy and would like to give it another month. **(Open)**
- E. **SECTION 8 SERVICES ARP FUNDS UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley updated the Board on the recommendation to County Commissioners last month regarding ARP funding incentives which was approved. Mr. Stanley noted this item can now be closed. **(Closed)**

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **FLU VACCINATION OUTREACH:** Mr. Stanley reported that staff is putting their best foot forward on continuing to offer COVID vaccinations at the Shallotte site while giving flu shots at the health department. Staff has been to many sites in the past years utilizing nurses, as well as administration staff to offer flu vaccine. It is difficult to commit to other flu vaccine sites not knowing what demand may be expected with kids COVID vaccine, adult COVID vaccine, boosters, etc. Staff is going out to the schools to give flu vaccine and will continue to review other opportunities to do more flu outreach as staffing allows. Flu vaccine is available for those over 6 months of age. **(Closed)**
- B. **HHS ADVISORY BOARD CALENDAR FOR 2022:** Mr. Stanley referenced the 2022 Meeting calendar that was included in packets and asked if the Board would consider approving. **Ms. Carver made a motion to accept the 2022 Health & Human Services Advisory Board Calendar as presented. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The vote to accept the 2022 Board Calendar 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 7:05 p.m. with a motion by Mr. Ward. Ms. Narron seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

The next BCHHS Advisory Board meeting will be held on **November 22, 2021 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		*					*	
Asbury	X	X	X	X		*					*	
Carver	X		X	X								
Narron	X	X	X	X		*					*	
Norton	X	X	X	X		*					*	
Reaves	X	X	X	X		*					*	
Smith	X	X	X			*					*	
Sykes		X				*					*	
Ward	X	X	X	X		*					*	
Williams		X	X			*					*	
Optometrist	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**