

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
June 28, 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. Mr. Stanley reported that the Brunswick County Commissioners, at their last meeting, recognized several partners that assisted with the devastating tornado aftermath in the southern part of the county last year. The Health & Human Services staff mobilized a shelter at 2am in the morning to assist displaced residents, as well as assisting the Red Cross. Staff stood with Dr. King to accept the plaque from Mrs. Sykes. Mr. Stanley presented a plaque to Dr. Lawler thanking her for her 6+ years of service on the Health & Human Services Advisory Board. Dr. King also thanked her, noting how helpful she has been. Dr. Lawler said she has enjoyed working with the Board and after 58 years of nursing, she is ready for retirement.
- 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
 - Mrs. Pat Sykes
 - Dr. Kathryn Lawler
 - Dr. Justin Asbury
 - Mr. Michael Norton
 2. Members absent:
 - 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
 - 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 **April 26, 2021** were reviewed. Dr. King asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were no corrections. **Mr. Ward 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. **Mrs. Sykes moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Reaves 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 Veterans Experience Action Center event, hosted by the American Legion, has been rescheduled to September 23rd through 25th at the American Legion Post #10 in Wilmington. This event assists veterans in applying for VA benefits and with clearing up any issues they may have with pending claims, as VA raters from the Winston Salem VA Regional Office will be at the event to work veterans' claims. **(Info)**
 - 2. CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS:** Ms. Browning reported the team met on June 8th and reviewed one case with no system problems. The next meeting is scheduled for August 10th, however, Brunswick County had no child deaths in the 3rd quarter of 2020 so there are no cases to review. Mr. Stanley added that this has only happened a few times and he is very thankful when it does. **(Info)**
 - 3. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Mr. Thornton reported that the wastewater protection program has been meeting the four week turnaround goal for some time but did have three applications that exceeded the time frame. So far in 2021, each month has shown an increase in applications received. Last month staff performed 99 site evaluations, issued 53 improvement permits, and 69 construction authorizations. Food & Lodging staff continue to see an increase in facilities not meeting the cold-holding threshold. Entering into the warmer season, 24% did not meet the mark. Staff continues to work with facilities to try and meet the measure. Mr. Thornton is happy to report a decrease in COVID complaints, receiving only eight last month. Food & Lodging staff visited 218 establishments, reviewed 11 plans, and issued 77 permits. The last Count on Me Brunswick meeting was held in May and there are no plans for another meeting. Staff will review to see if facilities would like to continue meetings for non-COVID communications in the future. **(Info)**

4. **HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Harrelson reported that, as of June 14th, the COVID vaccine clinic has been relocated from Brunswick Community College to Building A due to dwindling demand. The clinic is operating by appointments on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. He added that staff continues to do outreach events, including locations at the WWAY Event Center, Bald Head Island, Southport Community Center, and Calabash Town Park. The call center has also moved back to Building A due to a decrease in calls. Mr. Harrelson gave an Immunization Update on the recently released 2020 Annual Immunization Assessment. Thirty Health Services clients (aged 24 to 35 months old) were assessed meeting 100% of the benchmark. He noted 71% of the 1,092 clients assessed by all providers in the county met the benchmark. This county percentage fell slightly behind the Statewide average and 2020-2021 goal. **(Info)**
5. **NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mrs. Hartsell reported that NC House Bill 83 was proposed to eliminate income taxes for military retirement pay for those service members who retired with at least 20 years of service or who were medically retired from service due to disability. It passed in the house and on June 16th passed the second reading in the Senate. It is unknown if the Governor has taken any action at this time. **(Info)**
6. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch said staff is working to improve their lease up numbers. She asked if the past Public Housing Advisory Committee members (Ward, Williams, & Norton) could meet 30 minutes prior to the July meeting to discuss and share ideas regarding CARES funding specific to public housing. Mrs. Lytch explained staff is continuing to work through the wait list as well as assisting those that meet the local preference guidelines. Once this list drops to a lower threshold, it will be reopened until reaching 250 again. **(Info)**
7. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch announced that families will receive a one-time PEBT benefit of \$375 to cover June, July and August. The benefit will be placed on PEBT cards beginning July 20th. This benefit will be paid for school-aged children and children under the age of six if the family has an active FNS case. Mrs. Lytch gave an update on the Trillium Co-Responder Program reporting that a therapist and case manager hired by Coastal Horizons have begun working in the DSS building at the beginning of June. They work with the social workers by going out to crisis interventions and home visits. Staff are excited to have the additional resource. DSS Economic Social Service staff are to resume seeing clients on July 1st. Social Work Program staff never stopped seeing clients throughout the pandemic. Also effective July 1st DSS and Health Services will resume their partnership, having a DSS staff member assigned to take Medicaid applications in person in Building A for uninsured Health Services clients. **(Info)**
8. **HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Mr. Stanley reported the two continuous postings of Income Maintenance Caseworker II and Social Worker III. Social Services is also recruiting for a Social Worker III Supervisor in Adult Services and Income Maintenance Caseworker Program Specialist. Environmental Health is accepting applications for a Specialist for the On-Site section. **(Info)**

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **COVID-19:** Mr. Stanley reviewed the COVID-19 Partner Briefing that was distributed at the meeting. He pointed out that Brunswick County has given 74,000 1st doses. Brunswick County is higher than any other southeastern North Carolina county with 52% of our adult population fully vaccinated. Admittedly, Brunswick County had a larger population of residents who had the first opportunity to receive vaccine. There is still more work which needs to be done regarding vaccinations and staff continues to work to that end. The concern over the next months is a rise in case numbers from the Delta Variant in unvaccinated populations. **(Open)**
- B. **COVID-19 RESPONSE PLANNING STATUS:** Mr. Stanley noted that Brunswick County's percent positive is currently slightly less than 2%, a really good place, but there is a need to continue walk-up clinics and partners administering vaccine. **(Open)**
- C. **MEDICAID TRANSFORMATION UPATE:** Mrs. Lytch reported that Medicaid Managed Care goes live on July 1st. Open enrollment was extended from May 15th to May 22nd and beneficiaries who did not choose a plan have since been auto-enrolled in a plan based on the physician they see regularly. One of the greatest impacts will be on Medicaid Transportation. Staff are redirecting several transportation requests to the managed care companies. **(Open)**

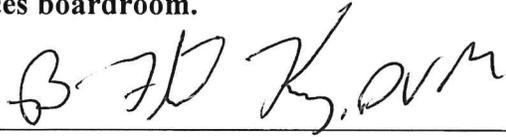
IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **BRUNSWICK COUNTY ENERGY OUTREACH PLAN:** Mr. Stanley discussed the Energy Program Outreach Plan that is required from all counties each year to be submitted to the State. Staff continues to work with community partners with a number of outreaches. Staff would like to share the plan 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. Reaves seconded the motion. The vote to forward the plan to Commissioners was unanimous. (Closed)**
- B. **STATE OF THE COUNTY HEALTH REPORT:** Mr. Harrelson gave a report on the 2020 State of the County Health report (SOTCH). The SOTCH and printed PowerPoint were distributed in the packets. He reviewed the progress on the Health Priorities which were revealed through the 2019 Community Health Assessment (CHA) process. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, health education staff served in reclassified roles. All meetings were held virtually. **(Closed)**

V. **BOARD INPUTS:** Dr. King asked if there were any additional Board inputs. **(Info)**

VI: **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, **the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 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 26, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Health Services boardroom.**



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	*	X	X	X	X	*	X
Lawler	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		*	X
Reaves	X	X	X	X	X	*	X	X	X	X	*	X
Smith	X		X		X	*	X	X	X	X	*	X
Sykes	X	X	X		X	*	X	X	X	X	*	X
Ward	X	X		X	X	*	X		X	X	*	X
Williams	X	X	X	X	X	*	X	X		X	*	
Asbury	X	X	X	X		*	X	X	X		*	X
Optometrist	V	V	V	V	V	*	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**