

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
September 27, 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 6:35 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
Dr. Jerry Smith
Mr. Hubert Reaves
Ms. Lisa Narron
Mr. Gene Ward
Dr. Justin Asbury
Mr. Michael Norton
Dr. Allen Williams
Ms. Cindy Carver

2. Members absent:

Mrs. Pat Sykes

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
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 **August 23, 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. 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. There were none. **Mr. Norton 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 the Veterans Experience Action Center event that took place last week was a huge success with 648 veterans being assisted. The majority were from North Carolina, but also as far away as Texas, Colorado, New York and Florida. They are estimating that over \$3 million in benefits are being paid out from this three-day event. Mr. Stanley thanked her staff for moving their schedules around to assist in the event. **(Info)**
 - 2. CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS:** Ms. Browning reported the State has not submitted the 4th quarter death reports, so there are no cases for review in October. The next meeting will be on December 14th. **(Info)**
 - 3. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Mr. Thornton reported that staff continues to see an increased workload in the On-Site Waste Water program. The new staff member is completing training and should be up and running next month. Of the 64 active files in August, 82% met the 4-week turnaround goal. Staff completed 98 site evaluations and issued 51 improvement permits and 50 construction authorizations. Staff also inspected 22 wells and completed 13 water samples. Mr. Stanley added that the department has had a couple of vacancies over the last month or two along with the increase in cases. Mr. Thornton announced that, as of October 1st, the Food & Lodging section has adopted the 2017 FDA Food Code & Supplement. Regular training is in progress to learn and understand the changes such as the Person in Charge demonstrating food safety messages and all critical violations required to be corrected within 72 hours. Mr. Thornton noted that the first inspection after the adoption is used for education. Food and Lodging staff inspected 258 food establishments, reviewed seven new plans and issued eight permits. **(Info)**

4. **HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Harrelson discussed the Brunswick County Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) which provides free or low-cost mammograms, cervical cancer screenings, and follow-up to eligible women in Brunswick County. During FY20-21, 211 screening exams were given, including 35 positive breast exams and 86 pap smears. Overall, 93% of Federal & State targets were seen. BCCCP partner, Novant Health is in the process of getting a new mobile unit that will offer 3D imaging for same day BCCCP appointments and will hopefully be available by early 2022. Mr. Harrelson reported the Pediatrics program continues to see patients amid COVID-19 response. In the month of August, the program had 154 visits and 16 new patients. Pediatrics also performs COVID-19 testing on eligible patients in the mobile health unit to avoid allowing potentially positive patients from entering the building. In the month of August staff tested 59 individuals and 88 so far in September.
5. **HHS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT:** Mr. Stanley stated there were no reports to offer this month. **(Info)**
6. **NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mrs. Lytch announced that child welfare reform Senate Bill 693 has passed allowing non-caregivers charged with human trafficking to be added to the same notification list as caregivers guilty of neglect/abuse. It also requires NC DHHS to put in place a CPS Hotline to screen in/out calls. Currently calls go to the local DSS agency. Mrs. Lytch will keep this board updated on the progress. **(Info)**
7. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch reminded the Board of her discussion last month on the publishing of the 2022 Fair Market Rents (FMR). Information was included in the packets and Mrs. Lytch planned to come back in November and ask for an action item. Staff has researched rent.com and other sites and has found it hard to find 3 and 4 bedroom units at 100%. An average 4-bedroom unit is \$1585/month. Rentals are increasing and landlords are asking to raise their rents as well. Mr. Stanley offered to get together with the sub-committee to review. Dr. King noted that is a real issue that he has discussed with a lot of people and hears over and over that there are not many options. **Dr. King made a motion to recommend to the Brunswick County Commissioners to increase the payment standards for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. Dr. Williams seconded the motion. The vote to approve the program changes and recommend forwarding to County Commissioners for consideration for adoption was unanimous. (Info)**
8. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch reported that staff is working on details of the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). A policy is being created to assist with residents with disconnects or risk of disconnect of their water by paying a bill or portion of a bill to retain service. She has reached out to all local water companies and given them forms for completion for those wishing to participate. She expects rollout to be about the same time as LIHEAP. **(Info)**
9. **HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Mr. Stanley reported open positions as three Social Worker IIIs (In-Home, Foster Care, & CPS) and one Nutritionist I. Environmental Health also has a vacancy in the Food & Lodging program. He asked that interested persons be directed to the Brunswick County website. **(Info)**

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **COVID-19:** Mr. Harrelson reported, as of today, that Brunswick County has a total of 15,279 positive cases, 213 deaths, 1164 active cases, and 13,902 resolved cases. In the last two weeks, 1173 cases have been added, averaging 84 cases per day. In the last month, 2419 cases were added, an average of 86 cases per day. A 17% decline in number of cases per day was seen in the last month. The percent positivity in Brunswick County is currently 14.9%. On September 17th an advisory panel for the US Food and Drug Administration voted that the Pfizer COVID-19 booster shot is safe for individuals meeting specific criteria and have been vaccinated for six months or more with the Pfizer vaccine. **(Open)**
- B. **COVID-19 RESPONSE PLANNING STATUS:** Mr. Harrelson reported a total of 422 individuals received vaccine during the month of September at the Building A clinic, an average of 105 individuals per week. At vaccination outreach events a total of 1185 individuals were vaccinated, an average of 296 per week. The total number of individuals vaccinated is 1607, an average of 401 per week. BCHS vaccination totals have increased by 21% from August to September. Staff expects a potentially high demand for booster doses. The vaccine clinic has been moved to the Shallotte drive-thru location. A press release was issued on Saturday, September 25th, announcing the availability of booster doses for eligible individuals from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday. All vaccinations now require an appointment which can be scheduled by calling the COVID call line. Additional staff has been added to meet the potential demand of up to 500 doses per day. Mr. Stanley added that Pfizer is the only booster that is currently approved. Staff has also been added to the Call Center to meet a potential increase in questions and appointment inquiries. Mr. Stanley reviewed the handout noting that numbers are still elevated although over the last few weeks there has been a little bit of trending down which will, hopefully, continue. Dr. Asbury added that his Novant office is currently taking a list of people interested in the booster shot. They are getting a small number of vaccines. Ms. Browning added that appointments are available by calling 910-253-2339. Over 500 calls were received the first day and staff is able to handle and schedule the calls. **(Open)**
- C. **MEDICAID TRANSFORMATION UPATE:** Mr. Stanley noted there is no new information to share at this time. **(Open)**

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

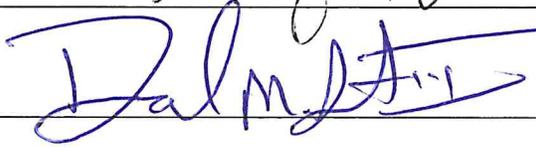
- A. **SECTION 8 SERVICES ARP FUNDS:** Mr. Stanley reviewed the information shared previously. The funds are used to help Public Housing including items such as purchasing equipment and staff funding. One specific use Mrs. Lytch discussed is to pay landlords, many who have had people that did not pay rent yet continued to lease up. She looked at data from March of 2020 through June of 2021, noting every landlord and properties and the amount of unit rents to come up with a per month stipend of \$10 per month, per unit. This would be a way to thank landlords and build positive relationships. **Dr. Williams made a motion to recommend the Brunswick County Commissioners approve the plan for the use of allocated CARES funding. Ms. Carver seconded the motion. The vote to recommend the County Commissioners approve the use of allocated CARES funding was unanimous. (Open)**

- B. AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING:** Mr. Stanley reviewed the (BOCC) agenda item which described the proposed spending plan for the \$27,699,060 Federal funding, half of which has already been received by Brunswick County with the rest arriving at a later date. He noted that the plan is a draft and can be changed. **(Closed)**
- C. VACANT HHS ADVISORY BOARD POSITION:** Mr. Stanley noted the Optometrist position has been vacant for some time and to please share the opportunity with those who may be interested. Must be licensed to practice in NC and a Brunswick County resident. **(Open)**
- 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 7:37 p.m. with a motion by Ms. Narron. Dr. Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

The next BCHHS Advisory Board meeting will be held on **October 25, 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			*					*	
Asbury	X	X	X			*					*	
Carver	X		X									
Narron	X	X	X			*					*	
Norton	X	X	X			*					*	
Reaves	X	X	X			*					*	
Smith	X	X	X			*					*	
Sykes		X				*					*	
Ward	X	X	X			*					*	
Williams		X	X			*					*	
Optometrist	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**