

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
February 26, 2018 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 6:30 p.m. in the Health Services Board Room (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. Mrs. Lytch announced Lucrecia Merrick, Income Maintenance Caseworker, as Social Services Employee of the Quarter. Mrs. Merrick first worked at the Health Department in 1991 before moving to Social Services. Mrs. Lytch read the nomination which praised her for being a team player, volunteering her time, and having a positive attitude.

II. REGULARLY OCCURRING ITEMS:

A. ATTENDANCE:

1. The following members were present:

Dr. Flint King, Chairman
Ms. Lisa Narron
Dr. Jerry Smith
Dr. Kathryn Lawler
Dr. J. Michael Howard
Mr. Haywood Miller
Mrs. Pat Sykes

2. Members absent:

Mr. Michael Norton
Dr. Allen Williams
Mr. Gene Ward

3. Staff members present:

David Stanley, Health & Human Services Director
Cris Harrelson, Health Services Director
Scott Milligan, Personnel Director
Jay Murray, Business Manager
Anita Hartsell, Veterans Services Director
Cathy Lytch, Social Services Director
Cherie Browning, Director of Nursing
Marjorie Rayl, Quality Assurance Specialist
Vanell Walker, IM Program Administrator
Lucrecia Merrick, Income Maintenance Caseworker

4. Guests present: None

- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes for the monthly meeting held on **January 22, 2018** 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. 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 and there were none. **Mrs. Sykes moved to approve the agenda as presented. Dr. Lawler 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:** Ms. Browning reported the Child Fatality Prevention Team met on February 13th and reviewed one case that had no system problems. **(Info)**
 - 2. HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Harrelson gave a flu update noting a slight decrease in cases for the week ending February 17. Region 4, which includes Brunswick County, reached 9.02% which is well above the 1.9% baseline. The most reported strain is seasonal A, although more influenza B is showing up now. Influenza B tends to arrive later in the season. The effectiveness of the flu vaccine this season is 36%. Last season it was 39%. Mr. Harrelson added that there have been three flu deaths in Brunswick County and no outbreaks so far. Mr. Harrelson distributed and reviewed the NC DETECT Substance Abuse Report for Brunswick County for December 2017 through January 2018. NC DETECT was created by the North Carolina Division of Public Health in 2004 to address the need for early event detection and timely public health surveillance in North Carolina using a variety of secondary data sources. Ms. Campbell gave a Health Fair Proposal via PowerPoint presentation. Traditionally, the Health Fair has been held at the Government Complex in Bolivia. Staff is looking at the option of having smaller health fairs as community events in different areas of the county. Four options were given. **Dr. King made a motion to recommend Option 1, three smaller health fairs throughout the county. Mrs. Sykes seconded the motion. The vote to recommend Option 1, as presented, was unanimous. (Info)**
 - 3. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Mr. Stanley noted that, until recently, new on-site applications have been as many 12 weeks behind. Through the support of the EH team and County Commissioners, new applications are now between four and five weeks. An additional challenge is pool season being upon us. New staff have been hired and are now being trained. Mr. Stanley expects new staff to be certified and ready by early summer. **(Info)**
 - 4. HHS CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENT REPORT:** Ms. Browning reported great results with the Lab customer service surveys from October. About 30 surveys were completed with 26 reporting excellent and four good. One comment was “no improvements necessary, excellent service”. **(Info)**

5. **VETERANS SERVICES:** Mrs. Hartsell reported that the vets.gov website is back up and running. Veterans can now obtain their veteran's ID card. A few veterans are still encountering issues with obtaining their cards. The issue is between the VA and Department of Defense. Mrs. Hartsell was told they are working on a work-around for the issue. The Brunswick County office will, once again, assist District 9 American Legion with a 3-day Veteran Benefits Experience Center event March 22nd through the 24th at the Elks Lodge in Wilmington. This event is to promote veterans' benefits, and assist them in applying for benefits, through both the compensation and healthcare side. Staff and claims adjudicators from the Winston Salem Regional Office will be on hand to review new evidence a veteran may have concerning their appeal in the hopes that they will be able to obtain an expedited favorable decision. Brunswick County has graciously approved up to \$3,000 to assist in promoting and providing this event to help veterans get claims processed by the VA. This year, members from the Stand-down Event will be there to assist any homeless veterans in attendance. Next year, the Legion is hoping to host one of these events in Brunswick County. **(Info)**

6. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch noted that staff continues to work on removing individuals from the waiting list. Thirty-five vouchers have been issued. Once issued, recipients have up to 120 days (4 months) to lease up. **(Info)**

7. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch announced that the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) utilized all funds quickly. An additional \$50K in funding has been requested. The funding authorization should be received within the week. Staff will reach out to individuals who were denied due to a lack of funding and process those applications. The state will be sending out information as well. Mrs. Lytch reminded the team that these are all federal dollars. Brunswick County will be one of four pilot counties for No Touch Recertifications. The system will run OLV for all MAGI cases. Cases without income will be processed by the system automatically. A new child support project was outlined in Senate Bill 257, Session Law 2017-57. It requires families receiving daycare assistance to cooperate with child support. Beginning February 19, 2018, all recipients applying or recertifying for subsidized child care assistance in the pilot counties will be required to either cooperate with child support or attest that they have good cause not to cooperate with child support in order to continue to receive child care assistance. This project will continue through the end of 2018 and a report will be available in March of 2019. Mrs. Lytch discussed the Medicaid and Health Choice Overpayment Recoupment Plan that requires counties to be financially responsible for the erroneous issuance of Medicaid benefits and Medicaid claims payments resulting when the county DSS takes any action that requires payment of a Medicaid claim for an ineligible individual, for ineligible dates, or in an amount that includes a recipient's liability and for which the State cannot claim State and Federal participation. DMA will begin the recoupment process for Medicaid and NC Health Choice overpayments identified during SFY 2017 audits. Staff is completing 2nd and 3rd party reviews to minimize human error. **(Info)**

8. **HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Mr. Milligan reported the Personal Health Team vacancies include and LPN and a Lead CC4C/PCM Nurse. In Social Services, there is a new Social Worker vacancy in In-Home Services. Also open are: two Foster Care Social Workers, a Social Work Supervisor in CPS, and three Income Maintenance Caseworker positions. **(Info)**

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley gave an update on House Bill 630, Child Welfare Reform Bill, regionalization of Departments of Social Service. The bill has been changed to regionalize state staff to provide support to local DSS. Recent work sessions asked for feedback on the regional maps. The Social Services team is traveling to Rocky Mount this week to look at the information in greater detail. **(Info)**
- B. **OPIOID/STEPPING UP INITIATIVES:** Mr. Stanley noted the Goals meeting last Monday stating the Commissioners want to consider combining opioid and Stepping Up efforts into a Commission. Procedures would be developed to ensure representation across the whole county. Mr. Stanley also discussed the Healing Place being built in Wilmington and the opportunity, through the budget procedure, to preserve some bed space for Brunswick County residents **(Open)**
- D. **PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY:** Mr. Stanley provided an update on the public water supply and stated that water sampling of Gen X levels continues to be below the currently established health goals. **(Open)**

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **ANNUAL FLU ORDER:** Mr. Stanley reviewed the flu order for the 2018/2019 flu season. He noted that all non-returnable flu vaccine for this season has been used. Any not used can be returned. The flu order is very similar to last year's order. **Dr. King made a motion to recommend the flu vaccine order as presented. Dr. Howard seconded the motion. The vote to recommend the flu order as presented was unanimous. (Info)**
- B. **GOLDEN A AWARDS:** Mr. Stanley reminded the team of the Golden A Awards being held each March at the Odell Williamson Auditorium Event Center on the Brunswick Community College campus beginning at 6 p.m. In order for Board members to be able to attend the award ceremony as well as the monthly Health & Human Services Advisory Board meeting in the same night, the advisory meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on the stage at the Odell Williamson Auditorium. **(Info)**
- C. **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORT:** Mr. Harrelson gave the 2017 Communicable Disease report via PowerPoint presentation. Brunswick County had no positive Rabies cases in 2016. Reported cases of acute hepatitis C in Brunswick County have more than doubled between 2015-2016 with the majority of cases involving a history of IV drug use. Because of this state-wide epidemic, NC DHHS has launched the North Carolina Hepatitis C: Test, Link, Cure (TLC) program to establish new partnerships with health care providers to focus on hepatitis C screening, testing, prevention education, linkage to care, and treatment. **(Info)**

D. STATE OF THE COUNTY HEALTH REPORT (SOTCH): Mr. Harrelson presented the 2017 SOTCH PowerPoint noting that a SOTCH is completed in between the years of the Community Health Assessment (CHA). The last CHA was completed in 2015. Mr. Harrelson noted that Brunswick County ranked 44 (out of 100 counties) for Health Outcomes and 30 for Health Factors. Both rankings have improved from 2016 by one rank. Mr. Harrelson reviewed the health priorities established by the CHA using health data as well as community input. Also discussed was the emerging issue of Brunswick County having the 2nd highest number of acute cases of hepatitis C in the state in 2016. Both New Hope and CommWell clinics are completing training to be able to treat those with hepatitis C. **Dr. King made a motion to forward the State of the County Health Report and the Communicable Disease Report to the County Commissioners for review. Dr. Lawler seconded the motion. The vote to forward the SOTCH and Communicable Disease Report to the commissioners was unanimous.**

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 7:47 p.m. with a motion by Mr. Smith. Dr. King seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The next BCHHS Advisory Board meeting will be held on **March 26, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Odell Williamson Auditorium.**



Chairperson



Secretary

Brunswick County Health and Human Services

Advisory Board Attendance Roster 2017-2018

NAME	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
King	X	X	X	X	X	*	X	X				
Miller	X	X		X	X	*	X	X				
Williams		X	X		X	*	X					
Smith	X	X	X		X	*	X	X				
Ward	X	X			X	*	X					
Norton		X	X		X	*	X					
Howard	X		X	X		*		X				
Sykes				X	X	*	X	X				
Lawler		X	X	X	X	*	X	X				
Narron	X	X	X	X	X	*	X	X				

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**