

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
August 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 Lobby (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. Hubert Reaves
    - Dr. Kathryn Lawler
    - Dr. Justin Asbury
    - Mrs. Pat Sykes
    - Mr. Michael Norton
    - Mr. Gene Ward
    - Dr. Allen Williams
  2. Members absent:
    - Dr. Jerry Smith
  3. Staff members present:
    - David Stanley, Health & Human Services Director
    - Cris Harrelson, Health Services Director
    - Cathy Lytch, Social Services Director
    - Cherie Browning, Director of Nursing
    - Danny Thornton, Environmental Health Director
    - Anita Hartsell, Veteran Services Director
    - Marjorie Rayl, Quality Assurance Specialist
  4. Guests present: None
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes for the monthly meeting held on **July 27, 2020** 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. Mrs. 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. **Mrs. Sykes moved to approve the agenda as presented. Dr. Asbury 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 Tracy Walts is now an accredited Veterans Service Officer. Once the VA Office of General Counsel approves her application, she will be able to take the VA's computer training. Once she passes this VA training, she will then be allowed to obtain the VA's Personal Identity Verification Card which will allow her access to their computer systems. This access will allow her to view her client's VA claims folders, track their claims, and assist her in answering client claims questions. **(Info)**
2. **CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS:** Ms. Browning reported the team met on August 11<sup>th</sup> via phone conference to review three cases. There were no system problems. The next meeting will be held on October 13<sup>th</sup>, also via phone conference. **(Info)**
3. **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Mr. Thornton reported there were no wastewater protection files exceeding the four week turnaround time for applications submitted. Staff continue to use safety precautions to help reduce exposure. Food & Lodging staff are more focused on the five risk factors that have been identified in causing foodborne illness to try to reduce the time of completing an inspection. Inspection forms are completed in the specialist's vehicle and discussions are held over the phone. He also noted that staff have responded to 46 complaints that were COVID-19 related. Most are due to not following executive orders or having a positive case. The Count on Me NC program has been very successful in providing good education and guidance. The workgroup held a virtual meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup> with food establishments and lodging facilities. Weekly surveys with daycare facilities and nursing home communities continue. Mr. Thornton noted that one motel and five public swimming pool permits remain suspended due to damages sustained in Hurricane Isaias. The NC DHHS Position Statement, "Food Service at Childcare Centers with School-Age Children at Remote Learning Sites during the State of Emergency Due to COVID-19" allows childcare centers to expand to allow school-age students to attend a childcare center. They must make sure food is handled in a safe manner. **(Info)**
4. **HEALTH SERVICES:** Mr. Harrelson reported a new shipment of potassium iodide (KI) for the citizens located within the 10-mile radius of the Brunswick Nuclear Plant was received (64,000 pills equaling 32,000 doses). They will expire 10/31/2029. Brunswick County will coordinate with New Hanover County in the coming weeks on the regional, just-in-time distribution of the KI. Mr. Stanley explained a change this year by not having mass distribution outreaches as was done in the past. Staff, after speaking with the State is working to institute just-in-time distributions during an actual event. Mr. Stanley will share the 10-mile zone graphic with board members. Mr. Harrelson noted that staff is planning for the upcoming flu season. Objectives have changed from previous years in that they now include reducing co-infection of influenza and COVID-19. Flu vaccinations will continue to be offered on the Brunswick County Government Complex.

Staff is exploring ways to offer drive-thru vaccinations. For community outreach, vaccinations may be offered via drive-thru or curbside at select public locations throughout the county, including HOAs on select days, to reach private communities. Staff is also looking at options for Brunswick County schools to accommodate students and staff. Information will be available on the Health Services webpage and flu information phone line. Safety is a priority. Operation Warp Speed, the race for a COVID-19 vaccine is well underway. The goal is to produce 300,000,000 doses by January 2021. There are over 125 vaccines in development with 25-30 in clinical trials and two vaccines already approved for use in Russia and China. In the United States, five vaccines have risen to the top. A small amount of vaccine may be available here in November 2020. The target groups to receive the first doses are high-risk individuals such as healthcare workers. Mass vaccinations are anticipated in Spring 2021. **(Info)**

5. **NC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mr. Harrelson discussed Executive Order 156 issued by Governor Roy Cooper on August 11<sup>th</sup> which extends the documentation deadlines for proof-of-immunization and health assessment requirements for school and childcare facilities. The order applies to students enrolled in public, private, and religious educational institutions, including childcare facilities and K-12 schools as well as colleges and universities. This order also extends the deadline for each child entering a North Carolina school for the first time to submit proof of a health assessment. This year, the 30-day grace period for all students will begin on October 1, 2020. **(Info)**
6. **HHS CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENT REPORT:** Mr. Stanley noted that staff has decided to postpone surveys due to COVID. **(Info)**
7. **PUBLIC HOUSING SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch reported that CARES funding was received for Public Housing. It is very restricted in how to use these funds. The Admin plan that was reviewed by this Board in February is on the Commissioner's agenda for September to have the plans updated for opening the waiting list for preference groups. She added that staff is still working to identify a supervisor for the Public Housing program. **(Info)**
8. **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mrs. Lytch noted that, on July 1<sup>st</sup>, staff began issuing food stamps but stopped a couple weeks later. The waiver is approved and staff will start doing recertifications again in September and October. Applications were already higher than normal since Hurricane Florence. There has been a huge increase in applications in March and April creating 1000-1500 recertifications to be completed. She added that the USDA has approved electronic signatures by staff calling and getting the signature over the phone. Mrs. Lytch said an on-line DSNAP application process (through Epass) should be available by mid-September. This will help to avoid large crowds. During Hurricane Florence staff processed 9,000 applications, seeing each individual. The State has received CARES funding for the LIHEAP program that will open beginning December 1<sup>st</sup> for those aged 60 and over and receiving Aging & Adult Services. Staff has asked for the same process for the general public to decrease lines and crowds. The Healthy Helping Program is using Federal dollars linking the program with Food Lion MVP cards. Anyone that receives food stamps will receive an additional \$40 automatically loaded to their MVP card to purchase fruits and vegetables. **(Info)**

9. **HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Mr. Stanley reported open positions: Nutritionist I in WIC and in DSS an IMC Supervisor and Adult Services Social Worker. Also open are continuous postings for Income Maintenance Caseworker and Child Welfare Social Worker. **(Info)**

### III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **NC EARLY CHILDHOOD ACTION PLAN REVIEW:** Mrs. Lytch presented Goal 6 - Permanent Families for Children in Foster Care. She noted that the main challenge to reunification is substance abuse. Social workers work to decrease the number of days children are in foster care. They help the child to adjust to the changes, get to medical appointments and keep the parents engaged and assist them with navigating the system. They also search for relatives for possible placement. Parents are often more comfortable if their child is with someone they know. A child can't be adopted until the parental rights are terminated. Mrs. Lytch noted that COVID-19 has had a negative impact when things were shut down. In-person visits were stopped for a time. The courts have since become creative, meeting via telephone. **(Open)**
- B. **COVID-19:** Mr. Stanley reviewed the August 24<sup>th</sup> COVID-19 Partner Briefing, which was distributed at the meeting. He reviewed local and state numbers. Brunswick County has seen 23 deaths related to COVID. Staff is meeting weekly with the schools to offer support and assure safety for students and staff. They were able to use some of the protocols during the summer with the Early Education Reading program. Tabletop exercises were also set up to work through the local plan via live scenarios. **(Open)**
- C. **COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT ACTION PLAN UPDATE:** Mr. Stanley noted staff is in the second phase of the CHA, meeting with community partners. As soon as more detailed information is available he will share with this Board. **(Open)**

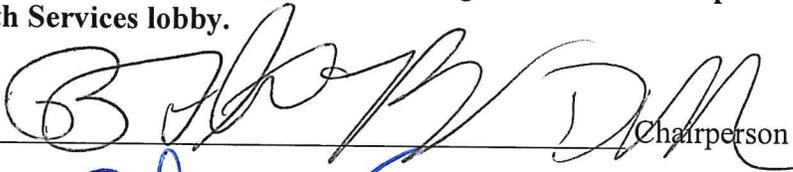
### IV. NEW BUSINESS:

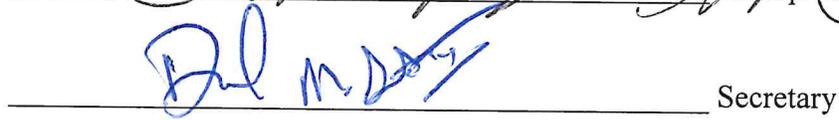
- A. **HURRICANE ISAIAS RESPONSE:** Mr. Stanley reported that Mrs. Lytch led the shelters and nursing worked inside the shelters. They were able to make changes to allow more room and space between families. There were only 30-40 people sheltered as messaging went out early to let the shelters be a last resort, and residents should stay with family if able. Staff continued to help with evacuation after the storm for another day or two. The team set up a receiving site to case manage the many vacationers that didn't know what to do with their cars flooded and how to get home **(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 Mrs. Sykes. Mr. Ward seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

The next BCHHS Advisory Board meeting will be held on **September 28, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Health Services lobby.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_ Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_ Secretary

## Brunswick County Health and Human Services

### Advisory Board Attendance Roster 2020-2021

NAME	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
King	X	X				*					*	
Lawler	X	X				*					*	
Narron	X	X				*					*	
Norton	X	X				*					*	
Reaves	X	X				*					*	
Smith	X					*					*	
Sykes	X	X				*					*	
Ward	X	X				*					*	
Williams	X	X				*					*	
Asbury	X	X				*					*	
Optometrist	V	V				*					*	

**A = Month Appointed/Installed**

**C = Conflict with CC's Meeting**

**O = Off Board**

**X = In Attendance**

**V = Vacancy**

**AA = Approved Absence**

**Blank Space = Absent**

**Quorum equals six members present.**

**^ = Specially Called Meeting**

**\* = No Meeting**