

# HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD



## Board Members

Mr. John Blalock  
Ms. Carmelita Coleman  
Mr. John Davenport, Jr., PE  
Dr. James Doub, OD  
Dr. Palmer Edwards, MD  
Dr. Brooke Griffith, Psy.D  
Dr. Calvert Jeffers, DVM  
Dr. Charles Massler, DDS  
Dr. Linda Petrou, PhD.  
Ms. Sharon D. 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, County Commissioner

### Chair

Ms. Heather Parker

### Vice Chair

Mr. Fleming El-Amin

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MINUTES December 6, 2023

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Heather Parker, Chair  
Mr. Fleming El-Amin, Vice Chair (Virtual)  
Mr. John Blalock  
Ms. Carmelita Coleman (Virtual)  
Mr. John Davenport  
Dr. James Doub  
Dr. Palmer Edwards (Virtual)  
Dr. Brooke Griffith  
Dr. Calvert Jeffers  
Dr. Charles Massler  
Dr. Linda Petrou  
Ms. Sharon Pettiford  
Ms. Sharon Rimm (Virtual)  
Dr. Ricky Sides  
Ms. Gloria Whisenhunt

### MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Peter Robie  
Mr. J. Phil Seats

### **Call to Order:**

On Wednesday, December 6, 2023, the Forsyth County Health and Human Services (HHS) Board held its regularly scheduled bi-monthly hybrid meeting. Ms. Heather Parker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

### **Moment of Silence:**

A moment of silence was observed by all.

### STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Shontell Robinson  
Ms. Denise Price  
Ms. Christa Smith  
Mr. Joshua Swift  
Ms. Lorrie Christie  
Ms. Tanya Donnell  
Ms. Nihya Payne  
Ms. Shantele Williams

**Welcome and Introduction of New Board Member:** Ms. Parker welcomed Ms. Carmelita Coleman to the Board, who was unable to attend the meeting in person but joined remotely.

Ms. Carmelita introduced herself and said she was very excited to be a part of the Board and help to work and serve the citizens of our community. Ms. Carmelita stated she already had some previously scheduled travels with work, which is why she was unable to be there in person but looks forward to meeting everyone.

**Consideration of Minutes:**

The minutes of the October 4, 2023, HHS Board was reviewed. Dr. Calvert Jeffers made a motion to approve and Dr. James Doub and Dr. Brooke Griffith seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Public Comment Period:** No comments.

**Deputy County Manager's Comments:** Ms. Robinson explained to Board members that she only had two updates and a large majority of time would be spent talking about accreditation:

- **HHS Strategic Planning Process** – Ms. Robinson reported they have contracted with a third party company from the Institute of Public Health to assist on the operation side to help us with some integration and consolidation mappings. She stated that several years ago, the Board worked on strategic planning and she will certainly bring in Board members. Ms. Robinson explained that this is going to help us prioritize all the work we are doing. Ms. Robinson added that they also selected this contractor because public health has accreditation requirements and getting his perspective will be helpful, to make sure it we come up with a strategic plan then we do not have to have a separate public health plan here. She stated that by having that as a foundation we are going to make sure we meet the accreditation requirement while also incorporating all the other areas that it would solve. Ms. Robinson reported they had kickoff meetings that were very brief and high level and will be continuing the work in January.
- **Social Services Director Recruitment Process** – Ms. Robinson announced that since Ms. Christine Dowdell left, Interim Director, Ms. Christa Smith, has joined us and she has hit the ground running and doing a fabulous job. Ms. Robinson reported that the job has been posted and she has started interviewing but they are still accepting applications because the application pool is not significant and human resources needed to get some more applicants. Ms. Robinson stated they want to make sure they are doing their due diligence. They want to make sure when they select the finalists they have the Commissioners and HHS Board perspective on the hire, as well. Ms. Robinson does not want to rush her decision and wants to make the right one.

**Department of Social Services (DSS) Director's Comments:** Ms. Christa Smith, Interim DSS Director, gave the following updates (see complete/detailed handout on file in the Administrative Binder):

- **Medicaid Expansion:** Ms. Smith reported that Medicaid Expansion started on December 1<sup>st</sup> and they survived. They made a lot of modifications to prepare, stacked up on staff and changed the lobby flow. They are also doing a lot of outreach and awareness – a portal is vast and valid as a way to connect for Medicaid applications coming into the office. Ms. Smith added they got the message out really well. Ms. Smith received the following update – they had approximately 1/3 of the expansion positions filled and now have recommendations in for every position. Ms. Smith added as long as everybody comes on board with us, you will be seeing those positions fill up.
- **Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP):** Ms. Smith shared that the program launched December 1<sup>st</sup>. It is a special population – ages 60 and older and disabled persons who are also receiving a service through the Division of Aging Adult Services. All other households start at the beginning of January.
- **Child Support:** Ms. Smith reported child support is returning to two full days of court (has been 1.5 days since COVID). They are having some challenges getting all of their complaints carried on. They have partnered up with Judge Fine, who really advocated for getting them back to two days. She hopes to see collections start, as well. Ms. Smith thinks this is going to serve child support.
- **Laptop Purchases:** Ms. Smith reported that laptop purchases are coming in 2024 for DSS. They wanted to do this just as COVID was setting in – laptops became very scarce. Ms. Smith stated there is not a lot of flexibility for remote work and their building module model is that they serve everybody on the ground floor – they go down to see people and it is working well. Ms. Smith exclaimed they will work even better once everyone has a laptop.
- **Vacancy Rates:** According to Ms. Smith, vacancy rates in some divisions are returning to pre-COVID numbers – she is super excited Adult Services is at 0% rate, right now.
- **Family and Children's Division:** Ms. Smith reported this is where most of their challenges are, in filling positions – they are hosting a job fair on December 20<sup>th</sup> and they are continuing to interview weekly.
- **Holiday Giving for Foster Care:** Ms. Smith stated that all of their children are allocated. They are usually selected off the Angel Tree by the beginning of October. Ms. Smith provided the link to the Adult Services Angel Tree to Board members in their packets. She explained this is for all of the adult wards of the county (adults they are responsible for). Ms. Smith shared this is their 10<sup>th</sup> year doing this for our wards and they have some repeat sponsors.

Mr. John Blalock asked if there was any insight into the percent expectations Medicaid Expansion would have. Ms. Smith responded they did not have a good set of expectations – it could have gone anywhere from where they were flooded with foot traffic. They are seeing higher than the typical numbers in electronic applications. Ms. Shantele Williams added in terms of the actual numbers coming out, she did not know the answer for that at this time.

**Department of Public Health (PH) Director's Comments:** Mr. Joshua Swift gave the following updates (see complete/detailed handout on file in the Administrative Binder):

- **Accreditation:** Mr. Swift reported we are preparing for the department's accreditation site visit, scheduled for March 13, 2024. We have been preparing for the past six months and this is a whole department effort. There are 144 benchmarks going back over the last five years.
- **Nursing Vacancy Rate:** Currently at 12.6%. Mr. Swift stated the team has worked really hard and the rate was over 40%.
- **Overall Vacancy Rate:** Currently is below 13% (this time, last year we were at 24%). Mr. Swift added that our goal is to be under 10% by the end of the year.
- **Statewide Update:** Mr. Swift reported we are seeing an uptick across the State in RSV. He shared that Board members have asked questions about the future of our COVID dollars. He is thankful that County Commissioners support our flu clinics (bought 5,000 doses) – we used this year's money to purchase COVID vaccine. Mr. Swift added that we can get some vaccine from the State for children's programs, if you qualify and are under 18. He added this is something we have to contemplate in the future; how do we want to handle COVID vaccine and what the Board recommends and how do we want to handle RSV vaccine. We are also seeing an uptick in congenital syphilis (there was a State call to prepare providers on Monday evening).
- **State Association Update:** Focused on advocating for communicable disease funding in the short session in March.

### **Strategic Plan:**

Mr. Swift stated there is another side where we handle all things, accreditation. He and the team have been working with Dr. Steve Orton, who is also helping with the HHS Plan.

They are looking at the following:

1. How do we prioritize initiatives as our environment changes? Whether it is COVID, violence intervention, how initiatives change as our environment changes?
2. How do we grow organizational trust and communication?
3. How do we strengthen our workforce ecosystem to build that pipeline from college and community colleges into our workforce?
4. How do we improve health and reduce health disparities?

Mr. Swift shared the following division updates:

### **Community Health Services:**

- **Lab** – preparing for COLA accreditation. We have had two people with 20+ years to retire and we are working on a succession plan.
- **WIC** – working to get WIC staff at Novant NICU. They are already at Atrium
- **School Health** – nurses focused on completing vision screenings of 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders.
- **Environmental Health** – assisting with statewide lead program which the state has received millions of dollars – we received \$35,000 to work with vendors to replace any equipment (i.e., sinks in cafeterias, water fountains) that could have

older parts with lead, and replace them. We have filled two onsite wastewater positions (with the State, that system can take you a year to complete when you start going through the Central Intern Trainee (CIT) and to be checked out by Regional Health Officials.

#### **Internal Health Services:**

- **Dental Clinic** – did some outreach with TROSA and provided education. Still seeking a full-time dentist and a part-time dental hygienist.
- **Emergency Preparedness** – conducted a tabletop exercise – 82 attendees. Had people there from all across HHS and partners, at Triad Park.
- **Finance/Business Office** – we are doing a Finance 101 training for staff.

#### **Personal Health Services:**

- **Patients** - seeing an uptick in refugee patients.
- **Registration** - fully staffed.
- **Clinic** - have some vacancies in clinic – we have offers out.

#### **Preventive and Health Education Services:**

- **Care Management Home Visiting Program** – current caseload of 1,209. Delivered 195 turkeys to families for Thanksgiving.
- **Coalitions and Community Engagement** – Minority Diabetes Prevention program started two new classes. Conducted baby safety classes and distributed 26 cribs in the last month.
- **Health Promotion and Disease Prevention** – currently have six Health Corner Stores and plan to increase. The Men’s Health program has added a Motivating Males on the Move for young men.
- **Family Community Health Education Outreach** – provided 50 car seats and installations in September and October.
- **Healthy Forsyth** – we are funded for three years – a partnership with both hospitals. We are focused on 27101, 27105, and 27107 and have conducted six community conversations for residents in these zip codes. The primary focus of the grant is on high blood pressure, diabetes, and obesity – how can we better address those issues.

Dr. Palmer Edwards asked Mr. Swift about his comment regarding improving trust, referring to under Strategic Plan, and wondered if it was about internal trust among his team members. He asked are there initiatives to improve the public at large trust – public health came under criticism nationally during the pandemic, it seems reasonable to continue to work in our community to improve the profile and the trust of public health. Any thoughts on that?

Mr. Swift, responded, primarily with developing trust, we talked mainly about internally, how do we have better processes; how do we foster the culture within the agency and support employees, make sure we are prepared – how to have communication and the language and culture across the department. Mr. Swift stated, if you look at some of the

other points under strategic plan, like three or four, we indirectly look at trust and the community and we try to be more strategic about how we interact with the community. We are also focused on our community outreach, with one being our We Care Bus – this is the county bus we are using COVID dollars to refurbish and coming up with a plan where we can go out in the community. Mr. Swift stated he thinks the department has a pretty decent trust because of our community response. He added, we have our naysayers but it was not like what you saw in some part of the country.

Ms. Sharon Pettiford made mention of the October fun fest that was held for the community. She did not realize we gave away cribs. Ms. Pettiford feels the generosity and the giving should be a good tool to build trust.

Ms. Robinson added, we push the staff to be out in the community – all parts of the community – it takes time. She felt that through COVID, although we were criticized a lot at the beginning and probably, rightfully so – we were flying the plane and driving it at the same time, but we also developed so many relationships that we otherwise had not and we have worked hard to maintain those relationships and enhance. Ms. Robinson shared, as you see through my updates, the team is out and about all the time and for Ms. Robinson, that is how we are going to continue to build trust and maintain trust in the community. Ms. Robinson stated, while there is always opportunities for improvement, we are working hard to continue to do that.

Ms. Gloria Whisenhunt commented she thinks that one thing during COVID, everybody was flying by the seat of their pants and the public was scared to death – we really did not know what was going to happen. Ms. Whisenhunt felt public health did a great job – you all did things that were amazing.

Dr. Doub shared that he gets patients, even today, that say very positive comments about experiences at the Coliseum with the process and how well things went and reaching out to some of the strike places like churches, in areas the people are less likely to get vaccines – they seemed very appreciative, even back then.

Dr. Edwards asked Mr. Swift if he thought there was any place or need for a publicity campaign, in addition to the good work he just described.

Mr. Swift responded, we do routinely work with Mr. Ed McNeil, the Communications Director for the County. Ms. Robinson added she thinks our philosophy has really always been we want to do good, be good, and we do not always toot about what we do. We do have a communications department now and their job is to do that, plus share information. Ms. Robinson stated, we are out there doing more than we were, in terms of people seeing – a lot of time when we are at events, people will post things that we were there. Ms. Robinson said it is also a good morale booster for our staff, because we are proud of the work that we do and we are proud they are out there too. We are doing a lot more of that because we have this communications engine. Ms. Robinson added, prior we just did the work because that is what we do and we did not always tell people and then you get criticized because if you do not know where we are going then people think we are not doing anything. For the most part, people should know now we are doing things all the time and staying connected.

**Behavioral Health Director's Comments:** Ms. Denise Price reported the following (see complete/detailed handout on file in the Administrative Binder):

**Substance Use Health Education:**

- Held its 4<sup>th</sup> monthly resource fair in collaboration with Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA)
- Stigma Index Survey will remain open through December 31, 2023 – had wonderful participation but the diversity of participation does not match the community - they are trying to change that, to get more representation. Ms. Price shared a QR code in the Board packets and asked Board members to feel free to share with their networks – the more opinions they have, the better the information will serve them. Ms. Price stated that the two primary purposes are: to serve as a benchmark so they know where they are now, to compare where their stigma index puts them after they implement and try to reduce stigma, and gives them an opportunity to benchmark similar sized municipalities against another.

Dr. Griffith asked what demographics are not representative.

Ms. Price responded primarily Hispanic Latinex.

- Ms. Price reported that a lot of people have registered for the upcoming naloxone training.

**Stepping Up:**

- Ms. Pam Goodine, our peer support specialist provided Trauma Informed Training for all Behavioral Health Services employees, and some Public Health employees.
- We have had a second community conversation on suicide and the third is planned for January at the Clemmons Library. Forsyth Focus is our local coalition that is working to address suicide and to integrate prevention strategies in the community – they are leading and planning, under the leadership of Ms. Amber Humble, to identify new strategies.

**Pharmacy:**

- Our dispensing volume numbers are going up and we are excited about that.
- The pharmacy has dedicated staff to connect individuals to Patient Assistance Program (PAP) programs, where manufacturers provide no-cost medications to qualified individuals. PAP medications dispensed in October were valued at approximately \$250,000 – we are looking for PAP programs that provide medications for opioid and substance use disorders.

Dr. Griffith asked if they anticipate that Medicaid Expansion will impact those numbers.

Ms. Price responded, yes, the Pharmacy is pretty much a safety net Pharmacy. We charge the cost with a very small dispensing fee. Ms. Price does not think it will affect patient assistance that

much, that is usually their indigent population that may not qualify for Medicaid Expansion. Ms Price added it will be interesting to see the impact and will continue to monitor very carefully. Their goal right now is to deliver the very best customer service possible. Ms. Price stated they do accept Medicaid so more of their patients now have Medicaid and that is wonderful and increases their revenues.

Ms. Pettiford asked if patients come here pretty well educated about their medicines that they are on or do you see them and it is just kind of a mess.

Ms. Price responded, it depends – our Pharmacy is over 50 years old and she thinks some people have been coming to them for 50 years. There are some that they have seen for a very long time. Physicians generally do a good job of educating individuals about their medication, but there are questions. The pharmacists provide education to customers.

Ms. Pettiford continued to say the reason why she asked is because they saw a lot of the readmits and for a variety of reasons but mostly for medication compliance or that they ran out. She felt that is a great resource and if you live alone, it might be just you trying to keep up.

Ms. Price responded that approximately 65-70% of medications dispensed at the pharmacy are for the treatment of behavioral health diagnoses. The pharmacy works with PAPs to obtain Invega, a long-acting medication that is available in an injectable that is administered every six months. The long-acting medication is helpful in medication compliance adherence.

Ms. Price shared, they are working with the libraries to plan a series of Saturday events for youth, around wellness.

### **Opioid Settlement Funding:**

- Ms. Price reported that the first round of FY24 settlement funding, effective in July. A second mid-year RFP has closed and recommendations are on tomorrow's Board of County Commissioners agenda for consideration. The proposals have been reviewed by the committee that made the recommendations (included the County Manager's Office, Behavioral Health Services, Partners Health Management or LCMO and Forsyth County Health and Human Services Board representative). Ms. Price thanked Mr. Blalock for joining them during the process. Initial funding authorization has totaled about \$1.3 million and this mid-cycle recommendation was about \$593,000. Ms. Price added that a RFP for FY25 funding will post.

Ms. Price shared a detailed chart with the recommendations moving forward (see complete details on file in the Administrative Binder).

Ms. Whisenhunt asked if this was all of the applications. She wanted to know about the EMS – why was the recommendation for partial, not full, funding.

Ms. Price responded, they asked for a couple of things: four peer support specialists, two new paramedics – they have had two vacant paramedics for a long time and they can not fill those positions. We would like to see the existing paramedic positions get filled and if they do, they



can come back and ask for more. They also asked for four new vehicles. Ms. Price stated, they are recommending one because they just got two new vehicles, and because the peers will work different shifts, they can share a single vehicle.

Ms. Robinson shared they have been having a lot of conversations with the new EMS Director so that he fully understands what the program does and should be doing and the value that the program brings.

Ms. Price asked Board members if there were any more questions before the item is voted on by the Commissioners tomorrow.

Ms. Robinson asked Mr. Blalock if he could give his experience joining the committee and the very professional debates that come along behind the scene.

Mr. Blalock commented, it is a privilege to be part of that group. This is the second time they have done this and the panel of folks that are given consideration are tremendous and a tremendous amount of experience and subject matter experts with experience and very thoughtful discussion. As Ms. Robinson was mentioning, we are very comfortable giving opposing points on all things, which is great, to be able to do that and to disagree or agree and land on the right solution. He thinks it is fantastic that they received twenty plus applications for this and moving forward with the ones they feel are going to be impactful.

Ms. Price added that after the first round of RFPs, they met with each of the applicants that did not receive funding and some of those reapplied and there is a lot of growth in those applications. Ms. Price will continue to repeat that as long as agencies are receptive and want the feedback – she stated, it is a big problem and we need a lot of people with a lot of diverse options to best address needs. If we can help folks to a place of being in compliance with the settlement and Department of Justice, that is what we want.

Ms. Robinson asked for a Board vote, just for the record on the acceptance of the recommendations. Dr. Linda Petrou motioned to accept the recommendations and Dr. Griffith seconded. The recommendations were approved by all Board members present (Mr. Blalock, Ms. Coleman, Mr. John Davenport, Dr. Doub, Dr. Edwards, Mr. Fleming El-Amin, Dr. Griffith, Dr. Jeffers, Dr. Charles Massler, Ms. Parker, Dr. Petrou, Ms. Pettiford, Ms. Sharon Rimm, Dr. Ricky Sides, Ms. Whisenhunt).

#### **Construction Updates:**

- Stumer Place – bid closes the first week of December and a provider was selected.
- Auditorium at Annex – initial architect preliminary concepts presented, space beautification with added functionality.
- Highland Avenue Center – County Commissioners approved the construction contract, contract in process, regular meetings between existing and future tenants to plan for post-uplift operations.

### **Overdose Updates:**

- Presented a chart outlining EMS calls recorded in ODMAP, from October 1 – November 30, 2023, by zip codes. There were 195 overdose calls and 4 deaths (see full details on file in the Administrative Binder).

### **Upcoming Important Dates:**

Ms. Price announced some important dates for Board members to be aware of:

- December – National Impaired Driving Prevention Month
- January – Mental Wellness Month; National Pharmacist Day-January 12<sup>th</sup>; Prevention Day-January 29<sup>th</sup>

### **New Business:**

**Social Services Childcare Waitlist Policy** – Ms. Shantele Williams, Division Director for Economic Services Division, DSS reported that historically, they would come talk to the Board about their childcare waitlist - they did make some changes to it. The waitlist means that they created a policy so when they have to invoke a waitlist for people to serve people in the public to get childcare, they have some stipulations and so the policy has been updated for the next fiscal year. Ms. Williams stated that between 2023 and 2025, they had to make the changes on the waitlist. They have added their prices. Ms. Williams shared that in the past, they have seen grandmothers raising grandchildren or aunts and uncles or people that are disabled and can not work or go to school at that time and they have a need to get childcare - she stated they did add this requirement. They also added a disaster requirement – anybody experiencing fire displacement or a natural disaster, they will be eligible to receive childcare if they have a waitlist.

Ms. Williams stated they do not currently have a waitlist. The only way they would have one is if the State tells them they have to do overspending or no funding available.

Ms. Robinson commented that prior to 2020 they had a large waitlist and asked Ms. Williams to explain the difference in the number of kids.

Ms. Williams explained they have a waitlist if they reach 100% of their funding – right now they are at \$18 million and spending about \$15 million. She commented, they are not there but in the past we reached that 100% and once we reach whatever the State gives us, we have to stop serving. We can have a waitlist again if it gets back to the 100%. We previously had some vacancies in that unit that we were not able to serve, with the number of staffing.

Ms. Parker asked for a motion to approve the Childcare Waitlist Policy. Dr. Sides made a motion to approve and Mr. Blalock seconded. The Policy was approved by all Board members present (Mr. Blalock, Ms. Coleman, Mr. Davenport, Dr. Doub, Dr. Edwards, Mr. El-Amin, Dr. Griffith, Dr. Jeffers, Dr. Massler, Ms. Parker, Dr. Petrou, Ms. Pettiford, Ms. Rimm, Dr. Sides, Ms. Whisenhunt).

**Public Health Accreditation** - Ms. Robinson and Mr. Swift spoke to Board members about items that are required for Public Health Accreditation, found in their packets that need to be approved/voted on (see complete/detailed handout on file in the Administrative Binder):

- **Strategic Plan (Benchmark 15.1)** – Mr. Swift explained this is for benchmark 15.1 (see more explanation of the Plan under the Strategic Plan section above). Mr. Swift stated this is a living/breathing document.
- **HHS Operating Procedures (Benchmark 34.1)** – Ms. Robinson reported that a training section had to be added. This includes all of those who received training initially or throughout – that was for accreditation purposes, and needed to add information about the appeals hearings, which is on page 7 of the document. Ms. Robinson added, the biggest thing that we need to update it is with training, ensure we were aware of the rulemaking, the incorporation of the citation and to sign the document. Ms. Robinson concluded by letting Board members know she was happy to answer any questions or if there are any other changes they think we need to make.
- **Policy on Policies (Benchmark 37.2)** – Mr. Swift explained this really outlines what we do and is a part of accreditation that is required. It goes into the specifics of how we format it and how we number them, have the annual review revision. We have a policy and procedure committee. How we notify all staff, create new policy and store policies. Each policy has a summary of changes where you can go back through the years to see what has changed.
- **Recruitment, Retention and Workforce Development (Benchmark 37.6)** – Mr. Swift stated this is a new policy that we did not have, but needed it for accreditation. It outlines what we are already doing – how we are seeing an uptick in nursing vacancies, how we have targeted outreach in an attempt to attract qualified candidates. For retention, it is how we train our staff and provide feedback to staff. For workforce development, this goes into our annual trainings that are required performance (cultural intelligence, safety, customer service) – goes into specifics for nurses and environmental health specialist staff.
- **Region 3 Update – Partnership (Benchmark 41.2)** – Mr. Swift shared that across the State, there are ten regions – we are in Region 3, which is called Northwest Partnerships (this includes Forsyth, Davidson, Davie, Stokes, Surrey, Wilkes, Yadkin and the Appalachian District, which includes Ashe and Alleghany counties). The partnership is an original collaborative that is ten counties. Eight health departments work together to address public health issues that we have. We meet in-person once a month and then meet virtually.

Mr. Swift stated that through the dissemination of ARPA dollars by the partnership, we have been able to have training for our staff around different matters, whether it is communicable disease, law or environmental health regulations. Mr. Swift noted his appreciation of the Board being supportive of the partnership efforts. Ms. Whisenhunt

commented – you do know this is the first region and Mr. Swift responded, yes.

- **Public Health Director’s Performance Evaluation (Benchmark 37.5)** - Ms. Robinson shared she sent all Board members an email a few weeks ago. Again, for accreditation, we have to solicit feedback on Mr. Swift’s performance evaluation – several of you provided me with that feedback, which we will not discuss out loud today but Ms. Robinson stated she is incorporating it in his performance evaluation and she will be meeting with Mr. Swift in the next couple of weeks. Ms. Robinson wanted to make sure everyone was aware that the email was sent to them and if they have anything else to share, to please send it to her by close of business, Friday and she will be happy to incorporate that feedback.
- **Feedback on Public Health Director’s Job Description (Benchmark 37.4)** – Ms. Robinson sent Board members Mr. Swift’s job description – no one had any updates on that. Ms. Robinson stated it is a standard job description from human resources but if there is any feedback or updates you would like to see on it, just let her know by Friday, as well. Ms. Robinson reminded Board members that the job description is also in their packets and to please take a look and let her know if they had anything they wanted to share in terms of Mr. Swift’s performance, from their perspective to just call or email her.

Ms. Parker asked for a motion to approve the policies, as discussed and the other accreditation items. Dr. Massler moved to approve and Dr. Sides seconded. All accreditation items were approved by all Board members present (Mr. Blalock, Ms. Coleman, Mr. Davenport, Dr. Doub, Dr. Griffith, Dr. Jeffers, Dr. Massler, Ms. Parker, Dr. Petrou, Ms. Pettiford, Ms. Rimm, Dr. Sides, Ms. Whisenhunt).

Mr. Swift thanked Board members for their patience. He explained there are 142 benchmarks and there has been a team of 8-10 people working on this.

Ms. Robinson commented that during COVID we did not really do this but in a normal process we would be working on this throughout the entire time – we were kind of post-COVID, trying to get back on track – the team is working hard. They are getting it done – Ms. Robinson has no doubt we will be accredited – it is a lot on their backs but she appreciates them.

Dr. Petrou commented she wonders about things like this – are they going to just put it on the shelf or is somebody actually going to read it. Mr. Swift responded there is actually a site visit team (a health director, nurse, Board of Health member, and Environmental Health Specialist person). They come on site, it used to be a two and a half day visit, now it is one day with the rest being virtual. Mr. Swift stated they are looking at it and our funding is tied to it

Dr. Jeffers shared that he serves on the Accreditation Board and they meet four times a year. They just had their last meeting about two weeks ago, a four hour meeting. Dr. Jeffers stated everything is reviewed and in-depth.

Dr. Doub mentioned we were one of the first to get accredited and felt it was more

stringent back then. Dr. Petrou agreed.

**Educational Opportunity – Pharmacy:** Ms. Parker announced they were supposed to have a report from the Pharmacy Manager, but she was unable to attend.

**FROST Committee Update:** Mr. Blalock led by mentioning that Ms. Price had already given some exciting updates including the recent Opioid settlement funding recommendations that were provided to the Board of Commissioners as well as community Naloxone training. Mr. Blalock also updated that the last FROST meeting was a couple weeks ago on November 15th. There was a fantastic panel discussion on Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), in which the panelists included providers from both Atrium and Novant, a Behavioral Health specialist and a community member currently receiving MAT. This session was highly informative and all meeting participants learned something. Mr. Blalock went on to say that combating our Opioid and substance use epidemic will require a multipronged approach of prevention, harm reduction and community connection. MAT is going to be a powerful strategy to address community need and Mr. Blalock was glad to see so many recent settlement applications supporting MAT. The next scheduled meeting is January 17th from 11:30am-1:00pm and will be virtual only.

**Legislative Committee Update:** Dr. Petrou had no updates – the legislature is out of session.

**HHS Board Member Shadowing – Moment of Reflection:** No report.

**Adjourn:**

Dr. Sides made a motion to adjourn and Dr. Massler seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

SR/lgc

**Next Meeting: February 7, 2024 - 5:30pm**