

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD



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Ms. Heather Parker

Vice Chair

Mr. Fleming El-Amin

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Mr. John Blalock
Ms. Carmelita Coleman
Mr. John Davenport, Jr., PE
Dr. James Doub, OD
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Dr. Brooke Griffith, Psy.D
Dr. Calvert Jeffers, DVM
Dr. Charles Massler, DDS
Dr. Linda Petrou, PhD.
Dr. Sharon D. Pettiford, DNP, RN, CNRN
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

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

MINUTES

August 7, 2024

MEMBERdS PRESENT

Ms. Heather Parker, Chair
Mr. Fleming El-Amin, Vice Chair
Mr. John Blalock
Ms. Carmelita Coleman
Mr. John Davenport
Dr. James Doub
Dr. Calvert Jeffers
Dr. Charles Massler
Dr. Linda Petrou
Dr. Sharon Pettiford
Ms. Sharon Rimm (virtual)
Dr. Peter Robie
Mr. J. Phil Seats
Dr. Ricky Sides (telephone)

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Denise Price
Ms. Christa Smith
Mr. Joshua Swift
Ms. Lorrie Christie
Ms. Tanya Donnell
Ms. Jonelle Berky
Ms. Kimberly Chase
Ms. Nihya Payne
Ms. Valerie Stewart

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Palmer Edwards
Dr. Brooke Griffith
Ms. Gloria Whisenhunt

GUESTS PRESENT

Mr. Santiago Ochoa, Yakima Herald-Republic

Call to Order:

On Wednesday, August 7, 2024, 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.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair: Dr. Calvert Jeffers announced on behalf of the nominating committee, that they nominated Ms. Parker and Mr. Fleming El-Amin for Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. Dr. Peter Robie seconded the nomination. The nomination was carried, unanimously.

Consideration of Minutes:

The minutes of the June 5, 2024, HHS Board was reviewed. Dr. James Doub made a motion to approve, and Mr. El-Amin seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment Period: No comments.

Deputy County Manager's Comments: Ms. Denise Price reported the following updates (see complete/detailed handout on file in the Administrative Binder):

- **Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Director Recruitment** – Ms. Price announced that the first round of interviews has been completed and will be having a second round of the top candidates. She hopes to announce at the next Board meeting who has been selected for the position.
- **Department of Social Services (DSS) Collaborative Technical Assistance** – Ms. Price reported that Ms. Christa Smith will be talking about this in her updates. We had collaborative technical assistance visit from the State.
- **Manager's Employee and Community Listening Sessions** – Ms. Price reported that Ms. Shontell Robinson, County Manager, has been leading townhalls in the community and at the libraries. There are four more community events scheduled. They have also been having these listening sessions with employees. Ms. Price said that the feedback has been incredible and noted that this will help them to figure out their focus, moving forward. She thanked everyone for their welcomes and messages and appreciates the opportunity.

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

Economic Services – Energy Outreach Plan: This is done on a periodic basis for Forsyth County and DSS to make the community aware if the available energy plans, we have. The plan outlines key community partner stakeholders. The department will partner to assure the success of the delivery of energy funds to the residents. Ms. Smith introduced the new Program Manager for Economic Services, Ms. Kimberly Chase, who will be seeking the Board's consideration/ approval for our Energy Program Outreach Plan.

Ms. Chase gave a basic summarization of the plan, stating that it is a guideline for them to make people aware of the programs that are run. It will be for the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) as well as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). With a lot of different community partners, they have a committee that includes representatives from DSS, as well as Crisis Control Ministry, Goodwill, and Salvation Army. These partners may come across people and can then refer them to the department, or the department will provide information or packets to them. She reported that they will be doing outreach with Mr. Ed McNeal and his staff for social media.

Ms. Parker asked for a motion to approve the Energy Program Outreach Plan. Mr. El-Amin made a motion to approve and numerous other Board Members, seconded. The motion was carried, unanimously.

Medicaid Services – Ms. Smith announced that because of the internal promotion of Ms. Marissa Adams to Deputy Director, they had a vacant division director position in their Medicaid Services Section – they have filled that position now, with Ms. Jonelle Berky, who started about two weeks ago.

Adult Services – Participated in Age-Friendly Forsyth Powered by Connections Conference by Division Director, Mr. Rick Hall, who served as a panelist. The conference was in recognition of older Americans. Panelists provided information about the resources that are available to older adults in Forsyth County.

NC Adult Services moved to DSS – undergoing some updates now to its services, such as redesign of the SharePoint site; to get all of their forms live and in one place, updated list serve addresses and improved CQI processes are all being implemented this year. They are making sure the State is providing good support and resources and helping us continually improve our quality and this is now transferring over to adult services.

Family and Children's Services:

- State Case Review – FCDSS Participated with our State partners in a case audit process. Reviewed twelve cases. Looking at some of the cases from the Child Protective Services to help improve services. They have not gotten full audit details but received the initial summary which has given them opportunity to improve some of their internal processes.
- Child Welfare Information System – State bringing a child welfare information system – the County has been paper based but will pilot the new CWIS around the beginning of 2025.
- CPS Intake and After Hours – For CPS mandated reporting, the number to call is 703-ABUSE (703-2287).
- HOMEBUILDERS Pilot – part of a homebuilder's pilot working with an organization called Crossnore through the Families First Prevention Services Act, implementing an evidence-based practice model in cooperation with one of our community partners, to bring this practice into families that we are serving. This will help to prevent children from coming into foster care and reduce the recidivism rates of abuse and neglect.

Child Support Services:

- FY24 collections = \$22,691,064.84
- Achieved 99.40% paternity
- Cases under court order = 91.70%
- Ongoing Child Support Collection Rate = 64.56%
- Payments to arrears = 66.51%
- Recognized Statewide – Tanikeya Hill (lump payment of \$17,380.77)
- 2024 SPARK – Winston-Salem Forsyth County School community – orientation community partner.

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):

- Continue to monitor H5N1 – There are 13 states, so far, with dairy herds infected – one here in North Carolina. It is important that dairy workers have flu shots – if they have flu and get H5N1, you can have a problem.
- North Carolina continues to monitor malaria and Dengue, from travel to the Caribbean. It is not uncommon to go and bring back the infection. If there is a person that has not travelled, that means there is local transmission.
- COVID vaccine will be available August/September – do not have an estimated time of arrival, yet. Currently have only 30 doses remaining in stock. Will use the remaining COVID funds we have to purchase approximately \$150,000 worth of the vaccine. COVID cases in our wastewater is going up. Across the U.S., it peaks in the winter and comes back down in the summer. In the last ten months, we have given 3,426 doses of the vaccine. COVID test kits are available at the health department anytime and at all 10 libraries.
- Our We Care Bus, which is the County's bus, upgrades are being finalized, in Texas. We used COVID funds to send it to Texas for the company that won the bid, for approximately \$100,000 for work being done on it. It will still be very multifunctional for all the departments in the County.
- Went to the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) conference, along with Ms. Price, Ms. Annie Vasquez and Ms. Sherita Sutton, one of our Assistant Health Directors.

Personal Health Services:

- Vacancies for Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Nurse, Senior Office Assistant and Registration Supervisor.
- Approved from Commissioners for an Advanced Practice provider to work mainly in our TB Clinic with Child Health and Immunizations.
- Currently out of COVID vaccine for children 5-11 years old. Still have the over 12 years old, but very few. Do not have the 6 months.

Community Health Services:

- **Food, Lodging and Institutions** – We do have vacancies – 65% staffed; this time last year when we were fully staff, we got 97% of inspections. This year at 75%, so there is a percentage decrease. The team is working on training interns and fill their vacancies.

- **On-site Wastewater** – Expected to be fully staffed by the end of this month. Two others that started 6 months ago, about to be fully authorized.
- **School Health** – Ms. Brooke Hamby nominated to serve as President Elect on the School Nurses Association of North Carolina. Our Fall Operation Zero Exclusion (OZE) event will be held September 7th and September 14th. School starts next week, and students will have 30 days to get vaccinated. We are out there during summer before school starts to make sure no kid misses school.
- **WIC** – Awarded the Collaborative Lactation Support Award by Recognizing Opportunities for Service and Education Excellence (R.O.S.E.) foundation. Excited about the work WIC is doing. We had a drastic cut of \$300,000 from our funding, decreasing WIC participation – was down 7,800 last Fall but they have brought that up by over 1,000 individuals in the last 6 to 8 months. They are with both hospitals now and we have a regular presence at Head Start.
- **Lab** – Upgrading our cloud-based services for our Laboratory information system – Orchard System – that was under servers but is now cloud-based. The Laboratory will be fully staffed August 17th, with the hiring of a new manager, Ms. Keisha Flournoy.

Internal Health Services:

- **Dental Clinic** – Have seen a 17% increase in the number of clinic visits over the past year. New patient appointments continue to be high. The Preventive Dental team has been providing screenings at recreation centers and Head Start.
- **Emergency Preparedness** – Participated in a tabletop exercise with Davie County with the National Weather Service, a few months ago, along with members of the leadership team and the Assistant Director of Nursing.
- **EPI/Surveillance** – Participated in local assessments at the YMCAs (Fulton and Winston Lake), as well as community centers.

Preventive and Health Education Services:

- **Forsyth County Infant Mortality Reduction Coalition** - Walk-a-Mile to Save Our Babies will be held on September 26th, 9:00am – 12:00pm at Wake Forest Biotech Place.
- **Back-to-School Event** – Public Health working with Mia Magazine, hosted a back-to-school event at Compare Food on July 27th. Collected 2,500 backpacks and served 3,000 people.
- **Men's Health** – Men's Health had their 2nd annual community basketball game on August 3rd at Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center. Eight teams participated with 200+ individuals in the crowd. Our Health and Human Services team won!
- **Forsyth Mamas** – A focus group for mothers focused on personal experience and pregnancy, and childbirth. Trying to get suggestions about what we are offering. Focused on collaboration.

Update on Cure Violence Program – Forsyth Wins:

A program focused on Beat 222 – basically from Liberty Street back over to New Walkertown Road. The team has officially been in place for about a year. Continuing to have monthly events. Cure Violence Global will be coming down to complete the official

certification for the program. Funds have been extended from the Forsyth County government and Winston-Salem City government. Funds go through June 2025 – actively looking for other funding opportunities – applied this summer for a federal grant through HRSA.

Dr. Peter Robie asked if the RSV vaccine would be available at the health department this year. Mr. Swift responded the biggest predicament to that is cost – it is expensive. Ms. Price added, they will find out the revenue and get an answer to Dr. Robie. Dr. Robie continued to speak mortality rates as far as infections in newborns. He added they could vaccinate pregnant women – he believes the recommendation is 3-4 weeks term, but that is the extreme. Dr. Robie felt there may be a decrease in infant mortality rate by dropping largely, infections in newborns.

Dr. Robie asked Mr. Swift about Mpox, with some local outbreaks in the country – do we have any specifics. Mr. Swift responded he did not have specifics. We have had cases here according to the State report. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has been the epicenter, with 96% of the year's cases across the world, in the Congo. The variant we are seeing in the Congo is more severe than the one we are seeing here, so far. Mr. Swift stated that we do still have Jynneos and we are not seeing the uptick in the U.S. but it is very high in those other countries. We have been advised that even if the more severe strains land in the U.S., we do not think it would be as detrimental because of our health care here in the U.S. and some built up immunity. Dr. Robie asked if there is a vaccine for monkeypox and Mr. Swift responded, yes, we have Jynneos. We did a target outreach in the community and did other events two years ago.

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

Tailored Plans – implemented July 1, 2024.

Mobile Integrated Healthcare Transitioned:

- The first community-based induction occurred in the first week.
- Atrium referring individuals that come into the emergency room for post overdose care.

Maintenance of Effort and Settlement Contracts Initiated:

- Offer to meet and provide technical assistance to the providers that applied but did not receive funding.
- Hosted first of quarterly gatherings of FY25 opioid settlement funded providers.
- Settlement annual reporting due September 27th – compiling data.
- Participated or hosted 13 community events in June and July.

Special Awareness Dates:

- National Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day - August 21st.
- International Overdose Awareness Day – August 31st.
- National Recovery Month - September.
- National Suicide Prevention Month - September.

EMS Overdose Data: Ms. Price gave a breakdown for the following EMS overdose data (see complete/detailed data on file in the Administrative Binder):

- EMS responses - ages 11 to 92 years old.
- EMS responses - fatal overdose calls – 11 to 16 years old.
- EMS responses - overdose calls involving individuals 50 -92 years old.
- Most prevalent suspected primary substances – all ages
- Fatal overdose responses.
- Zip codes with highest volume of calls.

Narcan Kits – over 1,500 distributed over the past 3 months.

Vacancies – Ms. Price reported 10 vacancies.

Recognition – Received an Opioid Litigation Principles Award.

Youth Violence Discussion – Dr. Peter Robie wanted to have discussion around youth violence and it being a public health issue. After discussion, the consensus of the Board was that there were lots of dimensions to this problem with violence occurring especially with youth. Ms. Price shared that there were already several initiatives ongoing through HHS to address this and that she would provide updates at a future Board meeting. The group also agreed that other partners in the community were working on efforts, such as the Sheriff. Dr. Robie proposed to the Board that Sheriff Bobby Kimbrough, who is very involved with juvenile violence, come do a presentation for the Board so they can show their support. After further discussion, it was decided that Sheriff Kimbrough would be asked to update the Board on his efforts, either in-person or through his representative.

Educational Opportunity – Jail Health (see complete/detailed handout on file in the Administrative Binder): Ms. Valerie Stewart gave a very informative and detailed presentation on Jail Health. She defined jail (correctional) health as medical and nursing care provided to persons who are incarcerated or behind bars. Ms. Stewart spoke about the patient population, the difference between jails and prisons, teamwork between law enforcement and the medical field. She touched on the standards and accreditation process and jail health monitoring.

New Business:

Remote Participation Policy: Ms. Parker explained to Board members that they needed to decide how they wished to move forward with the Board meetings, whether in-person or to continue in the current format and remain hybrid. A motion was made by Mr. John Blalock that meetings remain hybrid. Mr. Phil Seats seconded the motion. The motion was carried, unanimously.

Revised Fee Schedule: Mr. Swift presented the new revised clinic fee schedule in Dr. Ouk's absence. The following 3 disclaimers were added:

- “Communicable Disease Visits – All drugs purchased under the 340B Program will be charged to Medicaid at acquisition cost.”

- “Family Planning Birth Control Products – All drugs purchased under the 340B Program will be charged to Medicaid at acquisition cost.”
- “Immunizations VFC - Vaccines provided according to VFC Program guidelines; modifier EP will be used.”

Ms. Parker asked for a motion to approve the updated fee schedule, as presented. Dr. Linda Petrou made a motion to approve. Dr. Robie seconded. The motion was carried, unanimously.

FROST Committee Update: Mr. Blalock reported that several FROST related topics had already been discussed, however, there were a couple of additional items. First, Mr. Blalock mentioned at the last HHS Board meeting that the Forsyth County school board had recently adopted a policy to make Naloxone available in schools within the county during this coming school year, and that the Behavioral Health team would be providing training for how to identify overdoses and administer the medication. Mr. Blalock was happy to report that Ms. Annie Vasquez completed this training the previous week and 180 Naloxone kits were distributed out among the county schools. Mr. Blalock also updated that the last FROST meeting was held on July 17th, in which the highlight was a presentation from WFUSM on youth substance use prevention efforts in Forsyth County. Lastly, Mr. Blalock announced that the next FROST meeting is scheduled to be September 18th.

Legislative Committee Update: Dr. Petrou had no updates other than to say that the legislature has been out. They will be coming in this week to try to override several of Cooper's vetoes and then they will likely be out again until after the election.

HHS Board Member Shadowing – Moment of Reflection: Dr. Sharon Pettiford shared information she got from an article when she was at the North Carolina Nurses Association, regarding the nursing shortage and what is being done about it. The root of the issue is a lack of nursing educators for several years and for several reasons. Dr. Pettiford stated that according to the article, the UNC system awards \$29 million in grants to expand nursing education – the article was from July 16th – and stated that the North Carolina University system has awarded this money to around 12 public universities. It finds everything from new faculty positions and state of the art equipment, allowing nursing schools to expand class sizes and create more effective, high-quality training. Dr. Pettiford continued to read, according to the article that new funding will offer support initiatives for undergrads who want to enroll in nursing programs but need help to make course work in addition to requirements. The system is to increase its output for nursing degrees about 50% over the next ten years. All the state supported schools found, in addition to North Carolina, will get this money. Link to article: <https://www.northcarolina.edu/news/unc-system-awards-29-million-in-grants-to-expand-nursing-education/>

Adjourn:

Ms. Parker asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Petrou so moved and Mr. El-Amin seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

DP/lgc

Next Meeting: October 2, 2024 - 5:30pm