

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
February 24, 2020 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 asked if there were any special presentations. Mr. Harrelson presented Erica Mee, Lead Maternal Health Public Health Nurse, with the Employee of the Quarter award. He read her nomination which praised her efforts to make the holiday season extra fun and festive for all, boosting morale for staff and customers. Mr. Harrelson added that she is an outstanding employee. Mrs. Lytch presented Deidra Mears, Social Worker in the Foster Care unit, with Employee of the Quarter for DSS. Her nomination recognized Deidra as someone who routinely goes above and beyond, including working Saturdays, so families can have visits at birthday parties and sporting events.
- II. REGULARLY OCCURRING ITEMS:**
- A. ATTENDANCE:**
1. The following members were present:
 - Dr. Flint King, Chairman
 - Ms. Lisa Narron
 - Mr. Hubert Reaves
 - Dr. J. Michael Howard
 - Dr. Kathryn Lawler
 - Dr. Justin Asbury
 - Mrs. Pat Sykes
 - Mr. Gene Ward
 - Mr. Michael Norton
 - Dr. Allen Williams
 2. Members absent:
 - Dr. Jerry Smith
 3. Staff members present:
 - David Stanley, Health & Human Services Director
 - Cris Harrelson, Health Services Director
 - Scott Milligan, Personnel Director
 - Cathy Lytch, Social Services Director
 - Josh Cumbee, Environmental Health Program Specialist
 - Anita Hartsell, Veteran Services Director
 - Jay Murray, Business Manager
 - Cherie Browning, Nursing Director

Marjorie Rayl, Quality Assurance Specialist
Erica Mee, Lead MH Public Health Nurse
Deidra Mears, Social Worker, Foster Care Unit

4. Guests present: None

- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes for the monthly meeting held on **January 27, 2020** were reviewed. Dr. King asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were no corrections. **Mr. Ward 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. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The vote to approve the agenda was unanimous. (Closed)**

- D. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
 - 1. VETERANS SERVICES:** Mrs. Hartsell said that, for many years, the widows of military retirees have been penalized by the government's SBP-DIC offset. SBP stands for the Survivor Benefit Plan, which allowed surviving spouses of military retirees who paid into the program, to receive a portion of the service member's military retirement upon their death. If that same widow was also granted Dependency Indemnity Compensation, also known as DIC, by the VA, the surviving spouse could not receive both benefits simultaneously. They were given the greater benefit of the two, or their SBP was subtracted by the DIC award. DIC, in most cases, is granted because the veteran died from a service connected disability or had 100% or Individual Unemployability deemed Permanent & Total by the VA for ten years or more prior to the Veteran's death, which makes the surviving spouse eligible for the DIC benefit. Congress has repealed the offset. President Trump has signed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2020 into law, which repeals the offset. The "phase-out" of the widow's tax will start January 1, 2021, where one third of owed SBP will be paid. On January 1, 2022, two thirds of owed SBP will be paid, and January 1, 2023, their full SBP benefits will be paid. **(Info)**

 - 2. CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS:** Ms. Browning noted the team met on February 11th to review one case and found no system problems. **(Info)**

 - 3. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Mr. Cumbee announced the wastewater protection program has only two files greater than the four-week turnaround goal. The Food & Lodging staff are continuing to monitor violations with the cold-holding campaign which are currently at only 17% non-compliant. Mr. Cumbee announced the Annual Golden A Awards program will be on March 23rd at the Odell Williamson Event Center. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with the program starting at 6:00 p.m. This Health and Human Services Advisory Board will meet on the Auditorium stage at 7:00 p.m. He asked the Board to please join in the Golden A celebration. Mr. Cumbee also noted that staff is gearing up for swimming pool season which begins on April 1st. Staff received new guidance on pool rules from the State last week. Staff is keeping close communications with the State to make sure the changes are communicated to all involved. **(Info)**

4. **HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Harrelson noted there are still no lab-confirmed cases of coronavirus in North Carolina. Globally, there are 79,524 confirmed cases with 2,626 deaths reported. There are 34 cases in the United States, including 21 repatriated by the State Department. Health Services is blast faxing updated provider memos to local providers and hospitals; answering local provider's questions; and participating in weekly call-ins with the North Carolina CD Branch. Additional signage has been posted at the front entrance and staff is developing a plan to screen, isolate and evaluate patients that may present to Health Services and meet the criteria for Person Under Investigation. Mr. Harrelson also reported on a recent Neisseria Meningitis case. **(Info)**
5. **NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mr. Harrelson discussed State Law 2019-151 (House Bill 268). The law which basically establishes a privatization option to licensed soil scientists with authority parallel to the already existing engineering option. Permits would come to the health department as a depository. **(Info)**
6. **HHS CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENT REPORT:** Ms. Browning reported on the recent Patient Satisfaction Surveys for Family Planning patients. Forty-nine surveys were completed with 45 responding excellent and four good. All surveys showed that explanations given were easy to understand. She added that many praises were included. Two survey participants asked about an adult clinic being offered at Health Services. Ms. Browning noted there are options in the county and patients are able to pick the provider of their choice. If they have a lack of insurance they are referred to New Hope Clinic, but they must be income-eligible. There are two Federally Qualified Health Centers that offer a sliding fee with co-pays; Goshen on Long Beach Road and CommWell in Bolivia. **(Info)**
7. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch noted that staff, in partnership with the Fayetteville VA, developed a referral form for the VASH voucher program. They have two briefings scheduled. Mrs. Lytch met with the Public Housing Subcommittee to discuss recommended and requested changes to the PH Admin Plan. **Dr. Williams made a motion to send the Public Housing Admin Plan recommended changes for February 2020 to Commissioners. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The vote to forward the recommended Admin Plan changes to Commissioners was unanimous.** The group also discussed 5-year plan goals. The 5-year plan must be updated and submitted to HUD. The plan will be reviewed and approved at the April 20th commissioner meeting. **Dr. Williams made a motion to forward the 5-Year Plan including changes to improve the lease-up rate to Commissioners. Mrs. Sykes seconded the motion. The vote to forward the new 5-year Plan to Commissioners was unanimous. (Info)**

8. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch discussed Public Charge. It is a term used in immigration law to determine whether a person is likely to become dependent on the government for support and is used as one of several factors to determine whether a person can enter the U.S. or get a green card. The new rule changes have been passed and implemented. They change criteria for immigrants who come to the country legally to stay as a permanent resident. An initial communication was sent by DHHS in September 2019 about the rule but, due to injunctions being granted, the rule has become effective today, February 24, 2020. The rule changes how immigration offices make decisions, looking more closely at factors like health, age, income, skills, and use of public programs including food stamps, Section 8 assistance, Medicaid and cash assistance programs. Mrs. Lytch also announced a new communication service called NCDHHS Alerts. It allows those who opt in to receive informational text messages or emails from NCDHHS. They will not contain personal, confidential data but would include information such as Managed Care and disaster news. Participants may agree to opt in or out via ePASS or by calling the DSS office or EBT call center. **(Info)**

9. **HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Mr. Milligan noted seven current vacancies posted including: continuous postings for Income Maintenance Caseworker and Social Worker in Child Welfare; Income Maintenance Caseworker in Transportation; Child Support Agent; Public Housing Section 8 Occupancy Specialist; Lead Public Health Nurse in CC4C/PCM programs; and, Nutritionist II-Breastfeeding Coordinator in WIC. **(Info)**

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley announced a partial CHA received from the vendor. Once completed the report will be taken to the State. The completed CHA will be shared with this Board. An action plan will be also be created and is due in September. Mr. Harrelson gave a brief presentation on the selected priority health items and process used to determine them. These items are substance misuse, access to health care, and chronic conditions which all include the category of aging population. **(Open)**

- B. **NC FLU SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY REVIEW:** Mr. Stanley distributed and discussed the most recent summary. There have been 90 flu-related deaths in the State so far, which is slightly more than this time last year. Most are aged 65 or older. He noted that this is the height of flu season adding that a press release is going out to remind everyone best practices to prevent getting the flu and that shots are still available. **(Open)**

C. **NC EARLY CHILDHOOD ACTION PLAN REVIEW:** Mr. Harrelson reviewed Goals 3 and 4 in the North Carolina Early Childhood Action Plan for Brunswick County. Goal 3 addresses food security noting that too many North Carolina children do not receive enough quality, nutritious food. Mr. Stanley noted that the WIC program assists in making nutritious food purchases. Mr. Stanley added the county is doing more to make significant investments such as having breakfast available in the schools for any child and providing more opportunities for exercise with additional parks and athletic programs. They also support the efforts of the senior centers in offering healthy lunch options for the senior residents. Goal 4 addresses safe and secure housing issues with 9,970 North Carolina children in grades K through third grade in public schools experiencing homelessness in 2018. Brunswick County has several assistance programs including Section 8, Homelessness Coalition, Tri-County Homeless Interagency, W.A.R.M., and Brunswick Housing Opportunities. **(Open)**

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. **WATER PERMIT:** Mr. Stanley reported that Commissioners are waiting for a presentation of options to vote on and how to address bids. Mrs. Sykes noted the commissioners have not met since receiving the permits. Mr. Stanley noted the citizens appreciate the efforts. **(Info)**

B. **CRISIS BEDS:** Mr. Stanley discussed an opportunity to bring a crisis/detox center to Brunswick County. Trillium is asking for proposals for six beds (possibly a portion of something larger). There is a question and answer period currently. A decision will be made in July with more conversations being had now. Mr. Stanley added that there are some non-medical detox options available but this project is for medical detox. **(Info)**

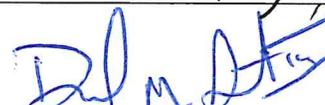
C. **PROPOSED HHS GOALS:** Mr. Stanley discussed goals for Health & Human Services. The first is to expand reach, increasing access and efficiency to clients so that physically visiting the complex is not always required to apply for programs. He also discussed artificial intelligence technology for DSS to allow Child Welfare staff to access case files electronically using a system that offers key words related to the case and assists them in deciding the best placement options without having to spend hours reviewing paper files. Increasing the public awareness of activities is important so the public is aware of the many things that are done including more outreach both in locality and through social media outlets as a better job of sharing with the public. **(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 7:50 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 23, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Odell Williamson Auditorium at BCC.**


_____ 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	*	X	X				
King		X	X	X	X	*	X	X				
Lawler	X	X		X	X	*	X	X				
Narron	X	X	X	X	X	*	X	X				
Norton	X	X	X	X	X	*		X				
Reaves	A	X	X	X	X	*	X	X				
Smith	X	X		X		*	X					
Sykes	X	X	X		X	*	X	X				
Ward	X	X		X		*	X	X				
Williams		X		X	X	*		X				
Asbury				A	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**