

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
November 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 6:32 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. There were none.

II. REGULARLY OCCURRING ITEMS:

A. ATTENDANCE:

1. The following members were present:

Dr. Flint King, Chairman
Ms. Lisa Narron
Mr. Michael Norton
Mr. Hubert Reaves
Dr. Allen Williams
Dr. J. Michael Howard
Dr. Kathryn Lawler
Dr. Justin Asbury
Mrs. Pat Sykes

2. Members absent:

Dr. Jerry Smith
Mr. Gene Ward

3. Staff members present:

David Stanley, Health & Human Services Director
Cris Harrelson, Health Services Director
Scott Milligan, Personnel Director
Cathy Lytch, Social Services Director
Danny Thornton, Environmental Health 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 **October 28, 2019** were reviewed. Dr. King asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were no corrections. **Dr. Lawler 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. **Mr. Stanley asked that “Radon Proclamation” be added as Item D under New Business. Dr. Williams moved to approve the agenda with the aforementioned change. Mrs. Sykes seconded the motion. The vote to approve the agenda was unanimous. (Closed)**
- D. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
- 1. VETERANS SERVICES:** Mrs. Hartsell reported her office was recognized and received a regional AARP award at the Evening of Inspiration event November 15th for the caring, quality service provided to Veterans and their families. Mrs. Hartsell gave a presentation and set up an information booth at the Belville Riverwalk Veterans Memorial Dedication ceremony on Veterans Day. Under the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, commissary shopping privileges have been extended to certain veterans and veteran caregivers effective 1/1/2020. Mrs. Hartsell reviewed the eligibility criteria. **(Info)**
 - 2. CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS:** Ms. Browning noted the next meeting will be on December 10th. **(Info)**
 - 3. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Mr. Thornton reported a four-week turnaround for on-site permits which is the benchmark set. He also noted that staff is doing well with 308 management entity inspections completed. Mr. Thornton announced that the 2017 Food Code was adopted but will still not go into effect for two to three years. He reported that 26% of facilities are not meeting the cold holding threshold of 41°. This is, in part, due to ambient air temperatures being lower although staff is still finding methods and routine maintenance on equipment to be an issue as well. Operators can request a variance on equipment and submit a risk control plan. He explained that a variance would be an intent to maintain temperature. The operator would prepare a formal document to show how they can ensure the safety of the public’s health by steps such as moving certain products to a different cooler and date-marking. Permit action can be taken by staff if there are three missed, consecutive inspections. **(Info)**

4. **HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Harrelson gave an update on E-Cigarette/Vaping Associated Lung Illnesses (EVALI). The CDC has identified vitamin E acetate as a chemical of concern among people with EVALI. Recent CDC laboratory testing of fluid samples collected from the lungs of 29 patients with EVALI from 10 states found vitamin E acetate in all of the samples. It is thought to be used as an additive, most notably as a thickening agent in THC-containing e-cigarette or vaping products. The CDC recommends these products not be used, particularly from informal sources like friends, or family, or in-person or online dealers. As of November 13, 2019, 2,172 cases of EVALI have been reported to the CDC from 49 states, the District of Columbia, and 2 U.S. territories. Health Services is partnering with Brunswick County Schools to teach the “Health Rocks” educational program that emphasizes e-cigarette and vaping education. The goal is to have all PE teachers trained on the program by March 20th. The WIC participation rate for the month of August reflected an increase in client participation of 4.49% from the previous month and an increase of 6.72% over the last two months. They are now over the 97% threshold needed to receive federal funding (98.81%). The 2018 Infant Mortality Data was released on October 21st. Mr. Harrelson reviewed the data noting that rates based upon small numbers are unstable. **(Info)**
5. **NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mr. Harrelson discussed Senate Bill 199, State Law 2019-245, “An Act to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and to Strengthen and Modernize Sexual Assault Laws” which goes into effect on December 1st. The law states any one age 18 or older who knows, or should have known, that a juvenile has been or is, the victim of a violent offense, sexual offense, or misdemeanor child abuse must make an immediate report to local law enforcement in addition to making a report to DSS which was already a requirement. HIPAA allows the report to be made as long as no more information than necessary is shared and the patient/personal representative of the report is informed. There are limited exceptions. Mr. Harrelson also reviewed House Bill 529 “Artificial Swimming Lagoons” which he has discussed before. These are bodies of water that are greater than 20,000 sq. ft. of surface area, with an artificial liner, and a method of disinfectant. Temporary rules were put into effect on November 6th and permanent rules are begin pursued. **(Info)**
6. **HHS CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENT REPORT:** Ms. Browning reported that in October surveys were given to lab patients. Twenty-two responded, all with favorable responses. None felt a need for improvements. When asked what they disliked about the service there was one response each for services, times, and fees charged but no explanation or suggestions. Comments written in included “good people”, “clean atmosphere”, and “feel like distant family”. **(Info)**
7. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch reported that the agency received a notification from HUD on November 8th that they were invited to apply for nine Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers. Staff is working with the Fayetteville VA office who provides case management. Mrs. Lytch announced that, at the November 18th board meeting, county commissioners approved the change in the language to the Admin Plan as it related to Targeted Housing opportunities. They also approved participation in the Foster Youth to Independence initiative for age-out of foster care. The office can submit on MOU between DSS and PH and issue a voucher that follows the child for three years. **(Info)**

8. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch reported that Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) applications will be accepted beginning December 2nd for individuals who are 60 years of age and older or those who are disabled and receiving services from Aging and Adult Services. This is a one-time supplement to offset winter heating costs. The money would be paid to the provider, BEMC, etc. and could also be used to purchase oil or wood. DSS is partnering with Brunswick Senior Resources, Inc. (BSRI) to accept applications at their senior centers. BSRI has published the schedule in their Senior Buzz magazine and the information has been sent to community partners. LIHEAP will open to the general public on Thursday, January 2nd. The amounts provided have been increased by the State to \$300, \$400, or \$500 depending on number of people in the home. These are a \$100 increase over last year. The State is also seeking approval to send a one-time supplemental payment to families who were approved at the end of the season if there are funds remaining. This program uses all federal dollars. Mrs. Lytch noted that her office has partnered with WalMart again this year for Christmas Angel Trees. They have been set up in each of the county WalMart locations with tags for foster children and adult wards. Brunswick Plantation will be donating bikes for foster children. The Longbeard group has donated 26 turkeys for families this Thanksgiving. Fourteen children from child support families and in-home services families have been referred to the Bicycle Man program. The gentleman receives old bicycles, refurbishes them and then donates them to children. The children will be taken to Fayetteville on December 21st to pick out their bicycles and will also receive a coat, hat and gloves from McDonalds. Bald Head Island's many donations to his program made it possible for Brunswick County Families to participate. Mrs. Lytch reported that staff continues to remove families from the daycare waiting list. **(Info)**

9. **HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Mr. Milligan reported he is currently recruiting for a Public Housing Supervisor, Child Support Lead Agent, and Child Support Processing Assistant. The Income Maintenance Caseworker remains a continuous posting. **(Info)**

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **MEDICAID TRANSFORMATION:** Mr. Stanley announced that Medicaid Transformation has been suspended and will not be resumed until a budget is adopted at the State level. **(Closed)**

- B. **COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley reported the next meeting will be on December 5th where the team will look at the primary and secondary data in draft format to see how surveys (primary data) versus the Center for Health Statistics (secondary data) pair up to come up with recommendations. Staff is on track for the Spring deadline. **(Open)**

- C. **LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION REVIEW:** Mr. Stanley reported the local health directors have suggested to the Accreditation Board several changes to ensure the program remains relevant in the future. **(Info)**

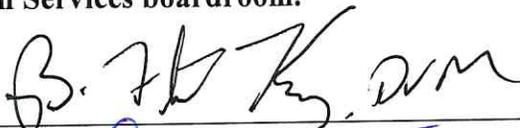
IV. NEW BUSINESS:

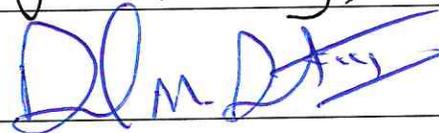
- A. **NC FLU SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY REVIEW:** Mr. Stanley distributed the latest NC flu report which is updated weekly by NDHHS. He noted that typically when school lets out for the holidays and weather turns cold, flu incidence increases. The peak generally occurs around the first or second week of February. He pointed out there have been seven deaths related to flu so far this year. Last year North Carolina had 203 deaths with three being in Brunswick County, all age 65 or older. Dr. Williams asked if there has been tracking of whether people that died had a flu vaccination or not. Mr. Stanley noted most did not but he could look to see if data is available. He added that most had the flu in addition to other health-related issues. Mrs. Browning added that the flu shot can't make you sick. Dr. Asbury noted it takes weeks to build up the immunity. **(Open)**
- B. **NC EARLY CHILDHOOD ACTION PLAN REVIEW:** Mr. Stanley distributed the "North Carolina Early Childhood Action Plan Brunswick County Data Report" regarding children and action plans DHHS is working on. He plans to discuss the pieces of the report over the next few months. The freshest data is from 2017. This and the CHA data will paint a picture of State goals to improve health. This will be compared to programs implemented to effect that change and shed light on why we do what we do. **(Open)**
- C. **DECEMBER HHS MEETING:** Mr. Stanley discussed the December meeting which was cancelled the last two years due to not having a quorum and being so close to the holiday. **Dr. King moved to cancel the December 2019 meeting. Dr. Williams seconded the motion. The vote to cancel the December 2019 meeting was unanimous. (Closed)**
- D. **RADON PROCLAMATION:** Mr. Stanley said the NC Radiology section within DHHS works with the nuclear plants and has approached every county in NC to be part of radon notification. He explained that radon is created from decomposing granite under a home. The gas stays within the building and can be harmful to breathe. He added that it is typically not in the geology in Brunswick County due to soils being mostly sand and limestone. Still, he feels there are a lot of individuals here to be educated to create an advocacy for friends or families living somewhere else in the state. They have asked for a proclamation which Mr. Stanley distributed in draft form. The state will provide test kits which could be used here or elsewhere and be sent to the State for testing. **Dr. Williams made a motion to recommend the County Commissioners look at adopting the radon proclamation for Brunswick County. Dr. King seconded the motion. The vote to recommend the County Commissioners consider adopting the Radon Proclamation was unanimous. (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 7:37 p.m. with a motion by Mrs. Sykes. Dr. Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The next BCHHS Advisory Board meeting will be held on **January 27, 2020 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		X	X							
King		X	X	X	X							
Lawler	X	X		X	X							
Narron	X	X	X	X	X							
Norton	X	X	X	X	X							
Reaves	A	X	X	X	X							
Smith	X	X		X								
Sykes	X	X	X		X							
Ward	X	X		X								
Williams		X		X	X							
Asbury				A	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