

# 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. Gloria Whisenhunt, Commissioner

### Chair

Ms. Heather Parker

### Vice Chair

Mr. Fleming El-Amin,

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES HYBRID BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 4, 2023

### Board Members Present

Mr. John Blalock, Mr. John Davenport, Mr. Fleming El-Amin, Dr. Brooke Griffith, Dr. Calvert Jeffers, Dr. Charles Massler, Ms. Heather Parker, Dr. Linda Petrou, Ms. Sharon Rimm, Dr. Peter Robie, Mr. J. Phil Seats, Dr. Ricky Sides

### Board Members Present via Hybrid

Dr. Palmer Edwards, Ms. Gloria Whisenhunt

### Board Members Absent

Dr. James Doub, Ms. Sharon Pettiford

### Staff Present

Ms. Shontell Robinson, Mr. Joshua Swift, Ms. Christine Dowdell, Ms. Marissa Adams, Ms. Amber Humble, Ms. Lorrie Christie, Ms. Tanya Donnell, Ms. Christa Smith

### Guests Present

None.

### Call to Order

On Wednesday, October 4 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 August 2, 2023

The minutes from the August 2, 2023 Health and Human Services Bi-monthly Hybrid Board Meeting were reviewed. Ms. Parker requested a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Massler

made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. El Amin seconded the motion. A quorum was present. The motion carried and the minutes were approved with 14 votes in favor.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Health & Human Services Board Vacancies and Vote**

The following citizens of Forsyth County applied for the vacant seats on the Forsyth County Health & Human Services Board:

- The At-Large position: Ms. Carmelita Coleman, Ms. Ellen Kay Endriss, Ms. Candace Dufour, Ms. Sherita Freeman, Mr. Bryant Foriest and Mr. Keven Sharp.
- The Consumer position: Ms. Ellen Kay Endriss and Ms. Heather Parker (*Incumbent*)
- The Registered Nurse position: Ms. Katina Little and Ms. Sharon Pettiford (*Incumbent*)

Each board member who attended in person submitted a written ballot and each board member who attended virtually submitted their verbal response.

HHS Board Members voted as follows:

#### At-Large Position

- Ms. Carmelita Coleman: Mr. John Blalock, Dr. Calvert Jeffers, Dr. Charles Massler, Dr. Linda Petrou, Ms. Sharon Rimm and Ms. Gloria Whisenhunt
- Ms. Candace Dufour: Mr. John Davenport, Ms. Heather Parker, and Mr. J. Phil Seats
- Ms. Sherita Freeman: Dr. Brooke Griffith, and Dr. Peter Robie
- Mr. Kevin Sharp: Dr. Ricky Sides
- Dr. Palmer Edwards abstained

#### Consumer Position

- Mr. John Blalock, Mr. John Davenport, Dr. Palmer Edwards, Mr. Fleming El-Amin, Dr. Brooke Griffith, Dr. Calvert Jeffers, Dr. Charles Massler, Ms. Heather Parker, Dr. Linda Petrou, Ms. Sharon Rimm, Dr. Peter Robie, Mr. J. Phil Seats, Dr. Ricky Sides, Ms. Gloria Whisenhunt

#### Registered Nurse Position

- Mr. John Blalock, Mr. John Davenport, Dr. Palmer Edwards, Mr. Fleming El-Amin, Dr. Brooke Griffith, Dr. Calvert Jeffers, Dr. Charles Massler, Ms. Heather Parker, Dr. Linda Petrou, Ms. Sharon Rimm, Dr. Peter Robie, Mr. J. Phil Seats, Dr. Ricky Sides, Ms. Gloria Whisenhunt

The ballots were tallied by Ms. Tanya Donnell and Ms. Lorrie Christie.

On Wednesday, October 4, 2023 the newly selected HHS Board members were announced as follows: Ms. Carmelita Coleman was selected for the At-Large position with 6 votes. Incumbent,

Ms. Heather Parker, was selected for the Consumer position with 14 votes. Incumbent, Ms. Sharon Pettiford was selected for the Nurse position with 14 votes.

The final approval will be made by the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners.

### **Director of Social Services Comments – Ms. Christine Dowdell**

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

#### **Aging Care Conference**

The conference was held on September 19, 2023, at Galilee Baptist Church. Approximately 209 were in attendance, which included DSS & HHS campus staff and community providers who discussed their services with attendees. The goal is to have a conference each year and grow in attendance and presentations. Ms. Dowdell added that we are very thankful to everyone who assisted us in making the conference a HUGE success. A special thanks to Rick Hall and his Adult Services team for doing such an excellent job in putting the conference together.

#### **Adoptions Month**

November is Adoptions month and on November 20, 2023, the Family & Children's Department will celebrate our adopted youth and their parents. The event will take place at the Second Harvest Food Bank from 6:00-8:00 pm. Please let us know if you would like to attend.

#### **Foster Care/Adoption Recruitment Events:**

We have 229 youth in foster care and continue to be in need of foster and adoptive parents. We met with WXII 12 news to learn more about how they can assist us in recruiting and their work with other counties. We discussed creating ads and foster/adoptive parent interviews for video streaming within Forsyth County. Staff will also participate in the WSSU homecoming event, the rescheduled Fun Fest and other community events.

#### **Medicaid Expansion**

Ms. Dowdell announced that the implementation date from the state is December 1, 2023. We are still in the process of hiring staff and will continue to provide information and outreach sessions throughout the county.

#### **What is Medicaid Expansion?**

Ms. Marissa Adams, FCDSS Director of Medicaid Services shared the following:

- Beginning December 1, 2023, approximately 600,000 North Carolinians will be able to get health care coverage through Medicaid.
- NC Medicaid will cover people aged 19 through 64 years with higher incomes.
- Many North Carolinians who did not qualify for health insurance through NC Medicaid before, may soon qualify.
- Health coverage will be provided at no cost or low cost to those eligible.
- No monthly premiums
- The highest copay is \$4 for some services

#### **Impact to Forsyth County**

Forsyth County has approximately 112,000 residents currently receiving Medicaid.

- Anticipate an additional 45,000 residents will be eligible through Medicaid expansion.

### **What health services will it cover**

Services include but are not limited to: – Primary care services – Inpatient and outpatient services – Maternity and postpartum care for individuals who are pregnant and after giving birth – Vision and hearing services – Prescription drug benefits – Behavioral health – Preventative and wellness services – Devices and other therapies – And more!

### **Who is eligible**

- US citizen living in North Carolina – Some non-citizens can get health coverage through NC Medicaid
- Age 19-64
- Household income fits within the chart below:

Household Size	Annual Income
Single Adults	\$20,120 or less
Family of 2	\$27,214 or less
Family of 3	\$34,307 or less
Family of 4	\$41,400 or less
Family of 5	\$48,493 or less
Family of 6	\$55,586 or less

### **How to Apply**

- Starting December 1, 2023, individuals can apply online through [ePass.nc.gov](https://epass.nc.gov), by mail, by phone or by visiting Social Services located at 741 N. Highland Avenue in Winston-Salem.
- It may take up to 45 days for applications to be processed.
- Individuals already enrolled in Medicaid's limited Family Planning program, who are eligible, will automatically be moved to full Medicaid expansion benefits and will receive communication in the mail from the state directly – Approximately 15,000 individuals in Forsyth County meet these criteria

### **Cost and Staffing Impact**

- Social Services is in process of hiring 11 staff that the Commissioners approved on August 31, 2023
- Utilized \$756,469.95 from NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) to cover 75% of costs associated with hiring and training those 11 staff and associated operational expenses
- Appropriated \$200,000 of County funds to cover 25% of costs
- Due to anticipated workload, Social Services will need to hire an additional 22 staff and purchase equipment
- Anticipate receiving additional funds from NCDHHS to assist with covering costs of hiring additional staff but amount is currently unknown
- If the state does not cover the full cost of expansion, based on last year's cost model, annualized state reimbursement would be approximately \$1 million, and County cost of \$440,000

### **Next Steps**

- Hire and train new staff in preparation for December 1, 2023
- Working on strategies to communicate to residents, such as: – Community outreach events – Town Halls – Marketing/media efforts – Education throughout the Health and Human Services campus

## **Director of Public Health Comments – Mr. Joshua Swift**

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

### **COVID-19 in Wastewater – Winston-Salem**

Mr. Swift reported that 90% less tools were used this time than what was used in the past for measuring COVID. Lab confirmed testing is not available anymore. Most people who are infected with COVID are using the at-home test kits. More test kits are available at the FC Public Health and all FC Public Libraries. Mr. Swift added that the current data lines up with the data from January 2022 during Omicron. There have been less severe cases with less hospitalizations due to 95-99% of the population had COVID, been vaccinated or both.

### **Updated Vaccine**

Mr. Swift reported that the FDA (Food & Drug Administration) and the CDC (Center for Disease Control) approved the Moderna and Pfizer vaccine and recommended it for six months old and up. People should wait a minimum of two to three months after they have become infected. The Pfizer has been received and still waiting on the Moderna. Funds in the amount of \$750,000 were allocated for the purchases. Mr. Swift reflected on the day when approximately 500 individuals were seen at Public Health and approximately 1500 individuals were seen at the WS Fairgrounds. On yesterday, several individuals from TROSA and several children were seen at Public Health.

### **Internal Health Services**

Mr. Swift reported that on November 7, 2023, Public Health and DSS will partner together to hold a Health & Human Services Severe Weather Tabletop Exercise. Participants will review several scenarios and work through how to be prepared.

Mr. Swift added that Food Security surveys have been completed at ten recreation centers and he was able to offer Business 101 classes for internal staff to help improve efficiency.

### **Preventive Health Services**

Christine Wanous who is the supervisor of the Nurse-Family Partnership program received the National Nurse Family Partnership award for Tenacious Caregiver/Supervisor of the Year.

On September 7, 2023 the Walk a Mile to Save Our Babies event was held at Bailey Park to bring awareness to infant mortality in Forsyth County. The event coincided with Infant Mortality Awareness Month. Approximately 200 people attended the event and 32 empty strollers were pushed during the walk which represented an infant who was born alive but died before their first birthday.

The Baby Love Plus community baby shower was held on September 7, 2023 and had over 40 expectant mothers and fathers in attendance.

The Men's Health held the second annual community basketball game in August of 2023.

### **Community Health Services**

Mr. Swift reported that WIC (Women, Infants & Children) is working with Atrium Health to better connect with OBGYN patients. WIC is already working with pediatrics offices to see who may qualify for Medicaid so they can be referred for services.

Mr. Swift announced the new Lab Manager, is Ms. Oana Dobre who brings experience with her from Guilford County. She is working with Dr. Palavecino to update the laboratory processes.

The Zero Exclusion event was held to reduce the number of children being excluded from school because of immunizations. On Saturday, 9/23, 156 students were immunized and on Tuesday, 9/26, 108 students were immunized. The team traveled to 10 different schools where they were able to immunize 163 students. This initiative reduced the number of students by half of the total this time last year.

A Food Safety Forum was well attended with a total of 46 local restaurant owner/operators. To date for fiscal year 2024, the Food and Lodging program has completed 716 inspections.

A new “Wait Time Tracker” has been added to Environmental Health’s webpage to provide customers with up-to-date wait time estimates for field evaluations. Information is updated weekly.

### **Personal Health Services**

Mr. Swift announced that on September 5, 2023 they began piloting the position of a Navigator which is posted in the lobby of Public Health to assist clients as they enter. He also announced the promotion of Ms. Tammy Marshall from PHN II (Public Health Nurse II) to Nursing Supervisor. This was an internal promotion. Mr. Swift and his team will continue to work with state consultants on clinic productivity and efficiency while reviewing various staffing models and scheduling.

COVID/Flu Clinics began October 2, 2023 at no cost to the community and no appointment needed. Hours of operation are M-F, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Forsyth County Public Health.

### **Behavioral Health Services Comments – Ms. Amber Humble (in for Ms. Denise Price)**

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

### **Staffing**

Ms. Humble announced that Ms. Ana Davis will onboard to the Behavioral Health team. Ms. Davis, who is bilingual, will be a Sr. Office Assistant. This addition makes the department fully staffed.

### **Substance Use Health Education**

Inaugural Forsyth County/Winston Salem Transit Authority resource fair was held on September 6<sup>th</sup>. At the Clark Campbell Transportation Center and it was a huge success. This event will be the first Wednesday of each month through the end of this year. The Stigma Index Survey was launched and Forsyth County is one of the first in the State of North Carolina to use it. There were four Naloxone training classes held, two for employees, one for medical students and one for the community. Ms. Humble announced that they are currently exploring a second location for a Naloxone vending machine. Some interest has been shown in the 27105-zip code area.

### **Pharmacy**

The pharmacy manager completed the certification providing credentials to administer long-acting injectables. Also, the pharmacy will be assisting with enrolling eligible customers in a new Patient Assistance Program (Med Assist).

## **Stepping Up**

Ms. Humble announced that she is leading Behavior Health's participation in Carolina Across 100's, Our State, Our Wellbeing is a twelve month statewide competitively selected coalition that will identify and implement strategies to prevent suicide.

## **Activities Acknowledging Recovery Month**

September was Recovery Month and everyone was encouraged to wear purple in acknowledgement.

## **Community showing of Hope Village**

Behavioral Health hosted the showing of Hope Village. It is a documentary of a young girl who watch her family be consumed by alcohol and drugs but she found her way to recovery.

## **Community Conversation on Suicide**

A second community conversation on suicide was held at Carver High School on September 21, 2023, which included the showing of a video featuring a local therapist that lost her young daughter to death by suicide. Ms. Price's team is currently planning the third event for the month of January to be held in the Lewisville-Clemmons area.

## **Upcoming Dates**

World Homeless Day (Oct. 10)  
World Mental Health Day (Oct. 10)  
National Pharmacy Week (Oct. 15-21)  
National Pharmacy Technician Day (Oct. 18)  
Global Peer Supporters Celebration Day (Oct. 19)  
National Health Education Week (Oct. 16-20)  
Bullying Prevention Month (Oct.)  
Substance Misuse Prevention Month (Oct.)  
Youth Substance Use Prevention Month (Oct.)

## **Overdose Calls (based on EMS (Emergency Management Services) calls in Overdose MAPs July/August 2023)**

The overdose calls received were 32 alcohol, 18 crack/cocaine, 61 heroin/fentanyl, 49 prescription/over the counter and 187 other/unknown. In the 27105-zip code there were 64 and in the 27101-zip code there were 55. Overdose by gender, 106 female, 205 male and 2 unknowns.

There were 9 overdose deaths, 1 crack, 5 heroin/fentanyl and 3 others. Death by zip codes is as follows: 27103-2, 27105-3, 27284 1, 27265 1, 27107 1, 27106 1, 27104 1. Deaths by gender, 2 females and 7 males ranging between ages 27 to 56.

## **New Business**

## **Board Action**

### **Accreditation Letter Regarding Local Rules and Ordinances**

Mr. Swift reported that there are 144 benchmarks. This letter explains that Forsyth County Public Health has not adopted or amended any new local rules, ordinances or policies since the last Accreditation site visit which was in 2018. The last rule adopted was by the former Forsyth County Board of Health and was the Rule Authorizing Mosquito Control, adopted on June 9, 2003. Following an October, 4, 2023 review, discussion, and evaluation of this rule, the Forsyth County Health and Human Services Board recommends no amendments.

Ms. Parker asked for a motion to accept the Accreditation letter regarding local rules and ordinances as presented by Mr. Swift. Dr. Petrou made a motion to accept and Mr. El Amin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Community Health Assessment and State of the County Health**

Mr. Swift submitted the 2021 Forsyth County Community Health Assessment Update in Spring 2022 as follows:

- ❖ Figure 1-The Socioecological Model
  - Table 1 – 3-year rolling average life expectancy at birth in Forsyth County and North Carolina, 2014-2016 to 2017-2019
- ❖ Figure 2 – Life Expectancy, Forsyth County NC, 2019
  - Table 2 – The 5-year rolling average race/ethnicity-specific and sex-specific age-adjusted leading causes of death due to chronic diseases and related health conditions in Forsyth County, NC, 2010-2014 to 2015-2019

Table 3 – Infant mortality rate, Forsyth County and North Carolina, 2017 to 2020

Table 4 – Infant Mortality Rate based on race/ethnicity for Forsyth County, North Carolina 2017 to 2020

#### **Identified Health Priorities**

- ❖ Infant mortality/infant mortality disparity ratio
- ❖ Chronic disease
- ❖ Youth violence
- ❖ Behavioral health (drug overdose and mental health)

#### **Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)**

Implementation has begun on the following:

- ❖ Infant mortality/infant mortality disparity ratio
  - Assistant Health Director Sutton
- ❖ Youth Violence (Cure Violence)
  - Assistant Health Director Sherita Sutton
- ❖ Chronic Disease
  - Assistant Health Director Sutton
- ❖ Behavioral Health (drug overdose and mental health)
  - Behavioral Health Director Denice Price

#### **FROST Committee Update -- Mr. John Blalock, Ms. Sharon Rimm**

Mr. Blalock started by thanking Ms. Humble for already mentioning a lot of the great work that Annie Vasquez and Denise Price are advancing including the community naloxone training and consideration of a second naloxone vending machine into the community. Mr. Blalock added that they had a great FROST meeting on Sept 20th that was very well attended with 25-30 people. There was a panel of community members in active recovery who provided impactful insight into their perspectives and how we can better connect those in need with our community resources. It was also exciting to hear updates from our community agencies, many who reported progress on how they are advancing initiatives that are supported by opioid settlement funding. The FROST committee looks forward helping with reviewing applications and making



recommendations for the next mid-cycle settlement funding requests. The next FROST meeting is November 15, 2023.

## **Legislative Committee Update -- Dr. Linda Petrou**

*(Complete- detailed handout on file in the Administrative Binder)*

Legislative report for October 2023

**Child fatalities:** Establishes “The State Office of Child Fatality Prevention” within the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, to serve as the lead agency for child fatality prevention in North Carolina. The state office will oversee the coordination of support functions for the entire North Carolina Child Fatality Prevention System.

**Healthcare exchange:** Sets the stage for the state to build its own Affordable Care Act exchange to sell federally subsidized health insurance policies. The budget says the state Department of Insurance will submit a plan for the exchange, which would replace a federal exchange North Carolinians who qualify for these policies use now to research and purchase them. Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey expressed concerns that the budget doesn’t set aside funding for the change, saying it may cost millions to implement.

**No COVID mandates:** Bans schools, colleges, state agencies and local governments from demanding employees get a COVID-19 vaccination, except for hospitals and other facilities that have to require it to qualify for federal funding.

**School Lunches:** Eliminates student co-payments for reduced-price breakfast and lunches and eliminates any penalties on students, such as withholding student records or not allowing a student to participate in graduation or receive a diploma, for unpaid school meal debt.

**Medicaid Expansion:** Provides federally funded health care coverage to more than 500,000 North Carolinians who work jobs that don’t offer health insurance and who also don’t make enough money to afford insurance on the private market. It ends a fight that lasted more than a decade since the passage of the 2010 Affordable Care Act. Republicans changed their stance on expansion over the past few years. The expansion bill passed in March, but its implementation was tied to the passage of the budget. The federal expansion bonus is about \$1.5 billion split over two years.

## **Shadowing Opportunity- Moments of Reflection**

None at this time.

## **Adjournment**

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

SR/tmd    **Next Hybrid Meeting: December 6, 2023-5:30 p.m.**