

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
February 25, 2019 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 6:34 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 Brandi Rosenberg and Tara Dryer as Employees of the Quarter for DSS. They were unable to attend this meeting. Both are CPS Investigators who were called to a case this evening.
- II. REGULARLY OCCURRING ITEMS:**
- A. ATTENDANCE:**
1. The following members were present:
 - Dr. Flint King, Chairman
 - Dr. Jerry Smith
 - Mr. Haywood Miller
 - Dr. Donna Bacchi-Smith
 - Ms. Lisa Narron
 - Mr. Michael Norton
 - Mrs. Pat Sykes
 - Mr. Gene Ward
 2. Members absent:
 - Dr. Allen Williams
 - Dr. J. Michael Howard
 - Dr. Kathryn Lawler
 3. Staff members present:
 - David Stanley, Health & Human Services Director
 - Cris Harrelson, Health Services Director
 - Scott Milligan, Personnel Director
 - Cathy Lytch, Social Services Director
 - Anita Hartsell, Veteran Services Director
 - Cherie Browning, Nursing Director
 - Marjorie Rayl, Quality Assurance Specialist
 4. Guests present: None

- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes for the monthly meeting held on **January 28, 2019** were reviewed. Dr. King asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were no corrections. **Mr. Norton moved to approve the minutes as written. Dr. Bacchi-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. There were none. **Mr. Norton moved to approve the agenda as written. Ms. Narron seconded the motion. The vote to approve the agenda was unanimous. (Closed)**
- D. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
- 1. VETERANS SERVICES:** Mrs. Hartsell noted that, at the end of January, a federal court ruled that the VA cannot deny disability benefits to Navy Veterans who served in the waters offshore of Vietnam. These Veterans are referred to as “Blue Water” Navy because they served in the waters offshore and did not set foot on land in Vietnam. Under current department rules, the blue water veterans must prove their ailments are directly connected to chemical exposure in service, while exposure is automatically presumed for any veteran who had boots on the ground, or who served in the inland waterways of Vietnam. The court stated that, “these statutes cast no doubt on our conclusion that, by using the formal term, Republic of Vietnam, Congress unambiguously referred, consistent with uniform international law, to both its landmass and its 12-nautical-mile territorial sea”. The VA is reviewing the decision and “will determine an appropriate response”. They have 90 days to appeal to the Supreme Court; if the court would even decide to hear the case. If not appealed, this decision means that up to 90,000 blue water veterans could see disability payouts as early as this year. **(Info)**
 - 2. CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS:** Ms. Browning reported the Child Fatality Prevention Team met on February 12th, reviewed two cases, and found no system problems. The next meeting will be on April 9th. **(Info)**
 - 3. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Mr. Harrelson discussed the Food & Lodging cold holding campaign currently in progress. The 6-year grace period has allowed time for owners to upgrade equipment in order to meet the required decrease in cold holding from 45° F to 41° F. Those who fall within the four-degree window are given an educational packet. If their equipment does not meet the new requirements at their next inspection points will be deducted. Mr. Harrelson said that everything is going well so far. He also reported that the On-Site Wastewater wait times are mostly between two and four weeks. A few are over four weeks and one is at six weeks, due to extenuating circumstances. Mrs. Sykes discussed the issue of dogs being allowed in shopping carts. Mr. Stanley explained that Environmental Health staff address rules in food preparation areas. He doesn’t believe that the Department of Agriculture has rules prohibiting dogs in shopping carts but offered to look into it. **(Info)**

4. **HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Harrelson reported that flu is widespread in the state and is also increasing in Brunswick County. Brunswick County also saw its first flu outbreak this season at a local nursing home. The affected patients were isolated and sick workers were sent home until they are fever-free for 24 hours. The flu vaccine is approximately 50% effective which is no greater or less than any previous year. The Substance Use and Addiction Commission met on February 1st. Mr. Harrelson noted that the Pediatric Clinic is going through a quality improvement process with the assistance of SEAHEC Practice Transformation. He listed several new metrics that will be added to the meeting packets beginning next month. **(Info)**
5. **NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mr. Harrelson reviewed the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors (NCALHD) 2018-2019 Legislative Priorities for Public Health: 1. Close the Medicaid coverage gap; 2. Provide additional state funding to address increased demands associated with communicable and emerging infectious diseases; 3. Enact Tobacco 21; and 4. Restore Women's & Children's Health Block Grant funding to local health departments. A discussion followed. **(Info)**
6. **HHS CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENT REPORT:** Mrs. Lytch announced great results on the recent customer satisfaction survey for the Daycare/Triage unit. Responses from clients noted the majority of calls were returned the same day, two within 24 hours, and one within 48 hours. Most clients waited less than 10 minutes to be seen by a caseworker, with only one person waiting up to 20 minutes. Positive comments included "love her service", "very understanding", and "meets needs". **(Info)**
6. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch noted that the County Commissioners approved to temporarily change the waiting list policy to allow families who were impacted by Hurricane Florence to apply for the program. A press release has been issued to inform Brunswick County residents. Mrs. Lytch added that letters have been sent to each person on the waiting list. **(Info)**
7. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch said that staff is still accepting LIEHEAP applications at the DSS office. Due to the State's reallocation, Brunswick County has received additional funding to disperse. Mrs. Lytch announced that the State has updated the SA In-Home waiting list policy, giving preference to individuals who were referred due to Adult Protective Services involvement. **Dr. King made a motion recommending the policy be forwarded to the Brunswick County Commissioners for approval. Mr. Norton seconded the motion and the motion carried to forward the SA In-Home Waiting List Policy to the County Commissioners for approval.** Mrs. Lytch will attend a meeting this Wednesday regarding the rollout of Medicaid Transformation and its impact on DSS. DSS will still determine the Medicaid eligibility. The meeting will discuss a warm handoff and interacting with the enrollment brokers who will assist individuals in choosing their managed care company. A press release went out last week regarding the early issuance of February FNS benefits. As a result of the government shutdown, all February FNS benefits were issued on January 20th. Due to the early issuance, there are a number of households who would go over 40 days before they would receive additional benefits. To decrease this time, the State has modified the FNS issuance schedule. All March benefits will be issued on March 3rd and April benefits will be staggered. In May, benefit issuance will return to the regular schedule.

Mrs. Lytch distributed a North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services (NCACDSS) letter written to members of the NC General Assembly. The letter discusses concerns of case management functions of NC-Fast. Mrs. Lytch noted that while data entry in the old system may take 30% of a staff member's time, the new system takes 70% to enter paperwork. The counties who have already rolled out the new system have seen high turnover and the staff that remain are overworked. Mr. Stanley added that electronic doesn't mean it saves time. It is important to make sure the system can do the work and ensure the children are safe. **(Info)**

8. **HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Mr. Milligan reported that there are no social work vacancies. There is one Income Maintenance Caseworker (IMC) Supervisor vacancy in Adult Medicaid and two IMC positions in Intake. In the Fiscal unit, there is a new retirement of a Senior Processing Assistant making two vacancies that are currently being interviewed for. **(Info)**

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **WIC PROGRAM UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley discussed the staffing challenges in the past year in WIC. Staff has been innovative in shifting schedules and alternating site locations. He gave special thanks to Cris Harrelson and Cherie Browning in providing leadership during this time. **(Open)**
- B. **HURRICANE FLORENCE ACTIVITIES:** Mr. Stanley noted a meeting being held today with the Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) coordinator for non-profit disaster response. Brunswick County has applied for and received a Golden Leaf Grant to assist families who had damage to their home and/or vehicles due to Hurricane Florence. VOAD can assist by assuring no duplication of services. There are as many as 30-40 families waiting for this assistance. **(Open)**
- C. **HHS CALENDAR REVIEW FOR 2019:** Mr. Stanley had an opportunity to discuss the calendar with the Chairman and Vice Chairman along with weigh-in from the county leadership and county attorney. Dr. King felt that monthly meetings are probably what the Board needs to continue. Shortening the number of meetings could result in longer meetings. Certain times of the year it may be difficult to have a quorum. **(Closed)**
- D. **GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IMPACTS:** Mr. Stanley reported the government is no longer shut down and changes with food stamps are the only remaining impact. **(Closed)**
- E. **GOLDEN A REMINDER FOR MARCH:** Mr. Stanley noted the Golden A Awards ceremony will be held on March 25th at 6 p.m. in the Odell Williamson Event Center. The Health & Human Services Advisory Board meeting will follow at 7 p.m. on the auditorium stage. Dinner will be available in the Green Room at 6:30 p.m. **(Closed)**

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

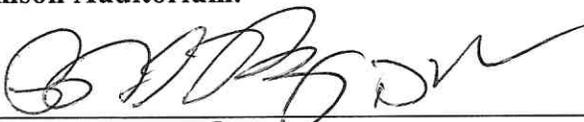
A. MEDICAID TRANSFORMATION: Mr. Stanley distributed and reviewed a fact sheet on NC Medicaid Managed Care Prepaid Health Plan Contract Awards. He noted the selected health plans as well as the regional PHP contract, also available for Brunswick County. The Brunswick County rollout will take place in February of 2020. Mrs. Lytch will attend a meeting this week to learn more about the DSS roll including beneficiary enrollment, cards, etc. Mr. Stanley noted that most people are unaware of the upcoming changes and will be calling DSS with questions. Open enrollment is this fall from October 15th to December 15th. **(Open)**

B. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORT: Mr. Harrelson reviewed a PowerPoint presentation of the Annual CD Report. Board members requested more information on Salmonella, Campylobacter, and Legionellosis. **Mr. Norton moved to recommend the Brunswick County Commissioners review the Annual CD Report and Dr. Smith seconded the motion. The vote to recommend review of the Annual CD Report by the Commissioners was unanimous. (Closed)**

V. BOARD INPUTS: Dr. King asked if there were any additional Board inputs. Mrs. Sykes distributed an invitation to the Brunswick County Charters of Freedom Gala, a non-partisan 501C3. The project will memorialize the Charters of Freedom with monuments to be placed at the Brunswick County Courthouse. **(Info)**

VI. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, **the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m. with a motion by Mrs. Sykes. Mr. Ward seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

The next BCHHS Advisory Board meeting will be held on **March 25, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Odell Williamson Auditorium.**



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	X	*	X	X				
Miller		X	*	X	X	*	X	X				
Williams	X		*	X		*	X					
Smith	X	X	*	X	X	*	X	X				
Ward			*	X	X	*		X				
Norton	X	X	*	X		*	X	X				
Howard	X		*	X	X	*	X					
Sykes		X	*	X		*	X	X				
Lawler	X	X	*	X	X	*	X					
Narron	X	X	*		X	*	X	X				
Bacchi-Smith	O	O	*	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