BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
October 24, 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 6:33 p.m. in the Health Services Board Room (Building A).

A. PUBLIC COMMENT: Dr. King asked for public comments. Debbie Eden, member of the Brunswick Coalition, spoke on the need for a permanent syringe exchange program at Health Services. She has been a resident of Brunswick County for 20 years. She noted the risks of using dirty syringes including abscesses, Hepatitis C and HIV. Ms. Eden noted that heroin use has increased by 565% in the past four years in North Carolina. She added that State funding is not allowed for syringe exchanges but there are enough private entities willing to fund the program, adding that it will cost the county zero dollars to provide clean syringes. Wilmington, Raleigh and Waynesville all have fixed location syringe programs. Mr. Stanley stated that he will take her comments under advisement.

B. SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Dr. King asked if there were any special presentations and there were none.

II. REGULARLY OCCURRING ITEMS:

A. ATTENDANCE:
   1. The following members were present:
      Dr. Flint King, Chairman
      Dr. J. Michael Howard
      Mr. Michael Norton
      Ms. Lisa Narron
      Mr. Haywood Miller
      Dr. Jerry Smith
      Dr. Brad Hilaman
      Mr. Gene Ward
   2. Members absent:
      Dr. Allen Williams, Vice Chairman
      Dr. Kathryn Lawler
      Mrs. Pat Sykes, County Commissioner
   3. Staff members present:
      David Stanley, Health & Human Services Director
      Cris Harrelson, Health Director
      Anita Hartsell, Veterans Services Director
      Cathy Lytch, Social Services Director
      Scott Milligan, Personnel Officer
      Cyndi Glenn, Director of Nursing
      Danny Thornton, Environmental Health Director
      Jay Murray, Business Manager
      Marjorie Rayl, General Clerical Supervisor
      Britt Huggins, Health Educator
4. Guests present:
Debbie Eden, Wilmington Treatment Center

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes for the monthly meeting held on September 26, 2016 were reviewed. Dr. King asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were no corrections. Dr. Howard moved to approve the minutes as written. Dr. Smith 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. Mr. Stanley asked that “Item E” be added under New Business as “2017 Meeting Calendar”. Mr. Norton moved to approve the agenda with the aforementioned addition. Dr. Howard seconded the motion. The vote to approve the agenda was unanimous. (Closed)

D. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS: Mrs. Glenn reported the next meeting will be on December 13, 2016. (Info)

2. HHS CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENT REPORT: Mrs. Lytch reported on the survey results for the Daycare unit. In rating their overall experience with DSS staff, 53% of clients selected excellent and 47% selected good. When asked if clients felt all of their questions were answered, 100% of clients said yes. In asking about caseworker returning calls, 33% said they were returned the same day and 67% had calls returned within 24 hours. Mrs. Lytch noted that the department met its goal of all calls being returned within 24 hours. According to survey results, wait times were also decreased. Several positive comments were noted. (Info)

3. HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES: Mr. Milligan reported that Health Services has one opening at this time for a Child Health Public Health Nurse. Interviews are starting this week. Recommendations have been made for several positions in Social Services: ES QA Analyst Supervisor; ES Supervisor; and 4 Income Maintenance Caseworkers. Due to retirement, there is a new opening for an Adult Protective Services Social Worker III. The CAP/SA-In Home Social Worker II position has been requested to be changed to a Social Worker III in After Hours Child Welfare. (Info)

4. HEALTH SERVICES: Mr. Harrelson gave an update on flu clinic. So far, 2,371 vaccinations have been given: 1,664 regular; 659 high dose; 32 preservative-free, and 16 pediatric. He noted that numbers are down a little from last year and attributed it to more pharmacies offering vaccines. Mr. Stanley added this is a good thing as more people are being vaccinated. Mr. Harrelson announced that the Accreditation Site Visit will occur March 30-31, 2017. All information must be submitted to the State by December 1, 2016. Mr. Harrelson reported on the Hepatitis Screening Project sponsored by the North Carolina Division of Public Health. So far, nine patients have been tested. Three were found to be positive for HCV RNA, which means active disease. Five tests came back as negative and one recent test result is pending. Mr. Harrelson invited the team to an Opioid Summit being held on November 3rd in Wilmington. The summit is open to everyone and its purpose is to partner together in workgroups to discuss solutions in fighting this crisis. Mr. Harrelson discussed the focus of each of the five workgroups and encouraged board members to attend. (Info)
5. **VETERANS SERVICES:** Mrs. Hartsell reported that the VA has extended their presumptive period for Gulf War Veterans who have qualifying undiagnosed illness or diagnosable chronic disability patterns. The deadline for veterans to apply for these conditions has been extended from 12/31/16 to 12/31/2021. Mrs. Hartsell noted that Veteran’s Day will be celebrated in three weeks on Friday, November 11th. She thanked Dr. Smith and Dr. Hilaman for their service to our country. All of the Veteran’s Posts in our area will be holding their ceremonies at 11:00 a.m. on the Veterans Day for anyone interested in attending.  

(Info)

6. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch reported that all staff have completed training on the Housing Pro software and are using the new system. In two weeks, they will be trained on the electronic records portion in order to switch from paper to paperless. Staff is planning a landlord education session to help promote awareness of the Section 8 program and to build the landlord and unit lists. The waiting list will need to be reopened soon, possibly February or March. There are 63 individuals currently on the list. Mrs. Lytch respectfully requested that Dr. Williams, Mr. Ward and Mr. Norton come early (5:30 p.m.) to the November meeting to finish the discussion of establishing a “local preference”. Mrs. Lytch noted that Public Health and Medicaid/Food Stamp staff will both be attending an outreach event in November.  

(Info)

7. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch announced that the Social Services Institute was cancelled due to Hurricane Matthew’s impact on so many counties. Approximately 1,243 replacement Food & Nutrition (FNS) benefit requests were processed. Brunswick County was not approved for Disaster FNS. Mrs. Lytch explained that replacement benefits are available for current FNS recipients who sign a statement siting a specific amount of benefit loss. They must apply within 10 days of the loss. A disaster benefit would have allowed anyone in the county to apply for the loss of food. She noted that several local counties are now starting their disaster FNS assistance. Mrs. Lytch noted the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace open enrollment will begin November 1st and continue through January 31st. Navigators will be available at DSS to assist individuals every Thursday from 1-5 p.m. beginning November 3rd. A press release went out and should be in the Brunswick Beacon and State Port Pilot this week. Staff is working on plans for Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) this year which begins on December 1st. DSS will contract with Brunswick Family Assistance to accept and process applications. Serena Bowman, Child Support Agent, was in the top 20 in the state for collections for the month of September. She collected just under $10,000 in child support.  

(Info)

III. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. **RABIES HOME CONFINEMENT PROCEDURES:** Mr. Stanley noted the Brunswick County Commissioners, acting as the Board of Health, approved the rule forwarded by this board that included changes reflective of the Rabies Compendium. The next step is working with the Sheriff’s Office for any changes or amendments to their ordinance as needed. The new Board of Health rule is now in effect.  

(Closed)
B. **NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley reported on four main efforts of the NC Association of Local Health Directors (NCALHD) as the 2017 legislative season begins. The NCALHD opposes any legislation that weakens the ability of local health departments to do their job of protecting the public. The second item Mr. Stanley mentioned is the expectation of a statewide rabies control law that does what Brunswick County recently accomplished by local Board of Health rule. If legislation passes, the local rule will sunset. A third priority of NCALHD is to increase funding to address rapidly emerging infectious diseases such as Zika, Hepatitis C and E-coli. Health directors are leading what efforts they can at the national level to support the basic core functions of public health as well as staffing and equipment. There is a push to look at funding sources. Lastly, Mr. Stanley mentioned the Tobacco 21 Initiative which focuses on education especially among children. There has been an increase in the last few years of younger people using tobacco, possibly due to technology and increased marketing. More children are potentially exposed to tobacco which can create lifelong habits and addiction.

(Info)

C. **YOUTH INITIATIVE:** Mr. Stanley announced the District Attorney’s office is taking the lead on this initiative. The idea is to take existing resources that deal with children and work together with Social Services, court system, and law enforcement to use them as effectively as possible.

(Info)

IV. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **INFORMATION ON PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS:** Mr. Stanley requested that this topic be held to the next meeting when Dr. Williams can be present to discuss. (Open)

B. **CAP D PROGRAM:** Mr. Stanley explained that this Medicaid program is used to keep seniors and the disabled at home utilizing wrap around services. They are happier at home as long as they are safe and this is less expensive option. New Hanover Regional Medical Center (NHRMC) has the most experience in managing this program. The hospital has more efficient processes and has more resources. State changes have made the CAP D program more difficult to manage and Social Services has asked that NHRMC handle that program as well. There will be no changes for clients and all services will remain in Brunswick County. There will be improvement as all slots (45) will be filled and there may be an opportunity to apply for more. This will allow staff to be repurposed to Child Protective Services unit. Mr. Stanley noted that other local hospitals were approached, but they did not want to expand in those areas. Mrs. Lytch added that State changes made it much more labor intensive to keep the slots full and NHRMC can more effectively fill slots. Mr. Stanley added that Medicaid makes the final decision regarding the transfer. (Info)

C. **ENGAGE SENC:** Mr. Huggins gave a PowerPoint presentation on the new EngageSENC.org website. The website covers Columbus, Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender and Onslow counties and is a tool to help organizations, community members and philanthropic funders improve the quality of life in Southeastern North Carolina. This area is the first to have this website which is funded by the Center for Healthy Communities and QENO. The Health Educators in each county are responsible for being the gatekeepers of information for their area. Mr. Huggins asked the Board to contact him with any information they would like to see added. Mr. Stanley noted that this site will be one place all providers can offer their patients for referrals. (Closed)
D. **HURRICANE MATTHEW RESPONSE:** Mr. Stanley said he can’t say enough about the excellent response from staff. Shelters were staffed the day before the storm until the Wednesday after. There were no complaints. He is so proud of the 100 or so staff members that did what needed to be done, working long hours helping those displaced due to flood, power outages, and wind. Our accounting staff also made sure needs were met. Some people were displaced in the height of the storm due to structural issues at a hotel. Staff did what was needed to make accommodations for those affected. Mr. Stanley gave an update on the waterline break situation. Crews are continuing to work on a bypass at the ruptured water main near Riegelwood. Residents are still being asked to conserve water. The restrictions in place are to keep the reserve levels up. Mr. Stanley noted that car washes recirculate water so they are not restricted at this time. Tanker fire trucks have been brought in from across the state to be used instead of hydrants. Policies and plans are in place for water distribution and comfort stations if the situation worsens before the bypass is complete. *(Closed)*

E. **2017 MEETING CALENDAR:** Mr. Stanley asked first if the Board had an opinion as to the December 19, 2016 meeting and if it should be cancelled since it is so close to the holiday. Dr. Howard suggested waiting until next month to see what would be on the agenda. Mr. Stanley asked if there were any concerns on the 2017 meeting calendar and there were none. **Mr. Norton moved to approve the 2017 Health & Human Services Advisory Board Meeting Calendar as presented. Dr. Howard seconded the motion. The vote to approve the calendar was unanimous. *(Closed)*

V. **BOARD INPUTS:** Dr. King asked if there were any additional Board inputs. Dr. Smith thanked Ms. Eden for her comments noting he has struggled with the concept his entire career. There is an epidemic within our local community and it is devastatingly easy to get medications. He added that this has been a process and if something isn’t done we will just be losing more people. He encouraged the Board to support a needle exchange, which would be worth it if it saves one life. He knows that there are students at CFCC that participate in the program. *(Info)*

VI: **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m. with a motion by Dr. King. Dr. Howard seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The next BCHHS Advisory Board meeting will be held on **November 28, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.**

____________________________________________ Chairperson

____________________________________________ Secretary
# Brunswick County Health and Human Services

Advisory Board

Attendance Roster 2016-2017

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A = Month Appointed/Installed  
C = Conflict with CC’s Meeting  
O = Off Board  
X = In Attendance  
AA = Approved Absence  
Blank Space = Absent  
Quorum equals six members present.  
^ = Specially Called Meeting  
* = No Meeting