

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
September 23, 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 6:39 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. There were none.

II. REGULARLY OCCURRING ITEMS:

A. ATTENDANCE:

1. The following members were present:

Dr. Flint King, Chairman
Mrs. Pat Sykes
Ms. Lisa Narron
Mr. Michael Norton
Mr. Hubert Reaves

2. Members absent:

Dr. Allen Williams
Dr. Jerry Smith
Mr. Gene Ward
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
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 **August 26, 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. Mrs. Sykes 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. **Mrs. Sykes moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mrs. Narron 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 earlier this month a federal court ruled that the Department of Veterans Affairs wrongly denied reimbursements to veterans who received emergency medical care at non-VA facilities. According to the VA, the department can pay for emergency medical care if the condition is service-related or caused by a service-related condition and services aren't available at a VA facility. For conditions not service-connected, the VA can also pay for emergency medical care, but only under certain conditions. By law, the VA cannot provide coverage for copayments, coinsurance or deductibles. Under the Inspector General's review, it was found that the VA has been denying reimbursement for non-VA emergency medical care if the veteran had any health insurance coverage at the time of service. The audit revealed that the VA placed more emphasis on the number of claims processed than the accuracy of the claim's decisions. The U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims judges stated that the VA's reimbursement regulations, instituted in 2018, violated a law that requires the VA to approve veterans' claims for emergency room expenses not covered by private insurance. It is estimated that the reimbursement cost for medical claims could be between \$1.8 and \$6.5 billion for claims filed from 2016 through 2025. **(Info)**
 - 2. CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS:** Ms. Browning noted there has been no CFPT meeting since the last board meeting. The October CFPT meeting has been cancelled due to having no cases to review. The next meeting will be on December 10th. **(Info)**
 - 3. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Mr. Thornton noted that the average wait time for on-site wastewater applications (June 1st through August 31st) is 4 weeks. Mr. Thornton reported that the DEQ Well Permitting Decision Tool has been implemented. DEQ provides us with the information and any customers with questions will be referred to them. Mr. Thornton reported 46% of facilities not meeting the new 41° cold holding requirements. The issue is primarily due to behavior and ambient air. Maintenance on equipment may help in some cases. Points are to be deducted if the issues are not resolved. **(Info)**

4. **HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Harrelson discussed recent lung illnesses associated with e-cigarettes (vaping). There have been 530 reports in 38 states, as well as seven deaths in six states. Most patients reported a history of using e-cigarette products containing THC. The cause of the outbreak is yet to be determined. Vaping has become increasingly more popular and a discreet way of using cannabis. There have been 23 lung illness cases in NC since 2017. Mr. Harrelson reported that WIC is fully staffed except for the WIC Director position. Applicants are currently being interviewed. WIC has received a grant to renovate the Leland site in order to provide space for an additional Nutritionist. This will be an experiment to see if there is an increase in participation rates. In September all three sites have been opened with, so far, little to no issues with staffing. The BCHS Flu Clinic will be opening on October 1st with the same hours as previous years, 9am – 12pm and 1pm – 4pm, Monday through Friday. Every day is employee day. Mr. Stanley added that there are numerous outreach locations. He will forward the list to Board members. Mr. Stanley added that he would like to hear of any other sites interested in hosting flu shots. **(Info)**
5. **NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mr. Harrelson reviewed 15A NCAC 18A .2816, Lead Poisoning Hazards in Child Care Centers. An amendment was adopted by the NC Commission for Public Health which requires licensed child care centers to test, at least once every three years, all water outlets used for drinking or food preparation. He also noted the following bills that are now law: H73 – Adopt Rules Incorporating 2017 Food Code; H761 – Clarify Wastewater Permitting Liability; H268 – Amend On-Site Wastewater Rules; and, S444 – Allow Use of Oyster Shells as Serving Dishes. **(Info)**
6. **HHS CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENT REPORT:** Mr. Harrelson reported that WIC staff collected 71 surveys in August. Answers were all positive and comments written in included “A+” and “always great service”. **(Info)**
7. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch announced that the Public Notice has been published and website updated. The waiting list will open to the first 250 applicants on October 2nd at 8:30am and is likely to close that same day. The 2020 Fair Market Rents, which go into effect December 2019, have been published. There was a decrease in the rental rate for efficiency one- and two-bedroom units. Mrs. Lytch announced that the SEMAP score for fiscal year 2019 was 100%. She is proud of the team for accomplishing this. The Public Housing subgroup met prior to this meeting to continue to review the administration plan. Currently, the department is not using targeted housing programs (identified individuals) and the plan states that the PHA has not been awarded funding for specifically targeted HUD funding. Staff requests approval to change the current Administration Plan policy to allow staff to bring forth targeted housing programs to the Board and, if approved, apply for funding. **Mr. Norton moved to recommend to the County Commissioners to approve changing the language in the current administration plan to read “The PHA will apply for Targeted Housing funding for programs in which the Board of Commissioners has determined would benefit county residents”. Mrs. Narron seconded the motion. The vote to forward to County Commissioners the suggested change to the current Administration Plan was unanimous. (Info)**

8. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch reported that the department continues to prepare for open enrollment occurring from October 15th through December 13th. Staff have completed trainings and are working to update the phone tree to provide information on how beneficiaries can reach the enrollment broker. Mrs. Lytch announced that, due to daycare policy changes, the State has put a freeze on taking families off the waiting list. The only group in which the department can provide assistance to is families involved with child welfare. Mr. Reaves asked if staff has many complaints about working conditions, the moral of staff. Mrs. Lytch responded that overall things are good. She listens to staff and accommodates reasonable requests. They have a Sunshine Committee that buys lunch, distributes candy, and other events. **(Info)**
9. **HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Mr. Milligan reported an opening for WIC Director, Public Housing Supervisor, Foster Care Unit Social Work Supervisor, Adult Medicaid Social Work Supervisor, and ongoing CPS Social Work III positions. **(Info)**

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **MEDICAID TRANSFORMATION:** Mr. Stanley announced that, due to the delay in getting the two-year budget approved, DHHS has decided to rollout all 100 counties in February, instead of having a trial run. The budget will possibly be settled by that point. **(Open)**
- B. **COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley noted that focus groups are being scheduled. The purpose of focus groups is to capture feedback from segments of the community that were under-represented in the initial surveys. The first one was held last week at Brunswick Community College with attendees showing an interest in more assistance with substance use disorder. The next focus group will be at New Hope Clinic this Thursday at 5pm. **(Open)**

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **FOSTER YOUTH TO INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE:** Mr. Stanley distributed a handout asking the Board to consider Brunswick County in being a target program working with federal, state, and local partners to work together to end homelessness. The Foster Youth to Independence Initiative would provide Tenant Protection Vouchers for eligible youth. A memorandum of agreement would be required between DSS and Public Housing. Mr. Stanley added that there are no additional local funding needed. **Mr. Norton made a motion to forward to County Commissioners a recommendation to apply for targeted funding for young adults aging out of foster care, or with histories of involvement with foster care who are at high risk of homelessness. Mr. Reaves seconded the motion. The vote to recommend applying for targeted funding for young adults was unanimous. (Closed)**
- B. **HURRICANE DORIAN DISASTER SUPPORT:** Mr. Stanley reported that Brunswick County now has a coordinator position to work with VOAD and organize needs in recovery and forward those needs to nonprofits. Mrs. Lytch added that Hurricane Dorian did not reach the level in Brunswick County to initiate disaster food stamps. **(Closed)**

C. **HURRICANE DORIAN SHELTERING RESPONSE:** Mr. Stanley presented a PowerPoint of the efforts before, during, and after Hurricane Dorian. He noted that around 300 people were sheltered during the event, most at West Brunswick. **(Closed)**

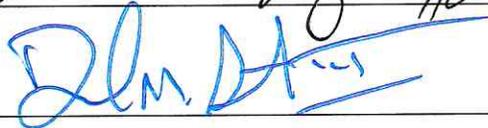
V. **BOARD INPUTS:** Dr. King asked if there were any additional Board inputs. There were none. **(Info)**

VI: **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, **the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m. with a motion by Dr. King. Mr. Norton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

The next BCHHS Advisory Board meeting will be held on **October 28, 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	X									
Lawler	X	X										
Narron	X	X	X									
Norton	X	X	X									
Reaves	A	X	X									
Smith	X	X										
Sykes	X	X	X									
Ward	X	X										
Williams		X										
Bacchi-Smith	O	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