

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
February 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 6:39 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
Mrs. Pat Sykes
Dr. Allen Williams
Dr. Justin Asbury
Dr. Kathryn Lawler
Ms. Lisa Narron
Mr. Michael Norton

2. Members absent:

Mr. Gene Ward

3. Staff members present:

David Stanley, Health & Human Services Director
Cris Harrelson, Health Services Director
Cathy Lytch, Social Services Director
Cherie Browning, Director of Nursing
Anita Hartsell, Veteran Services Director
Allison Campbell, Lead Health Educator
Marjorie Rayl, Quality Assurance Specialist

4. Guests present: None

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes for the monthly meeting held on **January 25, 2021** were reviewed. Dr. King asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were no corrections. **Mrs. Sykes moved to approve the minutes as written. Dr. Lawler 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. Reaves moved to approve the agenda as presented. Dr. King 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 that, in January, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 was signed into law. This includes a provision to add three conditions to the list of presumptive medical conditions related to herbicide or Agent Orange exposure in service. Those three conditions are parkinsonism, bladder cancer and hypothyroidism. The VA is now undergoing the standard rule-making process to prepare draft rules, publish them for comment, and then incorporate input as appropriate before the agency publishes the regulations and issues instructions for the law to be implemented. This process is lengthy and generally takes several months. Mrs. Hartsell noted that staff is filing and re-opening previously denied claims for these conditions but will be unable to make any decision in these cases until the VA publishes the final rules. **(Info)**
- 2. CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS:** Ms. Browning reported that CFPT met virtually on February 9th and reviewed three cases. There were no system problems. The next meeting will be held virtually on April 13th. **(Info)**
- 3. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Mr. Harrelson reported there were no files that exceeded the 4-week turnaround goal. Throughout the pandemic the wastewater protection program has not noticed many changes in workload. Food & Lodging continues to see issues in cold-holding temperatures with 7% of facilities out of compliance last month. Staff is still finding operating practices to be of concern. Staff responded to 32 COVID-related complaints. **(Info)**
- 4. HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Harrelson announced that WIC continues to work under State waivers through May of this year. There has been an increase in demand of WIC services, with Brunswick County WIC meeting 113% of their assigned base case load. **(Info)**
- 5. NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mr. Harrelson noted that most local Health Department's staff is engaged with vaccine roll out in one way another causing Health Directors to make a motion to request a 12-month extension to Accreditation. This was granted by the NCLHD Accreditation Board. The Board also passed a second request that asked for a remedy for annual requirements that are time consuming and not feasible during this pandemic. **(Info)**

6. **HHS CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENT REPORT:** Mr. Stanley noted this is on hold until in-person services resume as normal. **(Info)**
7. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch announced that staff is working on upgrading the housing software system which will increase efficiency allowing participants to submit recert paperwork electronically and review cases online. She also noted they continue to work on improving lease up numbers. **(Info)**
8. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch reported that staff continues to prepare for the transition to managed care. Open enrollment begins for everyone on March 15th, continuing through May 14th. Auto enrollment will begin on May 15th. Of the 27,687 residents receiving Medicaid, 16,847 will make the required move into managed care. Mrs. Lytch gave an update on the LIHEAP program. All funding has been exhausted, including the requested additional \$30,000 received from the State. The total allocated to Brunswick County was \$443,950 which was all Federal funding. The Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program helps families purchase food for children whose access to free or reduced-priced meals at school has been impacted by COVID-19 because students are learning virtually, outside of brick-and-mortar schools. P-EBT is a collaboration between the NC DHHS and NC Department of Public Instruction. The P-EBT program is authorized by the United States Department of Agriculture. Benefits will be issued in three phases. All issuance will be staggered over 10 days for children either 100% online or hybrid model receiving the flat benefit amount. Remote learning mode includes students learning virtually for 17 or more days per month. They will receive \$115.94 for the month. Hybrid learners who are in virtual instruction for 1-16 days per month will receive the hybrid amount. This amount can change month to month and will be based on the average number of days North Carolina schools were operating in a hybrid learning mode for each month. The daily reimbursement rate of \$6.82 will be provided for each of those days. **(Info)**
9. **HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Mr. Stanley noted seven open positions. In DSS, Income Maintenance Caseworkers (IMC)-All Programs; Income Maintenance Caseworker-Special Assistance/Long Term Care; IMC Supervisor in Adult Medicaid; and, Social Worker III-CPS Investigator. On the Health side staff is recruiting for a Deputy Nursing Director due to a retirement and Community Vaccinators for COVID clinics. Mr. Stanley explained that vaccinators can include EMTs, LPNs, Paramedics, or RNs. He is looking to increase staff as much as possible with the increase in vaccines becoming available. Anyone can go to www.brunswickcountync.gov for more information and to apply. **(Info)**

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **COVID-19:** Mr. Stanley requested that Old Business Item A and Item B be combined for discussion. **(Open)**

B. COVID-19 RESPONSE PLANNING STATUS: Mr. Stanley reviewed the COVID-19 Partner Briefing that was distributed at the meeting. He reported that 25,090 first vaccinations have been given, with 11,887 residents completing the two-vaccine series. He discussed the issue of people getting confused as to why it takes so long to get a vaccine in Brunswick County vs. other local counties. Those may receive roughly the same amount of vaccine but have less demand. He added that staff is still taking names and creating a roster to forward to Novant for scheduling. New Hope, CommWell, and Goshen clinics are now offering scheduling. Galloway-Sands Pharmacy is also possibly receiving vaccine. Mr. Stanley reported the advocacy letters discussed at the last meeting have been sent. He said there seems to be an increase in the number of vaccines being received although it still won't be enough to meet demand. Last week's vaccines were off schedule due to the weather event. Most should be received today or tomorrow and the plan is to get them all out by Monday. Staff is working with the NAACP and Brunswick Senior Resources, Inc. (BSRI) to help reach marginalized communities. Mr. Stanley feels three sites could be set up if the vaccine were available. Brunswick County was awarded twice for special events and have also applied this last week for the schools. No word yet if those vaccines will be received. Mrs. Narron asked about the many homebound residents over age 65. Mr. Stanley said staff is working with BSRI, local doctors, and the special needs registry to get rough numbers and a list. Mr. Reaves said his group will volunteer to get people to the sites. Mr. Stanley reported that positive cases are trending down with last week being 10% and this week 8.3%. He feels Brunswick County will be in the orange category with the next update. **(Open)**

C. COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT ACTION PLAN UPDATE: Mr. Harrelson distributed a handout and discussed the Brunswick County Community Health Improvement Plans derived from the Community Health Assessment. The Priority Areas include substance misuse; access to healthcare; chronic conditions; and, an overarching theme and focus on the aging population. The discussion included partnerships with other providers, review of community concerns, use of existing programs within the community, and expected outcomes and community concerns. **(Open)**

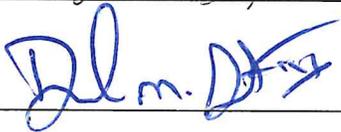
IV. NEW BUSINESS: None

V. BOARD INPUTS: Dr. King asked if there were any additional Board inputs. Dr. King wanted to share that he was extremely impressed on how Novant took care of him recently as well as the Brunswick County staff in scheduling and following up. He was very impressed. Dr. Smith asked a question about schools being shut down due to COVID. Mr. Stanley noted that BCHS has 1 ½ FTE working specifically with the schools in contract tracing, isolation and quarantines. Five or more positive cases that are related are categorized as a cluster which must be reported to the State, as well as, reported on the State website. In working with the schools staff identifies, through contact tracing, who is contagious, who is exposed. One cluster could equal 70 staff and students being quarantined or isolated. Each situation is a little different and the school board decides if there is enough staff available for schools to remain open. **(Info)**

VI: ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, **the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m. with a motion by Mrs. Narron. Mr. Reaves seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

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