

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, 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

Chair

Ms. Heather Parker

Vice Chair

Mr. Fleming El-Amin

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

MINUTES

April 3, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Heather Parker, Chair
Mr. Fleming El-Amin, Vice Chair (Virtual)
Mr. John Davenport
Dr. James Doub
Dr. Palmer Edwards (Virtual)
Dr. Brook Griffith
Dr. Calvert Jeffers
Dr. Linda Petrou
Ms. Sharon Pettiford
Ms. Sharon Rimm
Dr. Peter Robie (Telephone)
Mr. J. Phil Seats
Dr. Ricky Sides

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Shontell Robinson
Ms. Denise Price
Ms. Christa Smith
Mr. Joshua Swift
Ms. Lorrie Christie
Ms. Tanya Donnell
Ms. Marissa Adams
Ms. Roselind Espinosa
Ms. Nihya Payne
Mr. Adam Pendlebury

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. John Blalock
Ms. Carmelita Coleman
Dr. Charles Massler
Ms. Gloria Whisenhunt

GUESTS PRESENT

Mr. Lafayette Jones
Ms. Sandra Jones

Call to Order:

On Wednesday, April 3, 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.

Consideration of Minutes:

The minutes of the February 7, 2024, HHS Board was reviewed. Dr. Linda Petrou made a motion to approve, and multiple other members seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment Period: No comments.

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

- **HHS Director Transition** – Ms. Robinson announced that she had been appointed by the County Commissioners to be the new County Manager, starting July 1st and the position to replace herself was posted yesterday. The position is posted through April 30th. Ms. Robinson explained that the responsibility of this Board is that they have to give advice and consent to the County Manager to hire that person. Ms. Robinson stated she will engage with Ms. Parker, Chair and Mr. Fleming El-Amin, Vice Chair throughout the process. Ms. Robinson stated that the June meeting will probably go into closed session and her goal will be to discuss the finalist and see if we all agree on the recommendation. She has cleared her calendar for the second week of May to do interviews. Ms. Robinson felt that someone internal would probably be able to start July 1st but someone external would be cutting it close. Ms. Robinson said she will be supervising whoever the replacement is and will still be very engaged. She will ensure that the work of this Board and the vision continues.

- **HHS Strategic Planning** – Ms. Robinson reported that the strategic plan is still going to continue. They have a follow-up meeting with the consultant next Friday and hopefully by the June meeting will be able to provide a draft to see what that looks like from the staff’s perspective and Ms. Parker and Mr. El-Amin has been engaging in that process, as well. Ms. Robinson stated the goal is to try not to separate strategic plans for each department but just one vision and goals that crosses all the Health and Human Services so that we can best serve the needs of our community.

Department of Social Services (DSS) Director’s Comments: Before starting her updates, Ms. Christa Smith, announced and introduced Ms. Marissa Adams as the new DSS Deputy Director (see complete/detailed handout on file in the Administrative Binder):

Child Abuse Prevention Month: April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and the department will have the following events to highlight Child Abuse Prevention.

- Blue Monday – Staff will be wearing blue to support child abuse prevention.
- There will be a reading of the names of youth who have died at the hands of child abuse over the past year, on April 9th at 12:30pm, at the Plaza, in front of the Forsyth County Courthouse.

- A resolution will be presented at the Board of County Commissioners recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month on April 18th.

Adult Services:

- **Division of Aging and Adult Services Reorganization** – recently underwent a reorganization. The section has moved to the Division of Social Services with Ms. Karey Perez, serving as its new Deputy Director, as of March 1, 2024.
- **Placement Services Manual Revision** – This service assists aging/disabled adults and families to find substitute homes or residential facilities when their needs change. The Placement Manual was recently revised by the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS).

Family and Children’s Services:

- **Social Work Month** – March was Social Work Month – had a celebration on March 14th at Central Library.
- **Bus Wraps** – Three of the Winston-Salem Transit Authority buses featuring half wraps to promote recruitment for foster and adoptive parents.

Medicaid and Economic Services:

- **New Paths** – New Paths is the National Eligibility Workers: Professional Associated Human Through Human Services – Forsyth County has had a chapter since 2021, with 45 members. The department is planning to revitalize the group.
- **Community Outreach** – Have been working on their outreach activities. Established a cohabitation presence with partner, Bridges to Hope (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays). They have attended the Hanes Brand Employee Fair, ForsythWins/Rolling Hills Community Day and events at Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools (Mineral Springs) and Winston-Salem Transit Authority.
- **Sun Bucks – Food and Nutrition Services** – The USDA will be launching this program to provide grocery-buying benefits to qualifying families with school-aged children during the summer months when schools are out. Benefits are issued to debit-like cards (EBT cards) that families can use to purchase nutritious food. Families will receive \$120 per eligible child for the summer period.
- **Tailored Plan – Medicaid Services** – North Carolina will launch the Behavioral Health and Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Tailored Plan on July 1, 2024. This plan is for individuals with behavioral health needs and intellectual/developmental disabilities. It will also serve other special populations and will be responsible for managing the state’s non-Medicaid behavioral health, developmental disabilities, and Traumatic Brain Injury services for uninsured and underinsured North Carolinians.

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 announced that early indications are that we passed and will receive the official notification on May 17th. He thanked Mr. John Blalock, Mr. El-Amin and Mr. Phil Seats for their interviews with the Accreditation Team. Plans are being implemented for the 2028 Accreditation.

Healthy Opportunities: Mr. Swift shared that healthy opportunities will be rolling out statewide in the fall. Currently, there are three pilots in 33 counties. Mr. Swift reported that 80% of health is determined by social and environmental factors (food, housing, transportation). A map was shared, showing counties awarded healthy opportunities network leads.

COVID Update: Mr. Swift reported that COVID is still present.

WeCare Bus Upgrades: The bus is being upgraded and will be accessible to all county departments.

Personal Health Services:

- Will start billing private health insurance by July 1, 2024.
- The clinics have only two vacancies.
- County Management Information Services moved Electronic Medical Records from servers to cloud based.

Preventive and Health Education Services:

- The department has joined forces with Guilford County Public Health to address infant mortality.
- Starting in March, the department's Regional Minority Diabetes Prevention Program (MDPP) is launching a new class in Surry County.

Community Health Services:

- **School Health** – Will be responsible for 10 more schools as funding ends for Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSR).
- **WIC** – Due to participation rates decreasing across the state, WIC funds have been cut by \$300,000 from the state.
- **Environmental Health** – Received a \$12,500 grant to train Food and Lodging staff.

Dr. Palmer Edwards asked Mr. Swift how many people that \$300,000 represents that will not be served. Mr. Swift responded at least 1,500 persons.

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

Construction Updates:

- Highland Avenue Center – construction started.
- Stumer Place – the notice to proceed will be issued this week.
- Auditorium at Annex – design phase is complete.

EMS Overdose Calls Data and Trends (February 1 – March 28, 2024):

- Received 288 calls (135 in February and 153 in March).
- There were 6 deaths (5 in February and 1 so far in March – ages 36-72; 5 males/1 female)
- Suspected substances in youth underage 13yrs (Barbicide, Zoloft, synthetic marijuana)
- Primary suspected substances: other (100); alcohol (84); prescription medications (34); Heroin (19); Fentanyl (16); Crack (9); Methamphetamine (9); over the counter

- medications (6); Cocaine (5); synthetic marijuana (4).
- Ages of overdoses suspected to primarily involve synthetic marijuana (ages 11-49).
- In calls involving teens the primary suspected substances were alcohol, prescriptions and unknown.

Tools and Campaigns:

- There were two formal unveiling events for the story map *Unseen Patterns: The Overdose Story in Forsyth County, North Carolina*.
- Substance use related messages have been shared through social media, television, and other outlets that have resulted in multiple media inquiries.

New Business:

Public Health Budget – Mr. Adam Pendlebury went over the recommended budget recommendations for Public Health, highlighting the differences in dollar amounts between the FY24 Budget and the FY25 Requests for Personal Services, Operating Expenses, and Capital Expenses (Total for FY24 = \$33,266,417 / Total for FY25 Requests = \$29,119,342 with a difference of \$4,147,075). See complete/detailed handout on file in the Administrative Binder.

For Revenues, he reported FY24 Budget = \$14,052,286 / FY25 Requests = \$9,841,744, with a difference of \$4,210,542

Net County (Total for FY24 = \$19,214,131 / Total for FY25 Requests = \$19,277,598 with a difference of \$63,467

FY25 Requests with ASLs = \$20,736,788 with a difference of \$1,459,190

Mr. Pendlebury reported that the budget drivers for Public Health were COVID-19 Agreement Addenda Funding Rolloff (\$3.8 million in COVID19 funds will roll off Public Health Budget for FY25 - \$1,008,887 will stay for infrastructure improvement) and WIC Funding (the Agreement Addendum for WIC has been reduced by \$269,000).

Public Health ASLs (\$1,459,190) include:

- 1 Full-time Physician Assistant/Nurse Practitioner
- 6 Part-time Registered Nurses
- 1 Full-time Licensed Practical Nurse
- 1 Full-time Certified Medical Assistant
- 11 Full-time School Nurse Positions
- 1 Full-time Laboratory Assistant
- Environmental Health Career Ladder

Mr. J. Phil Seats recommended accepting the Public Health budget to go to the County Commissioners and Dr. Calvert Jeffers seconded (the remaining Board members who attended in-person or virtually – Ms. Parker, Mr. El-Amin, Mr. John Davenport, Dr. James Doub, Dr. Edwards, Dr. Brooke Griffith, Ms. Sharon Pettiford, Dr. Petrou, Ms. Sharon Rimm, and Dr. Ricky Sides, all agreed).

Social Services Budget – Ms. Smith spoke about the recommended budget for Social Services. See complete/detailed handout on file in the Administrative Binder.

The budget priorities include:

- FNS Program Staffing.
- Support Staffing Needs
- Child Welfare Recruitment and Retention

FY25 Budget Requests consist of:

- 2 Paid Interns (Part-time without benefits)
- 1 FNS Supervisor
- 2 FNS Lead Workers
- 6 FNS Application Workers
- 4 FNS Recertification Workers
- 2 Program Integrity Workers (Medicaid)
- 1 Hearing Officer (Medicaid)
- 1 Social Worker (Adult – Special Assistant In-Home)
- 1 Senior Social Worker (Adult Guardianship)
- 1 Fiscal Analyst (Business Office)
- 1 Office Administrator (Operations)

Ms. Smith highlighted the differences in dollar amounts between the FY24 Budget and the FY25 Requests for Salaries/Benefits/Other Compensation, and Operating Expenses. (Total for FY24 = \$55,694,714 / Total for FY25 Requests = \$55,372,734 with a difference of .58%).

FY25 Requests with ASLs = \$56,906,352 with a difference of 2.1%

For Revenues, she reported FY24 Budget = \$28,034,205 / FY25 Requests = \$31,655,196, with a difference of 11.4% / ASL Requests = 32,472,915 with a difference of 13.6%

Net County (Total for FY24 = \$27,660,509 / Total for FY25 Requests = \$23,717,538 with a difference of 16.6% / ASL Requests = \$24,433,437 with a difference of 13.2%

Dr. Petrou recommended accepting the Social Services budget to go to the County Commissioners and Mr. Seats seconded (the remaining Board members who attended in-person or virtually – Ms. Parker, Mr. El-Amin, Mr. Davenport, Dr. Doub, Dr. Edwards, Dr. Griffith, Dr. Jeffers, Ms. Pettiford, Ms. Rimm, and Dr. Sides, all agreed).

Behavioral Health Services Budget – Ms. Price went over the proposed FY25 budget requests for Behavioral Health. See complete/detailed handout on file in the Administrative Binder.

The main areas included:

- County ARPA – to upfit the Highland Avenue Center and renovate the auditorium (\$2.362 million)
- State ARPA – to support crisis services (\$12,500,000)

- Maintenance of Effort (MOE) – to support Behavioral Health Services/other internal departments and community providers (\$4,026,677) – current MOE fund balance (\$977,000)
- Opioid Settlement – over an 18-year life cycle (\$35 million) / available for FY25 projects (\$4,669,767)
- Grants – carry forward grant funds Winston Salem Foundation - (Stepping Up), National Association of County and City Health Officials, funds carry forward / Appalachian Regional Commission – ending November 2024

FY25 Budget requests consists of:

- Stepping Up (funded by MOE) - \$689,544
- Pharmacy (funded by MOE) - \$400,000 / remaining, minus revenue receipts is funded with county dollars
- Administration including - 1 substance use health educator II, peer support specialist, behavioral health services director, 1 senior office assistant; (substance use educator and senior office assistant are funded with MOE and Opioid Settlement funding)
- Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund (all revenues and funded services directed from this account)
- ASL – Opioid Settlement funding (1 health educator I / Prevention Specialist

Maintenance of Effort - Received 37 applications. 12 are recommended totaling \$1,510,970. Additionally, \$3,342,784 is recommended in continuation services/projects and pilots. In total, \$4,853,754 is requested in MOE funding from the annual allocation and MOE fund balance.

Opioid Settlement – must be authorized by the County Commissioners annually. Funds do not have to be spent in the year received and unused funds can be used for funding in future years. 38 applications were received with 27 recommended for funding totaling \$3,323,965.

Dr. Griffith recommended accepting the Behavioral Health Services budget to go to the County Commissioners and Dr. Petrou seconded (the remaining Board members who attended in-person or virtually – Ms. Parker, Mr. El-Amin, Mr. Davenport, Dr. Doub, Dr. Edwards, Dr. Jeffers, Ms. Pettiford, Ms. Rimm, Mr. Seats and Dr. Sides, all agreed).

FROST Committee Update: Mr. Blalock reported they had their last FROST meeting on March 25th. The highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Dr. Sian Lewis, Assistant Medical Director of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for the County. Dr. Lewis talked about a new and exciting collaboration between the hospitals, Atrium and Novant and would consist of our County Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) team and community MAT providers. This would serve our patients who are arriving in our community and related to overdoses and our Emergency Medical teams would initiate Buprenorphine with them. Our County MIH team would then engage in bridge support for these patients until they are established with a community provider.

Mr. Blalock stated that he is excited about this and feels this initiative will be impactful. We will plan to get the video from the last FROST meeting out to Board members. Mr. Blalock mentioned that the next FROST meeting will be on May 15th.

Legislative Committee Update: Dr. Petrou had no updates other than to report that the legislature will be back in session, in April and will be looking at the budget.

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

Adjourn:

Ms. Parker asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Doub so moved and Dr. Jeffers seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.

SR/lgc

Next Meeting: June 5, 2024 - 5:30pm