

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
May 21, 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 6:32 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 presented Brenda Villegas, Office Assistant, as Social Services Employee of the Quarter. Ms. Villegas has been with the department since 2005 and was praised by her co-workers for being “the face” of DSS and being willing to help with whatever needs to get done. She was thankful for the recognition and feels fortunate to work with great co-workers.

II. REGULARLY OCCURRING ITEMS:

A. ATTENDANCE:

1. The following members were present:

Dr. Flint King, Chairman
Dr. Allen Williams
Dr. J. Michael Howard
Dr. Kathryn Lawler
Mr. Michael Norton

2. Members absent:

Mr. Gene Ward
Ms. Lisa Narron
Mr. Haywood Miller
Mrs. Pat Sykes
Dr. Jerry Smith

3. Staff members present:

David Stanley, Health & Human Services Director
Scott Milligan, Personnel Director
Cathy Lytch, Social Services Director
Cherie Browning, Director of Nursing
Marjorie Rayl, Quality Assurance Specialist
Allison Campbell, Health Educator

4. Guests present: None

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes for the monthly meeting held on **April 23, 2018** 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. 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. **Dr. Howard 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. VETERANS SERVICES:** Mr. Stanley reported that the VA's Choice program (HB5674), which allows veterans to receive needed healthcare outside of the VA, is expected to exhaust its funding by the end of the month. Last week, the House lawmakers advanced a \$52 billion veterans legislative package, VA Mission Act, that would provide additional funding to continue the Choice program for veterans. The bill also includes expanding stipends for veteran caregivers, to include veterans who served prior to 9/11. The bill is expected to be passed by the Senate and the President's goal is to have it signed by Memorial Day. The VA has yet to release the data for the Veteran Benefits Experience Center (VBEC) event. This is the event in Wilmington that Brunswick County staff attended in order to assist veterans in getting the benefits they deserve. Mr. Stanley reminded everyone that next Monday, May 28th is Memorial Day. A list of area ceremonies was distributed. Mrs. Hartsell gave a presentation to the Brunswick County Veterans Coalition on May 9th at the St. James Community Center. **(Info)**
- 2. CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS:** Ms. Browning noted Child Fatality Prevention Team has not met since the last Advisory Board Meeting. The next scheduled meeting is June 12th and there are two cases to review. **(Info)**
- 3. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Mr. Stanley noted that things are getting busier with staff having about 360 public pools to open. At last report, the on-site activity is running at mostly four weeks with one or two applications being six weeks. On-site wastewater staff must be available to help with the pools so there may be a longer backlog. **(Info)**
- 4. HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Stanley noted that staff, along with EH staff, is investigating two food service complaints. Our tuberculosis staff recently had a State review which found no problems and no need for recommendations. Health Services also had a potassium iodide audit. As part of the FEMA protocol they look at how many tablets are available, their expiration dates, and how many have been given out to residents. **(Info)**

5. **HHS CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENT REPORT:** Mrs. Lytch reviewed the recent Adult Medicaid Programs Survey results. These were handed out as well as, requested by phone. A total of 38 surveys were received, 92% of which gave a grade of excellent for “Overall Service”. The remaining 8% gave a grade of good. Ratings given for “Form Explanations” and “Respectful and Courteous” were 100% positive. Mrs. Lytch also read several positive comments that were written in. **(Info)**
6. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch noted that staff applied to receive VASH vouchers but Brunswick County was not selected. There has been a meeting with Veteran Services to work on port outs from Wilmington. **(Info)**
7. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch announced that the Brunswick County Commissioners have proclaimed the time between Mother’s Day and Father’s Day as Elder Abuse Awareness. A walk has been done in the past but, due to low attendance, a tree planting has been planned instead to be held on June 1st. Mrs. Lytch noted that the daycare numbers on the Social Services report have been empty for some time. The data is now available but will always be a month behind. She also noted that the Health Choice line has always shown zeros because the system evaluates for all programs and there is not a way to measure for Health Choice specifically. There was no objection to remove this item from the report. **(Info)**
8. **HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Mr. Milligan reported we are looking to hire for the following positions: a Social Work Supervisor, two Income Maintenance Caseworkers, and two RN lead positions. **(Info)**
9. **NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley noted that there are some Health & Human Services increases in the Governor’s May 10th proposed budget including an early child health development education childcare subsidy increasing childcare subsidies to 70% to improve childcare capacity, putting all counties at the same reimbursement. Also noted is an increase for SmartStart for a total of 2000 slots for fiscal year 18/19. Finally, Mr. Stanley discussed increased funding and a block grant for Strengthening Families in order to decrease neglect. A consultant has been hired to provide suggestions in improvements for DSS. The budget has a proposed \$9.8 million for opioid medication-assisted and alternative treatments as well as community mental health programs. **(Info)**

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY:** Mr. Stanley distributed a recent press release regarding the Brunswick County Commissioners’ decision to accept the proposal to build a low-pressure reverse osmosis (LPRO) system. This system offers a higher level of treatment at \$99 million and \$2.9 million per year operating costs. He noted there is more information available on the Brunswick County website. **(Info)**

- B. CHILD WELFARE REFORM:** Mr. Stanley gave an update on three main issues slated to impact child welfare programs. A recent meeting held with a state mandated consulting firm allowed DSS Directors to provide input on the child welfare system in NC who will be making recommendations to the legislature. Second, there has been state policy changes implemented and a memorandum of understanding developed between the county and state which must be signed in July to receive funding based on certain criteria. Finally, all caseworker program processes will be moved into NC-Fast which will slow down the workers. Ten counties are currently piloting this. After counties requesting, the State has pulled back the June start to an indefinite time. **(Information)**

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE OUTREACH UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley discussed hepatitis C cases being on the rise in Brunswick County. He noted possible reasons including the increase of IV drug use in our area, as well as, the increasing outreach and testing. Mr. Stanley distributed a draft flyer for three upcoming Care Fairs to be held at local WalMart stores that include free hepatitis C testing as well as many other health screenings. Hepatitis C is a treatable disease. **(Info)**
- B. PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL INSPECTIONS:** Mr. Stanley explained that private pools are not inspected by Health Services. Local building inspectors control private pools. With the use of a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Stanley discussed several items staff reviews during a public swimming pool inspection including signage, lighting, and ring buoy. He also explained that staff calls the 911 center from the pool phone to verify the address that shows in their system and work with 911 to verify the closest address. Pool drains, self-latching gates and pump calculations are some additional items that are closely inspected. **(Info)**
- C. PUBLIC HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT INTEGRATION:** Mr. Stanley discussed the Care Coordination for Children (CC4C) and Pregnancy Care Management (PCM) social work programs. Through advocacy, the State realized the importance of these programs and has guaranteed that health departments will continue to have the programs for the next couple of years. After that, health departments will be required to compete with other entities for the contracts to do the work. **(Info)**
- D. AIR QUALITY PERMITS:** Mr. Stanley stated that methyl bromide is an odorless, colorless gas whose use has dramatically decreased over the years. In 2005, there was supposed to be a phase out of the chemical. Exemptions have been made for agriculture to treat soils and for international food shipping. Locally, the gas is used as treatment of logs being shipped overseas. Logs are loaded into a shipping container, the doors closed, and the container is injected with the gas. The container is monitored for leaks which are then covered with tape. After 18-24 hours, the doors are opened and the gas is released. The air is monitored around the property and if levels of methyl bromide are more than 1ppm they must stop. Mr. Stanley noted there have been two recent Department of Environmental Quality meetings in Columbus County to discuss a permit allowing a transport company to fumigate with methyl bromide. There were 350 people at the May 15th meeting with 50-70 speakers, none of which were in favor. Mr. Stanley added that about a third of attendees were from Brunswick County. **(Open)**

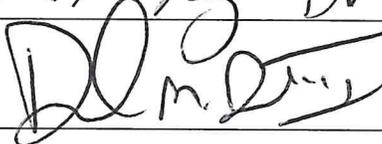
E. **AMERICASERVES.ORG:** Mr. Stanley announced that a representative from the North Carolina branch of America Serves will present at the June meeting. Our local Veterans Services office is able to help veterans with certain things such as VA benefits. The America Serves group connects veterans to all programs needed via an electronic database. **(Open)**

V. **BOARD INPUTS:** Dr. King asked if there were any additional Board inputs. Dr. Lawler thanked Mr. Harrelson for his talk on the opioid crisis last month at the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce. She noted that Sheriff Jon Ingram and Schools Superintendent, Les Tubb will be speaking on June 18th at 12pm. **(Info)**

VI: **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, **the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m. with a motion by Dr. King. Dr. Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

The next BCHHS Advisory Board meeting will be held on **June 25, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.**


_____ 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	X	X	X	
Miller	X	X		X	X	*	X	X		X		
Williams		X	X		X	*	X		X		X	
Smith	X	X	X		X	*	X	X	X	X		
Ward	X	X			X	*	X		X	X		
Norton		X	X		X	*	X		X	X	X	
Howard	X		X	X		*		X	X		X	
Sykes				X	X	*	X	X		X		
Lawler		X	X	X	X	*	X	X	X	X	X	
Narron	X	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**