

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
March 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 6:36 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  
Dr. Jerry Smith  
Mr. Hubert Reaves  
Dr. Justin Asbury  
Ms. Lisa Narron  
Mr. Michael Norton  
Mr. Gene Ward  
Mrs. Pat Sykes

2. Members absent:

Dr. Allen Williams  
Dr. Kathryn Lawler

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  
Marjorie Rayl, Quality Assurance Specialist

4. Guests present: None

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes for the monthly meeting held on **February 22, 2021** were reviewed. Dr. King asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were no corrections. **Mr. Reaves moved to approve the minutes as written. Mrs. Narron 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. Mr. Norton seconded the motion. The vote to approve the agenda as presented was unanimous.**  
(Closed)

D. **STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **VETERANS SERVICES:** Mrs. Hartsell reported the Wilmington VA clinic has been successful in getting the COVID vaccines out. Many of the veterans her office has seen or spoken to have already received their second dose of the vaccine. She also noted that the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act, signed into law in 2017, designates March 29<sup>th</sup> of each year as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. On this day in 1973, the last combat troops were withdrawn from Vietnam and the last prisoners of war held in North Vietnam arrived on American soil. March 29<sup>th</sup> is also the date President Nixon chose for the first Vietnam Veterans Day in 1974. Mrs. Hartsell recognized Board member, Mr. Hubert Reaves and thanked him for his service in Vietnam and to our county. Dr. King also appreciated him for his service. **(Info)**
2. **CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS:** Mr. Stanley reported the next CFPT will be held virtually on April 13<sup>th</sup> with two, possibly three cases to review. **(Info)**
3. **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Mr. Thornton noted that today would have been the annual Golden A Awards Ceremony that recognizes facilities and establishments that demonstrate superb food safety practices. He reviewed the program at the Count on Me Brunco virtual meeting that was held today. Of 484 total facilities, 336 qualified which is a 69% increase from the previous year. Platinum A awards were given to 133 establishments. Mr. Thornton added that although, due to the pandemic, facilities may have had less inspections than normally required in the past year, staff probably visited the sites more often as a courtesy to assist staff with changes due to COVID. Staff saw staff dedicated to food safety and these results speak to the remarkable efforts facilities have put forth. Mr. Thornton also reported that the On-site Wastewater program continues to have no new files exceeding the four week turnaround. He is impressed with the staff's results even with them being busier than in recent years. Mr. Reaves asked Mr. Thornton to share his congratulations with the staff. **(Info)**

4. **HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Harrelson discussed House Bill 196 “Proposed Funding Allocations” which appropriates \$84 million in Federal CDC-ELC funding to local health departments. The bill has cleared the House and Senate and is awaiting the Governor’s signature. The bill also defines how the funds are to be allocated across the 85 local health departments by being based on the percentage of the State population served by each department. Based on this formula, Brunswick County is expected to receive \$1,114,858 to be used for COVID-19 response activities. Mr. Harrelson also gave a Program Report for February. The Food & Lodging program visited 223 establishments, reviewed 22 plans for new establishments, and issued 10 permits. The On-site Wastewater Protection Program performed 90 site evaluations and issued 32 Improvement Permits and 52 Construction Authorizations. Staff also inspected 16 new private wells and sampled 17. The Pediatric Clinic saw 119 patients during the month, including 17 new patients. WIC staff issued 2700 food benefits to WIC participants, which is a 17% increase from the same time last year. WIC staff scheduled 981 appointments and completed 1,141 (160 of them as walk-ins), an 11% increase. **(Info)**
5. **NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley reported on Senate Bill 93 which allows parents to retain Medicaid eligibility while their child is temporarily served by Foster Care. To show the importance of this bill, he gave an example of a family in crisis where one parent may have a drug problem and need to seek treatment and, as the situation deteriorates, the child needs to go into foster care. Currently, the family would become ineligible for Medicaid for the treatment. This bill would allow them to receive the treatment for a period of time, providing the family is working on reunification. SB93 passed the 1<sup>st</sup> Senate reading and is now in the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. **(Info)**
6. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mr. Stanley announced that slots are still available as staff continues to lease up. It has been difficult to find properties and staff is trying different information and flyers noting that there are vouchers available. Information is shared with the Housing Coalition at their monthly meeting. Staff also continues to use the local preference that this Board previously forwarded to the Brunswick County Commissioners, who then approved in order to help families find housing. The annual public hearing to discuss the 5 Year Plan has been scheduled for the April 1<sup>st</sup> Commissioners meeting. **(Info)**
7. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mr. Stanley noted that Trillium issued an RFP before Christmas which allows a mental health staff member within the DSS office space to shadow/assist DSS staff in working with children in crisis. It will allow better, more efficient linkage with the co-responder program. Trillium approved Brunswick County for the program and staff is working with Coastal Horizons to put it into place by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Stanley announced that DHHS recognized that the Medicaid Managed Care Specialized Foster Care Plan is being delayed by NCDHHS and set to launch on July 1, 2023. **(Info)**
8. **HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Mr. Stanley reported open positions in Health Services as Community Vaccinator and Nursing Supervisor II. Mr. Stanley explained that vaccinators could include EMTs, LPNs, Paramedics, or RNs. In DSS openings include: Income Maintenance Caseworker II; Social Worker III Supervisor; Program Administrator in Economic Services; two Social Worker IIIs; and one Social Worker II. **(Info)**

### III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **COVID-19:** Mr. Stanley reviewed the COVID-19 Partner Briefing that was distributed at the meeting. Nearly 42,000 first doses have been given. Brunswick County is in position number five of Percent of Population Vaccinated, with those in numbers one through four being pretty small counties. Brunswick is top in the State as medium-sized counties go. Mr. Stanley noted that staff began early in the process to work with hospital partners, Community College, volunteers, the Sheriff's office, and EMS along with the National Guard to come together and it has been amazing to watch and be a part of the collective efforts. Everyone is dedicated to making progress and is responsible for the early success Brunswick County has had. Mr. Stanley added that there is still much further to go. The process for kids is ongoing. Currently Pfizer is the only vaccine for children, and only age 16 and up. Randy Thompson, Board of County Commissioners Chair elected to eliminate the State of Emergency as the county is more in a state of recovery now based on the progress made thus far. The State of Emergency allowed the county to take other measures outside of what the Governor had done but Brunswick County never did anything more restrictive than the State. Removing the State of Emergency does not impact the Federal dollars such as National Guard assistance. Mr. Stanley reviewed this week's statistics which now include an entire year. Brunswick County has had 142 deaths. He noted, in comparing local counties, that Pender County has the lowest positive case count and Horry County, SC having the highest. Brunswick County has the lowest total cases per 10,000 population (592), while Columbus County has the highest at 1,083. Even though Brunswick County has only 286 new cases in the first two weeks of March (back to October levels), it is important to keep prevention measures in place. There has been a statewide decrease over the last couple of weeks. **(Open)**
- B. **COVID-19 RESPONSE PLANNING STATUS:** Mr. Stanley reported that much progress is being made with about 1400 vaccines administered just today. Mr. Reaves asked if the letters forwarded to the Governor have helped in receiving more vaccine. Mr. Stanley replied that they helped a great deal. All partners have been receiving more vaccine. Mrs. Narron noted that Doshier applied for vaccine for the local International Longshoreman Association and was able to vaccinate many young black men last week. More vaccines will be given to the group this week. Mr. Stanley added that vaccine events have also been held at ATMC and BEMC. Staff is already discussing next steps after the mass vaccination events and how other places, such as doctor's offices, will be able to administer the vaccines. **(Open)**

### IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **MEDICAID TRANSFORMATION:** Mr. Stanley noted that open enrollment began on March 15<sup>th</sup> and continues through May 14<sup>th</sup>. Auto-enrollment starts on May 15<sup>th</sup>. If a person did not choose a plan before, the auto-enrollment will sign them up using a rotating order of available plans. Out of 27,687 residents eligible for Medicaid, 16,847 will move into the Managed Care model. **(Open)**

**B. ANNUAL FLU VACCINE ORDER:** Mr. Stanley discussed the annual flu vaccine order which he noted is kind of a crystal ball approach, never knowing exactly how many vaccines will be needed for the next flu season in the fall. Sanofi has announced they will no longer be forgiving of doses ordered but not used. This creates a need to be more cautious in placing the order. Mr. Norton asked how many flu vaccines are not used each season. Mr. Stanley reported the typical amount to be a couple hundred to none. He noted that staff went out to the schools as they do each year. This season some places were visited twice but staff were still not able to give as many vaccines. Many people appreciated the drive-through clinics and not having to leave their vehicles but, this did present more of a challenge on staff due to the weather and standing on the pavement for long periods of time. **(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 7:28 p.m. with a motion by Mr. Ward. Mrs. Narron seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

The next BCHHS Advisory Board meeting will be held on **April 26, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Health Services lobby.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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		*	
Lawler	X	X				*	X	X			*	
Narron	X	X	X	X		*	X	X	X		*	
Norton	X	X	X	X	X	*	X	X	X		*	
Reaves	X	X	X	X	X	*	X	X	X		*	
Smith	X		X		X	*	X	X	X		*	
Sykes	X	X	X		X	*	X	X	X		*	
Ward	X	X		X	X	*	X		X		*	
Williams	X	X	X	X	X	*	X	X			*	
Asbury	X	X	X	X		*	X	X	X		*	
Optometrist	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**