

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
August 26, 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 6:35 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 welcomed new Board member Hubert Reaves and thanked Mr. Norton for filling in as Chairman in July. Dr. King asked if there were any special presentations. There were none.
- II. REGULARLY OCCURRING ITEMS:**
- A. ATTENDANCE:**
1. The following members were present:
    - Dr. Flint King, Chairman
    - Dr. Allen Williams
    - Mrs. Pat Sykes
    - Ms. Lisa Narron
    - Dr. Jerry Smith
    - Mr. Gene Ward
    - Mr. Michael Norton
    - Dr. J. Michael Howard
    - Dr. Kathryn Lawler
    - Mr. Hubert Reaves
  2. Members absent:
    - None
  3. Staff members present:
    - David Stanley, Health & Human Services Director
    - Cris Harrelson, Health Services Director
    - Scott Milligan, Personnel Director
    - Danny Thornton, Environmental Health Director
    - Cathy Lytch, Social Services Director
    - Anita Hartsell, Veteran Services Director
    - Jay Murray, Business Manager
    - Cherie Browning, Nursing Director
    - Marjorie Rayl, Quality Assurance Specialist
  4. Guests present: None

- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes for the monthly meeting held on **July 22, 2019** 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. There were none. **Dr. Williams moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Norton seconded the motion. The vote to approve the agenda as presented was unanimous. (Closed)**
- D. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
- 1. VETERANS SERVICES:** Mrs. Hartsell reported that last Wednesday President Trump signed a measure to remove barriers for 100% service-connected permanently and totally disabled veterans to qualify for student loan forgiveness, which will assist about 25,000 veterans. Veterans who think they may be eligible for the debt forgiveness program can visit the Department of Education website to apply. Dr. Smith asked when the next regional claims event will be held. Mrs. Hartsell noted they are typically in March or April and the possibility of having one in the Southport Jetport is being looked into. **(Info)**
  - 2. CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS:** Ms. Browning noted the CFPT met on August 13<sup>th</sup> and one case was reviewed. There were no system problems noted. The next CFPT meeting is in October. **(Info)**
  - 3. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Mr. Thornton reported that the average wait time (action to be taken) for on-site wastewater applications is 5 weeks. Mr. Thornton had no updates on new rules. He discussed the DEQ Well Permitting Decision Tool that is used in locating contamination sources within 1000 feet of a well. The rule came out on July 1<sup>st</sup> and staff has been working with GIS to assure accuracy. Staff will begin using the tools next week. Mr. Thornton noted that there are still 30% of facilities not meeting the cold-holding requirements. Some will likely need to purchase new equipment. Staff is continuing to educate about ambient air and behavior issues (opening/closing coolers too frequently). The use of ice baths outside the cooler for commonly used items is also being suggested. Mr. Reaves asked about the morale of staff and if more help is needed. Mr. Thornton responded that staff is in good spirits and enjoy their job. A new position was added through the last budget process. Mr. Reaves also asked if the State helps with employee stress. Mr. Thornton noted that the county provides a confidential Employee Assistance Program to help those in need, in addition, stress is discussed at conferences and classes are also available. **(Info)**

4. **HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Harrelson reported a case cluster of lung illnesses in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois. Dozens of teens were hospitalized and all used vaping devices with both nicotine and THC. One adult died this afternoon. There have been 94 cases of severe illness since June 28<sup>th</sup> in 14 states. At this time it is unknown why, how, or which products could be the cause. The CDC reported that cigarette and cigar use in middle school children has decreased to about one in 50 while e-cigarette usage has increased in that group to one in twenty. There has been a 900% increase in e-cigarette use in high school students from 2011 to 2015. Mr. Harrelson discussed the rate of Brunswick County suicides (14.7%) identified in the 2015 Community Health Assessment (CHA) as higher than the State average of 12.4%. Brunswick County was also slightly higher than neighboring New Hanover County and double the Healthy NC 2020 goal of 8.32%. Mr. Harrelson discussed the concept of Deaths of Despair, coined by Princeton professors to describe the increasing number of deaths by suicide, drugs, and alcohol of white males aged 45-54 with a high school degree or less. It is believed that the deterioration of social and economic wellbeing could be to blame for the increase. Many are displaced from jobs, can't make a living, divorced, isolated, lonely and may turn to alcohol and drugs. Dr. Lawler noted that a suicide event is being planned at the Southport Jetport. Dr. Smith urged everyone to reach out to people for anything noticed "out of the blue" in people you know. Mr. Stanley discussed staff Mental Health 1<sup>st</sup> Aid trainings that teach focus on key words and what to listen for. Mr. Harrelson also reported that a press release went out on August 22<sup>nd</sup> regarding the presence of West Nile Virus in a mosquito in Brunswick County. This species only bites the wild bird population. Individuals should still minimize their exposure to mosquitos by wearing long sleeves, using products with DEET and avoiding wooded areas. Mr. Stanley added that New Hanover county found a mosquito with West Nile Virus a couple of weeks ago. **(Info)**
5. **NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mrs. Lytch gave an update on House Bill 918 which gives foster parents the right to intervene, as well as the same rights as relatives. Currently only DSS (neutral party) may file petitions. The bill increases permanence for very young children. NCACDSS are expressing their concerns. **(Info)**
6. **HHS CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENT REPORT:** Mrs. Lytch reported the May survey results with Family and Children's Medicaid/FNS. Overall scores were 93% excellent, 7% good. All were treated with respect and the majority of returned calls within the same day. The majority of responses noted that they had less than 10 minutes wait time. **(Info)**
7. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch recommended opening the waiting list on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and closing it when it reaches 250. There are 15 applicants left on the list. The list was last opened two years ago. Staff is working to prepare materials and post the notice in newspapers and on the county website, as required. The Hurricane Florence waiver ended this month. Nine families were assisted. Mrs. Lytch would like to meet with the sub-committee (Ward, Norton, Williams) before the September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. **(Info)**

8. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch noted that staff worked with WAVES4KIDS by sending them a list of needs. WAVES4KIDS donated 125 bookbags with the needed school supplies. The supplies are provided to children involved with child welfare. Social Services continues to prepare for open enrollment. There have been trainings and webinars provided by the State. Mrs. Lytch announced a policy change requiring all current and new child support staff to be fingerprinted and a background check completed due to having access to federal tax records. Once cleared, they will be required to complete this every 10 years. Brunswick County will begin the process in February 2020. **(Info)**
  
9. **HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Mr. Milligan reported current openings for Health and Human Services include: an Environmental Health Specialist, WIC Director, Social Work Program Supervisor Specialist, and openings for CPS investigative teams. Also open are two Income Maintenance Caseworkers (IMC) for Incoming/Ongoing and one IMC Supervisor for Adult Medicaid. **(Info)**

### III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **HURRICANE FLORENCE ACTIVITIES:** Mr. Stanley noted that VOAD, a group of non-profits, is meeting monthly for reconstructive efforts in Brunswick County. Nine construction teams are going around to do repairs from flooding. Mr. Stanley will provide numbers at the next meeting. He noted that 40% of the flooded homes were not in flood zones. **(Closed)**
  
- B. **MEDICAID TRANSFORMATION:** Mr. Stanley distributed a handout noting the process continues and DHHS is not slowing down. Phase 1 enrollment happens this fall with Phase 2 following by December 13<sup>th</sup>. The plan starts on February 1<sup>st</sup>. This changes the State's way of managing spending. Currently fee for service is used for reimbursement. With the new system, reimbursement is per member, per rate, per month. Members must pick an insurance company. They have 90 days to make changes, after which they are auto-enrolled. Members may switch companies during renewals. Mr. Stanley discussed how the changes affect Health Services. Contracts must be signed with the companies for their covered members to be seen. Advanced tiers of service level require case management meaning higher reimbursements. **(Open)**
  
- C. **COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley noted that Health Services is on target. During July through October of this year primary data is collected, focus groups are held and secondary data is gathered. The final report is due in March of 2020. **(Open)**
  
- D. **NUCLEAR PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES:** Mr. Stanley presented a handout showing the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ). Virginia Williamson is outside the zone but many of its students live within the zone. The map also shows joint reception areas and evacuation centers. People would go to decontamination sites to determine if decontamination is required. He noted that a tabletop Nuclear Exercise is planned for next summer including the 10-mile and 50-mile EPZ zones which includes other counties. The larger zone looks at ingestion exposure pathways such as agriculture, livestock, crops and water that could be affected.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

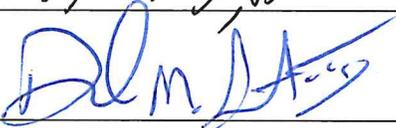
- A. Managed Care Case Management Providers:** Mr. Stanley discussed further the changes in Medicaid Transformation. In order to receive increased reimbursement, Health Services must provide additional case management. In order to keep patients healthy, agencies are being asked to look at safe housing, medication compliance, attending doctor visits, and mental health. The new Medicaid managed care models incentivize ways to integrate care. He added it is not a new concept for Health Services and some case management is currently being done. However, BCHS has not currently invested in the data analytics requirements of what is being done which requires specialized software and analysts, etc. As such many health departments are partnering with entities for this service. Agreements are being reviewed now which would allow BCHS to be at the higher tier to get as much reimbursement as possible. **(Open)**
- B. COUNTY MANAGER:** Mr. Stanley announced Randall Woodruff, from Pender County as the new County Manager beginning October 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Stanley looks forward to working with him. He will have an orientation to Health and Human Services. **(Info)**
- C. PUBLIC HOUSING VOUCHER OPPORTUNITY:** Mr. Stanley noted that the Public Housing Administrative Plan is currently being revised to include additional opportunities. Staff will present on these changes at an upcoming meeting. **(Closed)**

**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 7:30 p.m. with a motion by Mr. Ward. Dr. Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

The next BCHHS Advisory Board meeting will be held on **September 23, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Health Services boardroom.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

## Brunswick County Health and Human Services

### Advisory Board Attendance Roster 2019-2020

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

**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**