

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
October 22, 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 6:31 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. Mr. Stanley introduced new Advisory Board member, Dr. Donna Bacchi-Smith. Dr. Bacchi-Smith has recently retired after over 30 years in various positions in Public Health, most recently, as a provider for Pediatric Primary Care in Robeson County. She explained she was grateful for the opportunity to serve and hopes to have an impact in Brunswick County.

**II. REGULARLY OCCURRING ITEMS:**

**A. ATTENDANCE:**

1. The following members were present:

Dr. Flint King, Chairman  
Dr. Kathryn Lawler  
Mr. Michael Norton  
Dr. Jerry Smith  
Mrs. Pat Sykes  
Mr. Haywood Miller  
Mr. Gene Ward  
Dr. Allen Williams  
Dr. J. Michael Howard  
Dr. Donna Bacchi-Smith

2. Members absent:

Ms. Lisa Narron

3. Staff members present:

David Stanley, Health & Human Services Director  
Cris Harrelson, Health Services Director  
Scott Milligan, Personnel Director  
Danny Thornton, Environmental Health Director  
Cherie Browning, Nursing Director  
Rich Ohmer, Social Services Program Manager  
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 **August 27, 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. 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 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. VETERANS SERVICES:** Mrs. Hartsell announced that Martin Falls has been named as the Assistant Secretary Veterans Affairs and Director for the NCDVA. Mr. Falls was the Veterans Affairs Assistant Director to James Prosser prior to Mr. Prosser's retirement. Due to Hurricane Florence, all the Veterans events back in September were cancelled and postponed until further notice. The VA has published regulations that became effective on October 18<sup>th</sup>. They will be doing a three year look back on assets for those applying for the VA's Improved Pension program. Pension is an income and net worth-based program for veterans and their surviving spouses when the veteran served during wartime. Several changes will take effect, but the new allowance permits the claimant to have no more than \$123,600 in assets. If the VA finds assets were moved within those three years prior to application, there will be a penalty period before they will be eligible to reapply for benefits. Mrs. Hartsell noted that, last week, James Laterza, Director for the VAMC Fayetteville which provides our local clinics, has announced his resignation. Last month, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie noted that this region was the "fastest growing single area in the VA", with over 2,000 veterans added each month to the VA medical system. **(Info)**
  - 2. CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS:** Ms. Browning noted that the October CFPT meeting was cancelled. The next meeting will be on December 11<sup>th</sup>. **(Info)**
  - 3. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Mr. Thornton discussed his team's task of getting businesses back up and running after Hurricane Florence. With the focus on restaurants and water samples, there has been a delay of normal duties. **(Info)**
  - 4. HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Harrelson discussed the Brunswick County Substance Use Disorder and Addiction Commission and noted all members have now been appointed. The first meeting date will now be scheduled. A steering committee has been established for the 2019 Community Health Assessment (CHA) and the initial meeting is scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup> to begin planning for surveys and collection of data. Health Services is partnering with UNCW College of Health & Human Services. Mr. Harrelson reported that staff was surveyed and Management Team has been meeting to discuss what went well and lessons learned during Hurricane Florence. Mr. Harrelson is exploring a partnership with Brunswick County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) to screen for hepatitis and HIV. Flu clinics are up and running in the Boardroom, as well as, many outreach locations including St. James where 775 flu shots were administered in two days. The Fun with Fitness Health Fair will be held on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9am until noon

at Smithville Park. Health Services is also participating in the BCSO Fall Festival here on the campus this Thursday evening. **(Info)**

5. **HHS CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENT REPORT:** Ms. Browning reviewed the recent Patient Satisfaction Surveys for the Lab. Of the 38 respondents, 28 rated the lab as excellent. Many positive comments were written such as: good attitude; don't have to wait long; and, amazing. **(Info)**
6. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mr. Ohmer said the team has been working diligently to remove individuals from the waiting list, conducting briefing meetings and issuing vouchers. There were three HCV participants who were displaced due to Hurricane Florence. Staff has been working with these individuals to identify new units. **(Info)**
7. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mr. Ohmer reported that DSS staff provided support for all the shelters opened during Hurricane Florence. Between September 28<sup>th</sup> and October 6<sup>th</sup>, staff ran the Disaster Food Stamp Program (DSNAP) at Odell Williamson Auditorium. The program is designed to assist families who were impacted by the Hurricane. Only individuals who are not receiving food stamp benefits were eligible to apply for this one-time monthly supplement. Of the 8,442 applications processed, 181 were denied. Households already receiving benefits received automatic benefit replacement benefits equal to 60% of their benefit amount. Additionally, they receive a supplement which allowed everyone to receive the maximum benefit amount. Mr. Ohmer noted the state received approval from the USDA to automatically recertify all FNS benefits that were due for recertification in the months of September and October in order to assist counties impacted by Hurricane Florence. These benefits were reauthorized for six months to allow counties time to catch up as recertification staff assisted with the DSNAP program. The Adult Service Team assisted shelter residents with special needs to move to new housing units or find placement in assisted living facilities. They also assisted families with FEMA by providing transportation and acting as an advocate. **(Info)**
8. **HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Mr. Milligan announced nine vacancies, including Social Work Program Administrator, EH Specialist On-Site, CD Public Health Nurse and Veterans Services Technician which are being actively recruited for. Other postings have been closed. **(Info)**
9. **NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley discussed the state's recovery efforts including about \$900 million in appropriations. The funds are being pulled from many areas such as Savings Reserve, Education Lottery, and Highway Funds. Funds will assist with the many needs of North Carolina residents. He distributed the FEMA Brunswick County at a Glance which details distribution of State and Federal funds received since the federal disaster declaration for Hurricane Florence. **(Info)**

### III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY:** Mr. Stanley noted that everything is on target for the installation of the Low-Pressure Reverse Osmosis system. **(Open)**

- B. **CHILD WELFARE REFORM:** Mr. Stanley reported that the state has given some measures that counties are required to meet certain target numbers. Some are very easily met while, with others, there are some questions about the data and how it is collected. More refinements to the data thresholds are needed. Mr. Stanley hopes to have better information next week. **(Open)**
- C. **WIC PROGRAM UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley noted the staffing challenges discussed at the last meeting which caused the program to change hours at their different sites. The challenges have improved a little, but WIC is still short three positions. Currently, WIC is open in Bolivia every day and is alternating days opening in Leland and Shallotte. **(Open)**

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **HURRICANE FLORENCE ACTIVITIES:** Mr. Stanley asked the Board if they knew of any unmet needs. He is very proud of staff and how they responded to a crisis they had never had to deal with. Typically during a storm, there are two to three hundred residents in shelters. Hurricane Florence brought 1300 – 1400 people in need of sheltering. When shelters are opened, there are five to ten DSS staff and three to five Health Services nurses in the high schools. Nurses stayed seven days, 24-hours a day. There were many special needs residents who show up without caregivers, have oxygen needs, etc. Mr. Stanley distributed handouts regarding mosquito spraying, waiver of fees for permits, and other hurricane assistance actions. A discussion followed. **(Closed)**

- V. **BOARD INPUTS:** Dr. King asked if there were any additional Board inputs and there were none. **(Info)**

- VI: **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, **the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m. with a motion by Dr. Williams. Dr. Howard seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

The next BCHHS Advisory Board meeting will be held on **November 26, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

## Brunswick County Health and Human Services

### Advisory Board Attendance Roster 2018-2019

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