

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD



Board Members

Mr. John Blalock
Mr. John Davenport, Jr., PE
Dr. James Doub, OD
Dr. Palmer Edwards, MD
Dr. Brooke Griffith
Dr. Calvert Jeffers, Jr., DVM
Dr. Charles Massler, DDS
Dr. Linda L. Petrou, PhD
Ms. Sharon Pettiford, RN
Ms. Sharon A. Rimm, LCSW
Dr. Peter Robie, MD
Mr. J. Phil Seats, R.Ph., MBA
Dr. Ricky Sides, DC
Ms. Claudette Weston
Ms. Gloria Whisenhunt, Commissioner

Chair

Ms. Heather Parker

Vice Chair

Mr. Fleming El-Amin,

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES HYBRID BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 7, 2023

Board Members Present

Mr. John Blalock, Mr. John Davenport, Dr. James Doub, Dr. Brooke Griffith, Dr. Calvert Jeffers, Dr. Charles Massler, Ms. Heather Parker, Ms. Sharon Pettiford, Dr. Linda Petrou, Ms. Sharon Pettiford, Ms. Sharon Rimm, Mr. J. Phil Seats,

Board Members Present via Hybrid

Dr. Palmer Edwards, Mr. Fleming El-Amin, Dr. Peter Robie, Dr. Ricky Sides

Board Members Absent

Ms. Gloria Whisenhunt

Staff Present

Ms. Shontell Robinson, Mr. Joshua Swift, Ms. Christine Dowdell, Ms. Denise Price, Ms. Lorrie Christie, Ms. Tanya Donnell, Ms. Marissa Adams, Ms. Mia Stockton, Ms. Adrienne Turner, Ms. Christa Smith

Guests Present

Jose Perez

Call to Order

On Wednesday, June 7 2023, the Forsyth County Health and Human Services Board held its regularly scheduled bi-monthly hybrid meeting. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Ms. Heather Parker at 5:33 p.m.

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed by all.

Consideration of Board Minutes for April 5, 2023

The minutes from the April 5, 2023 Health and Human Services Bi-monthly Hybrid Board Meeting were reviewed. Ms. Parker requested a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Weston made a motion to approve the minutes and Dr. Doub seconded the motion. A quorum was present. The motion carried and the minutes were approved with 14 votes in favor.

Deputy County Manager's Comments – Ms. Shontell Robinson

(Complete- detailed handouts on file in the Administrative Binder)

Commissioners May 4th Board Meeting

Ms. Robinson reported that the HHS board's recommendations for Behavioral Health funding and the Opioid settlement funding were approved during the last Commissioners meeting except for The Novant Health Foundation and Eleanor Health Foundation. The biggest issue with Novant Health is that they are part of the hospital system. The majority of the board feels like the hospital is responsible for charitable care and should already be providing these types of services. The Eleanor Health Foundation was more of a pilot type program. The majority of the board wanted to see some successes of it in another area first and then reconsider it possibly during next year's RFP. Ms. Robinson shared that they were very complimentary of the process and really appreciated all of the work from board members, staff and others who played a part.

County Manager's Recommended Budget

In the County Manager's recommended budget, the Senior Social Work Program Manager position for the Family and Children's Services Division was included as well as the intercom paging system. The Focus replacement, which is a case management system, and Medicaid Expansion funds were also included. One Environmental Health Specialist position for Public Health was included as well.

Commissioner Whisenhunt worked hard to get two more DSS positions approved, and as a result, a Senior Social Worker for CPS and a Social Worker for Adoptions are included. Also included is an additional Environmental Health Specialist for restaurant inspections for Public Health.

Funds for Medicaid expansion have been set aside. Some board members feel strongly that the state is going to provide funds for it, but backup funds will be earmarked just in case this is not approved.

Commissioners Expected to Vote and Adopt Budget June 8th

Ms. Robinson reported that the budget is expected to be adopted tomorrow, Thursday, 6/8/23 at 2:00 p.m. She shared that the process has been very productive. She could see democracy at work and it has been a pleasure to be a part of that.

Director of Social Services Comments – Ms. Christine Dowdell

(Complete- detailed handouts on file in the Administrative Binder)

May is Foster Care Awareness Month

The agency had a Foster Parent Appreciation celebration at Tanglewood in Clemmons to show appreciation to the foster care families. Dinner was served and games were played.

Children's Services

There were thirty adoptions finalized this fiscal year which exceeded our baseline goal established by NCDHHS of eleven. Youth who were not able to return home obtained permanence through a foster parent, a relative or an adoptive parent.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Internationally, June 15th is recognized as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. A section in front of the DSS building has been adorned with purple pinwheels. The annual Elder Abuse Awareness walk will be held on June 17, 2023 at Triad Park in Kernersville. The registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and the ceremony starts at 10:30 a.m. All are invited to attend.

Medicaid Expansion

Ms. Dowdell reported that she received information via email from the state regarding the sign-up funds. Both Ms. Dowdell and County Manager, Dudley Watts reviewed and signed the Expansion Allocation For County Acceptance for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Also, Ms. Dowdell received an email from the state that informed everyone that they are waiting for all 100 counties to respond. These funds cannot be utilized until July 1, 2023. Ms. Dowdell shared that her department is ramping up Medicaid awareness to the communities. DSS and Public Health teamed up to present information at a Health Fair which was held by Galilee Missionary Baptist Church.

American Public Human Services Administration (APHSA)

Ms. Dowdell reported that she and two Division Directors attend the training in Baltimore Maryland. It was very informative and they had the opportunity to speak and network with people from the local levels across the country. They also spoke with DSS staff from other states who implemented Medication Expansion. We will reach out to a couple of states to discuss some of the “pros” and “cons”, and this will give her a better idea of what to focus on. There was also conversation about Environmental and Climate Injustice and children with severe mental health issues. It was interesting to learn more about what other agencies across the country are doing regarding mental health needs.

EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) Card Scamming

North Carolina submitted a plan to USDA (United States Drug Administration) to replace the benefits that were illegally obtained by the scammers. At the APHSA conference, the federal government discussed the possibility of states implementing a chip for the EBT card which may decrease 90% of scammers. The challenge to this would be the cost of the EBT card for the state. In a county meeting today with the state, Ms. Dowdell asked the question re: the cost of replacing the card and was told it is still being discussed.

Summer Pandemic EBT (PEBT)

Students who enrolled in the traditional schools and received free or reduced lunch were able to participate in the program.

Child Support

Collected approximately \$18.7 million in benefits. Child Support has done a great job getting the monies to the children and families who need it, they are also exceeded the statewide performance.

Community Outreach Event

This event will be held on the Health & Human Services (HHS) campus on Thursday, June 8, 2023 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Public Health, Bridges To Hope, Behavioral Health, DSS, will be in

attendance. This event will be combined with a school outreach event. The community will be able to learn more about the services offered and Human Resources is working with DSS to offer on the spot interviewing.

Director of Public Health Comments – Mr. Joshua Swift

(Complete- detailed handouts on file in the Administrative Binder)

Mr. Swift introduced Ms. Jamie Christie who will be interning with Environmental Health. She is a senior at UNCW majoring in Environmental Science. Mr. Swift expressed excitement about having her on board and he hopes that she will join the team once she graduates.

NACo Achievement Award (National Association of Counties)

Mr. Stanley Howard received the NACo award for the work done with this Men's Health Program.

Public Health – Community Health Services

Ms. Celisha Daniels became the first North Carolina Credentialed Public Health Nurse. She was recognized by the members of the State Nursing Leadership Team on May 14, 2023. Mr. Swift and his team held a special celebration week for all Forsyth County Public Health Nurses. North Carolina became the first state to allow nurses to become credentialed. It is a self-pay online course that's only offered to nurses and public health departments and DHHS. It is based on the American Nurses' Association's Public Health Nursing Scope and Standards of Practice.

On May 11, 2023, an event was held at Forsyth County Public Health to mark the end of the Federal COVID Pandemic Declaration. Mr. Swift reported that this event summed up all of the great work that has been done by all Forsyth County Departments. To name a few; Novant Health, Atrium Health, Emergency Services, DSS, Emergency Management, Senator Lowe and Mr. Jose Cass. Mr. Swift shared that it was a good opportunity to remember where we have come from and to honor those who have survived as well as the lives that were lost.

Community Health Services

Environmental Health

The state will continue waste water monitoring. Mr. Swift reached out to Ms. Courtney Driver who is with the City's Water Program to thank her for the work that she has done. Lots of municipalities across the state tests water for COVID.

Lead program has completed 32 investigations and 54 home visits. The Plan Review Team has reviewed 65 new plans. The OSWW (On Site Waste Water) has conducted 177 new soil site evaluations (SSEs) and 199 repair evaluations. Due to staffing shortages, the current backlog for new SSEs is eight weeks and septic system repairs are backlogged two weeks.

WIC (Women, Infants and Children)

Mr. Swift reported that they are currently working on a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Novant Health to begin having on-site WIC staff to enroll new infants and mothers. Enrollment will begin late summer to early fall. Currently there are 9,740 participants.

School Health

Public Health hosted a child and adolescent immunization clinic on Saturday, April 29th as a part of Operation Zero Exclusion.

- 25 children were seen
- 66 vaccines were given

Also, School Health has begun providing the meningococcal vaccine to rising 12th graders on site in several high schools and at high school events.

Laboratory

The former Lab Manager, Mr. Blake Pate retired in April. Dr. Palavecino is providing supervision in the lab until the position is filled.

Internal Health Services

Dental

The Preventive Dental Health program is fully staffed. The three Dental Hygienists rotate through the clinic to see patients for cleanings and sealants. The Dental Clinic Administration continues to reach out to community partners who can assist with making the connections with people who need it most.

Emergency Preparedness

Ms. Marie Stephens attended the Public Health Preparedness and Response System Symposium, where NC PHP&R celebrated 20 years, with sessions from local Preparedness Coordinators, State and Federal leaders, and partners.

Epidemiology and & Surveillance

Public Health is preparing for the 2023 EPI (Expanded Programme Immunization) & Surveillance spring/summer data sharing & community Outreach program.

The question was asked, what is done with this information and Mr. Swift responded that the Epidemiologist works with community leaders and work is being done to rebrand this process as preparations are being made for 2025.

Preventive and Health Education Services

Family Community Health Education Outreach

Family and Health Education Services held four outreach events, provided 14 car seat installations and transported 71 Forsyth County Department of Public Health clients, currently over all TBLP (Triad Baby Love Plus) enrollment is 172.

Coalitions and Community Engagement

Ms. Araceli Barcenas received the 2023 Governor's Volunteer Service Award at the Imprints Cares Community Health Fair, Boston-Thurmond/Novant Community Network.

POSSE (Prevent Ongoing Spread of STIs Everywhere)

Total HIV/STI tests performed for April = 838, Total positive – 14, participated in 19 outreach events.

Personal Health and Clinical Services

Clinics

Staff participated in an intensive CureMD training in April and May to learn ways to use the EMR (Electronic Medical Records) more efficiently and improve clinic workflow. Flu clinic will be winding down in June, have vaccinated an estimated 3,710 adults and children this flu season. COVID vaccine clinic continues to operate out of the immunization clinic each day, number of patients vary from day to day.

Family Planning

Remains fully staffed, BCCP (Breast & Cervical Cancer Program) patient numbers met for fiscal year (seeing total of 131 patients). On 5/18/23, the clinic will begin taking a walk-in appointment each day, and added provider appointments each day to help increase numbers and meet community needs.

STI (Sexually Transmitted Infections)

Operating fully staffed with the assistance of one contracted RN. Clinic increased enhance role nurse appointment slots in April and walk-in appointments in May to help increase numbers and meet community need.

Immunizations

Immunizations being given now by a contracted RN, three vacancies remain in this clinical area (2 immunization RN, 1 refugee RN). Child Health enhanced role position has been filled and candidate starts 5/29/23.

Upcoming outreach events in June

- Juneteenth (6/17/23)
- PRIDE Festival (6/24/23)
- Bowman Gray (nurse hiring event)
- HUD Community Day
- Outreach at Willow Peake Apartments
- WSSU Men's Health Event
- National HIV Testing Day (6/27/23)

Mr. Seats asked if there is any update on Cure Violence and Ms. Robinson responded that they are out canvassing in the neighborhoods to work on establishing relationships. Also, when the logo is finalized, the uniforms and outreach materials are expected to be in within a couple of weeks.

Behavioral Health Services Comments – Ms. Denise Price

(Complete- detailed handouts on file in the Administrative Binder)

On May 4, the Board of Commissioners recognized May as Mental Health Awareness month. The Behavioral Health Services Team co-hosted a community communication session regarding suicide at the Central Library in partnership with MHA (Mental Health Association) and Partners Health Management. It was a well-attended and very powerful event. The team is already planning the next event. Some local organizations have already reached out asking to host these conversations at their sites in September.

Ms. Price reported that they are working on fiscal year 2024 agreements for the Opioid Settlement and Behavioral Health funding projects. Forsyth County received approximately in

\$91,514 funding from Partners in Opioid Abatement funding to purchase naloxone for distribution to the community at no cost.

Behavioral Health is also assisting DSS with routine staffing of youth who are pending residential placement.

Community Events

Ms. Price reports that there are a lot of community events this month. Ms. Price and the Behavioral Health team want to be present in the community so community members can get to know the team and the team can get to know the community members. They also are attending events with DSS, Public Health and Family Justice.

The most recent events were as follows:

- WSSU Rooted in Resilience Tour Community Day
- Family Services School Health
- Karenni Community Health Fair
- Hispanic League's ID Drive
- Galilee Missionary Baptist Church Health Fair

Stepping Up Day of Action

This event was held on May 30, 2023 on Carl Russell Avenue. Ms. Price thanked all who attended.

Reentry Simulation and Resource Café

This event will be at Goodwill Northwest North Carolina on June 29, 2023.

Pharmacy

The number of prescriptions for a 10-month period are trending similar to the same 10-month period in the prior year. The number of prescriptions being dispensed is going down. Prescriber practices are contributing to the lower volume as longer acting medications are being utilized. For example, Invega injections are now available in a six-month dosage which really helps with medication compliance for the Severely and Persistently Mentally Ill (SPMI). Ms. Price and team will continue to monitor dispensing volume closely.

Highland Avenue Center

Ms. Price reports that the leases/subleases are complete and tenants are prepared to relocate within the building in order to continue services during construction.

DSS Group Home

Youth will be able to transition to this group home while waiting for a permanent placement. An agreement with an architect has been executed to evaluate compliance with current building code. This work will be completed in approximately 30 days. The in-lieu of service definition has been pending for a while. The work-around is the EPSDT (Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic Treatment) benefit process which gives flexibility with Medicaid definitions to be used in non-traditional ways. Partners Health Management is assisting EPSDT option so the service can begin absent approval of the in-lieu of service definition.

Grants

Ms. Price announced that they have received grants and there is some exciting work happening around them.

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) inspired grant was received. Ms. Price shared that they are working on a recovery to the curriculum that will be available for us to use and for all of our partners in the Community as well.

Behavioral Health also received the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), and we're working on a media campaign and it also helps to fund the local Syringe Service Program (SSP).

In addition, Ms. Price reports that they have been approved to receive FY24 Settlement funding for projects including purchasing a second vending machine.

Behavioral Health has joined a national consortium that shares information about vending machines. There are many different machines available, and the group shares pros/cons from their experiences to help others make informed selections for their communities. Many different types of harm reduction supplies can be easily distributed to the community via vending machines. Mr. Swift added that the Public Health vending machine currently use for COVID tests can also be used for naloxone/Narcan.

Ms. Price shared that the detention center vending machine has a high utilization, with approximately 300 kits being distributed monthly from it.

Ms. Price shared they are assessing where place a second vending machine. In trying to figure out where to put that second one an option was added to select the zip code of the person who uses the machine at the detention center. Establishing which areas of our community are more frequently accessing the machine at the detention center will help to identify possible areas for our next machine.

Mr. Blalock commented that you all are getting requests throughout the country on what has been done in this county and there has been great work done, kudos to you all. Ms. Price shared that San Francisco, California was the most recent to ask for assistance.

Educational Opportunity Library Based Peer Support Specialist -- Jose Perez, Jr.

Mr. Perez has been with Forsyth County for several years and joined Behavioral Health in June 2023 as a Peer Support Specialist. Mr. Perez has been trained and certified through the State of North Carolina. He is located at the Forsyth County Central Library on 660 W 5th Street. He supports people who are struggling with mental illness, psychological trauma and substance abuse disorder. Mr. Perez shared that he uses a plain clear balance approach while showing compassion and support and setting boundaries. He reaches out to those who are homeless and those who are at risk of being homeless. He offers hope through the power of recovery which looks different for each individual. Mr. Perez is able to match the individual with certain resources in the community. He promotes self-determination, personal responsibility and empowerment.

Mr. Perez is the chairperson for the Winston-Salem Homeless Coalition which is a stand- alone community that is recognized by the COC (Continuum of Care).

Dr. Edwards asked what is the average amount of people participating each month and Mr. Perez responded 20 to 30. This average doesn't include people who attend the movie or the homeless caucus. Dr. Edwards asked what is the hardest person to help and what is the easiest person to help, Mr. Perez responded the person who has the substance abuse disorder is harder and the person who wants to self-report is the easiest. Mr. El Amin asked if Peer Support is staffed to have follow up with individuals, Mr. Perez stated that it is encouraged if the individual chooses to.

**FROST Committee Update (Forsyth Regional Opioid & Substance Use Team)
Mr. Blalock, Ms. Rimm & Ms. Weston**

Mr. Blalock reported the Subcommittee group had the first meeting with Ms. Price and Ms. Amy Vasquez. He added that Amy was a great selection for the position and she has a lot of community knowledge and social intelligence which helps start relationships in the community.

Legislative Committee Update -- Dr. Linda Petrou
(Complete- detailed handout on file in the Administrative Binder)

Dr. Petrou announced that Mandy Cohen is likely to be chosen as the head of the CDC (Center for Disease Control). This appointment does not need the Senate confirmation, since this position is appointed by the President of the United States.

HB 885 - Strengthening Care for Families and Children

Dr. Petrou reported that this Bill passed the Senate and now it is with the House Appropriations Committee. It is a one-time payout for Behavioral Health for approximately one billion dollars in non-recurring funds for 2023. It will transform Child Welfare and Family Law.

S 625 – Child Welfare, Safety and Permanency Reforms

Dr. Petrou reported that this Bill passed the Senate and is now in the House Judiciary. It amends the definition of “abused juveniles” to include a juvenile who is a victim of an unlawful sale, surrender, or purchase of a minor or whose parent, custodian, guardian, custodian, or caretaker commits, permits or encourages the commission of a sexually violent act by, with, or upon the juvenile.

HB 681 – Interstate Med. Lic. Compact/Mil. Licensure

Dr. Petrou reported that this bill is in finance. This Bill will establish North Carolina as a member of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. If you are licensed in one state, it is easier to be licensed in another state. It also deals with spouses of service members who may be licensed.

S 321 – Medical Debts

This Bill has passed the senate and is now in the House Rules Committee, most likely to be voted on next week. Large healthcare facilities will be required to provide patients with the financial assistance policy and will prevent them from taking extraordinary collections measures towards patients.

Dr. Petrou also reported that more Bills will be forthcoming. She also reported that the budget has not passed at this time and Medicaid Expansion can't go into effect until it is passed.

The Blue Cross Blue Shield foundation is on the docket. When they come to a certain reserve, they have to lower prices or refund premiums. They want to place the funds into a non-profit.

Regarding the Bill that provides 1 million dollars for mental health, Dr. Edwards was on a call with the Assistant Secretary Juan for children and families. He asked what their priorities were. They are particularly concerned about funds for child behavioral health including funds for school behavioral health. They announced that telepsychiatry program for 4 million dollars; however, the details are unknown. In their budget, they have included a wish list for 44 million dollars for treating children in foster care, they want to focus on treating children in the community which will give more crisis sites for youth. They have a concern about the workforce so there are additional dollars for the expansion of psychiatric training positions in the state as well as to increase the Medicaid rates for inpatient and outpatient providers for mental health services. There is a program at Duke by the name of Psychiatric Access Line which is statewide and they have child psychiatrists to answer pediatric provider's questions by phone five days a week.

ANCBH (Association of North Carolina Boards of Health)

Dr. Jeffers shared each year, ANCBH recognizes individuals and groups for their contributions to and accomplishments in public health. He invited the HHS Board to visit the website (ancbhl.org) and nominate someone they think should receive this award. Dr. Jeffers also provided information on how to join the mailing list.

Adjournment

Ms. Parker asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Petrou made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

SR/tmd **Next Hybrid Meeting: August 2, 2023-5:30 p.m.**