

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Chair

Ms. Heather Parker

Vice Chair

Mr. Fleming El-Amin, County Commissioner



Board Members

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

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 5, 2022

Board Members Present

Mr. John Blalock, Mr. John Davenport, Dr. Charles Massler, Ms. Heather Parker, Ms. Sharon Pettiford, Dr. Linda Petrou, Mr. J. Phil Seats, Ms. Gloria Whisenhunt

Board Members Present via Hybrid

Ms. Pamela Corbett, Dr. Palmer Edwards, Mr. Fleming El-Amin, Dr. Calvert Jeffers, Ms. Sharon Rimm, Dr. Peter Robie, Dr. Ricky Sides

Board Members Absent

Dr. James Doub, Ms. Claudette Weston

Staff Present

Ms. Shontell Robinson, Mr. Joshua Swift, Ms. Christine Dowdell, Ms. Denise Price, Ms. Lorrie Christie, Ms. Tanya Donnell, Ms. Sherita Cain, Ms. Marissa Adams

Guests Present

Mr. Ed McNeal

Call to Order

On Wednesday, October 5, 2022, 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 5:30 p.m.

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed by all.

Consideration of Board Minutes for August 3, 2022

The minutes from the August 3, 2022 Health and Human Services Bi-monthly Virtual Board Meeting were reviewed. Ms. Parker requested a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Whisenhunt made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Seats seconded the motion. A quorum was present. The motion carried and the minutes were approved with 15 votes in favor.

HHS Board Chair Comments

Ms. Parker stated that she had the pleasure of taking a tour of DSS with Ms. Robinson and Ms. Dowdell in August, and it was especially informative as she came from the Board of Health side during the consolidation. Ms. Parker shared her vision of the HHS Board as one for oversight and advice as directed by the County Commissioners to focus additional attention on health and human services.

She explained that the Board packet included some shadowing opportunities which will give Board members an opportunity to learn more about various departments of interest. The intent is for the shadowing opportunities not to take the staff away from their work responsibilities, and Board members are expected to support that objective. Also, staff will work to provide an educational highlight at each Board meeting to allow for a deeper understanding of specific focus areas. The first of those will be today with a highlight on the Foster Care system later in the meeting.

Deputy County Manager's Comments – Ms. Shontell Robinson

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

Medicaid Tailored Plan Update

Ms. Robinson reported the tailored plan portion of management care has been delayed until April 2023 in order to allow enhanced selection of providers. Partners LME/MCO (Local Management Entities/Managed Care Organization) which serves Forsyth County and surrounding areas is working to ensure that our beneficiaries have the greatest selection of medical providers possible.

Introduce Communications Director Ed McNeal

Ms. Robinson reported that after a County services survey was conducted among Forsyth County residents, the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners created a new centralized Communications department. Mr. McNeal has been hired to serve as the County's Communication Director. Mr. McNeal brings more than 25 years of experience in communications to Forsyth County.

Board Educational and Engagement Opportunities

Ms. Robinson reported that shadowing opportunities will be made available with Forsyth County Behavioral Health Services, Public Health, and Social Services for the Health and Human Services board members. Board members will be able to see daily operations in some areas. *See handout for specific dates and contact information.*

Director of Social Services Comments – Ms. Christine Dowdell

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

Introduction of the new Medicaid Division Director

Ms. Dowdell introduced Ms. Marissa Adams as the Medicaid Division Director at Forsyth County DSS. Ms. Adams brings several years of experience in health and human services including her most recent position as an Operations Support Team Program Manager with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Dowdell expressed that she's glad to have Ms. Adams onboard.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

DSS will partner with Ms. DeWanna Hamlin and her staff from Bridges to Hope Family Justice Center on October 19, 2022; this event is designed to bring awareness to domestic violence. Rev. Dr. Linda McRae joined Ms. Hamlin to speak about how domestic violence impacts the community. FC DSS and Public Health staff joined in the recognition.

November is National Adoptions Month

Sherita Cain and her Adoptions Team accepted a resolution during the County Commissioners meeting on November 10, 2022. The Family & Children's Division staff will have a celebration to recognize the adoptive families. During the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 the agency baseline was 19 adoptions and the baseline was surpassed with 36 adoptions. For the current Fiscal Year 2022-2023 the agency baseline is 11 adoptions and 13 have been completed to this date.

Director of Public Health Comments – Mr. Joshua Swift

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

Forsyth County COVID Update 9/29/22

Mr. Swift reported on COVID. In the last 14 days, cases decreased by 14%. There were 27 Forsyth County residents hospitalized due to COVID. He also shared a graph to identify the trend of reported COVID cases from 2/6/22 through 9/24/22. *(see handout)*

New Boosters

The new boosters from Moderna and Pfizer are available for anyone who is fully vaccinated. The last shot must have been at least 2 months prior. Appointments are required due to limited supply. You may call 336-703-3100 to schedule an appointment.

Monkeypox (9-29-22)

Mr. Swift reported the following:

25,509 cases in US.

566 cases in NC.

23 cases in Forsyth.

The vaccine is available Monday-Friday at Public Health. You may call 336-703-3100 to schedule an appointment. To date, 1,068 doses of jynneos have been administered.

Free Flu Vaccine at 799 Highland Avenue

Flu vaccine will be available beginning Monday October 3rd, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday from 9am-5pm, Thursday from 9am-8pm and Friday from 9am-1pm.

Awards and Accolades

- Shannon Maloney - \$500 Tim Hilton Environmental Health Specialist Scholarship
- Healthy Beginnings-\$8,000 Dr. Ann Wolfe Award (North Carolina Public Health Award)
- Bonita Murphy – Public Health All-Star Recipient (NCPHA)
- Maura Trimble – Public Health All-Star Award Nominee
- Beverly Barber – Received the GSK Public Health Staff award \$4,000 Scholarship in her name (NCPHA)
- Recognition -Josh Jordan and Lasonya Tuttle – Section Presidents
- Alexis Lambert – Emerging Leaders Graduate
- WS/FCS - Recognized Dr. Reina Rodriguez/Alexis Lambert

Preventive and Health Education Services

New Programs

Cure Violence - Community-Based Organization has been selected pending the Commissioners approval.

Hispanic Liaison Program - Reina Rodriguez serves as community liaison.

Healthy Forsyth (Duke Endowment 5-years)

This is a partnership between both hospital systems. They focus on healthy opportunities in the zip code areas of 27101, 27105 and 27107. In rural counties, it is sometimes the entire counties.

AmeriCorps Host Site

AmeriCorps has a partnership with Wake Forest University. Public Health was selected as one of the host sites for three Juniors and Seniors to get a total of 900 credit hours each.

Annual Walk a Mile

Approximately 200 people from more than 28 organizations attended the Annual Walk a Mile to Save Our Babies Event, which was hosted by the Forsyth County Infant Mortality Reduction Coalition. Several of the FC Commissioners participated, and HHS Board Member Heather Parker participated.

Back to School Clinics were held on Saturday September 10th and 24th. A total of 167 students were vaccinated. The event scheduled for Saturday, October 1st moved due to Hurricane Ian.

Internal Health Services

Vital Records - Completely transitioned to electronic processing of Forsyth County birth and death registration. North Carolina was one of the last states to transition to providing birth and death certificates electronically.

Epidemiology and & Surveillance

Public Health conducted approximately 450 in-person food security surveys in the community over the past 6 weeks.

Quality Improvement/Quality Assurance Registration

Interpreters are using tablets to track patient encounters which streamlines the data for the dashboard.

Personal Health & Clinical Services

The Nurse Family Partnership celebrated their 10-year anniversary on Wednesday.

Clinics continue to have multiple vacancies. Interviews are being conducted to help fill the clinic director, clinic supervisor, providers and nursing positions.

Public flu clinic begins Monday 10/3/22 at the Health Department. Please visit Forsyth.cc for additional information.

Community Health Services

WIC (Women, Infants and Children)

Services are being offered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. of each week at Atrium Hospital. Post-partum women and eight children were added to the

program. Also, three electric breast pumps were added for babies in the NICU (Newborn Intensive Care Unit). Also, a baby booth will be available at the Carolina Classic Fair to offer a place for mothers to care for their babies if necessary.

LAB

The lab has expanded on site diagnostic testing support. The addition broadens the already wide array of High Complexity Molecular Polymerase Chain Reaction testing even more to allow for greater capacity to further identify and manage many sexual transmitted infections with an extremely quick turnaround time. The lab also continues to offer COVID-19 testing on a small scale which includes testing at the detention center.

Community Health Services

Environmental Health

Mr. Swift reported that Food License Inspection (FLI) staff conducted inspections this week at the Carolina Classic Fair. They also performed check ins during the week. FLI were able to recruit 2 fully qualified Environmental Health Inspectors from other counties. Governor Cooper has declared the week of September 26- October 2 a Registered Environmental Health Specialist week in North Carolina. Mr. Josh Jordan has enrolled Forsyth County's FLI program in the FDA (Food and Drug Administration). As a result, more grant funds from the FDA will be received.

Regarding recruitment, Mr. Swift reported that they have reached out to temporary agencies as well as both hospital systems.

Dr. Petrou shared that she has started working with a 10-hour tutoring program that assists green card holders with becoming United States Citizens. Mr. Swift recommended Reina Rodriguez to assist Dr. Petrou.

Behavioral Health Services Comments – Ms. Denise Price

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

Highland Avenue Center

The center is undergoing renovations to the first floor and adding space to the 2nd floor. Staff will be temporarily relocated to ensure the necessary services continue. I.L. Long Construction has been selected to design and build the first and second floor uplifts.

Dr. Edwards asked why Partners chose RHA and why did they not choose Daymark. Ms. Price responded that because federal funds are funding services, a formal structured bid process was required. There were multiple providers and the committee chose RHA. Ms. Robinson added that the hospitals, Partners' staff and Ms. Price participated in the selection process.

Dr. Edwards asked if the county has primary oversight of the product for the next year. Ms. Price responded that Partners will oversee the service provision and active conversations are being held with Partners and both hospital systems.

Opioid Settlement

Two stakeholder meetings have taken place. During those meetings, the root causes that need to be addressed were identified. A shared vision has been created and there is a list of possible strategies. There is also an online and a paper survey that will be available until 10/22/22. There were approximately 410 responses which shows some trends. There will be an input session for

municipal leadership scheduled for October 19th, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. at the Forsyth County Central Library.

Mr. Blalock asked what the approach is towards how the Opioid settlement funding is used. Ms. Price responded that it is the Board of County Commissioners' decision and they will make non-binding recommendations. Ms. Robinson added that once the recommendation is approved, providers will be selected through a request for proposal process which may include applications from internal programs, such as FROST and Mobile Integrated Health.

DSS (Department of Social Services) Group Living Facility

The facility has not been approved yet; however, the plans have been reviewed. The initial vendor who responded to Partners' ROI (Registration of Interest) withdrew. Since then, Partners issued another ROI which 3 providers have responded to. Once the service definition is approved, Partners will issue a Request for Proposal.

Behavioral Health Agreements

Fiscal year 2024 planning will begin in late October or early November. There will be an HHS Board subcommittee to assist with planning.

Stepping Up

Ms. Pam Goodine and Mr. Al Thomas who are Peer Support Specialists will begin going to the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office apartment located in the Piedmont Circle community in Winston-Salem. They are hoping to engage the community and build some trust with the possibility of coordinating some WRAP sessions. Ms. Price also reported that the mental health court referrals have significantly increased.

Events

Ms. Price reported that the Behavioral Health Services team participated in the Never Walk Alone event which was held on September 17th and the Fun Fest on September 24th. The team will also be at the City's Hydroponics Ribbon Cutting on October 15th at the Kimberly Park greenhouse.

Service and Support Highlights

During the months of July and August, the pharmacy dispensed samples and patient assistance program medications valued at \$476,500. This was a great accomplishment since the pharmacy is relatively small. The year to year comparison:

July 21 \$191,225 to July 22 \$234,435

August 2021 to August 2022 \$238,166 to August 2022 \$242,152

Harm Reduction

The Twin City Harm Reduction Collective (TCHRC) is the only Syringe Service Program (SSP) authorized by DHHS (North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services) to operate in Forsyth County.

From March 1, 2022 – August 31, 2022

Unique individuals serviced 1,135

Participant contacts 2,8798

Syringes dispensed 329,860

Syringes returned to the program 130,201

Naloxone kits distributed (1 kit equals 2 doses) 3,019

Overdose reversals reported to TCHRC 544

Referrals for naloxone made to other places 0
Fentanyl test strips distributed 1,000

The Twin City Harm Reduction Collective is on the Health & Human Services campus on Wednesdays from 1:00-3:00 p.m. The main site is located at 639 S. Green Street in Winston-Salem-Mondays & Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. Mobile services are on Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Dr. Massler asked what is happening with the naloxone dispensing machine. Ms. Price replied that it has been utilized to the point they have to refill it routinely.

Dr. Edwards shared that he read an article in the Canadian Press that reported that Canada has had similar problems with drug overdoses particularly during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Canadian Federal Government has authorized British Columbia to conduct an experiment dispensing small amounts of fentanyl, methamphetamine and cocaine to users to see if it will disrupt the inordinate number of deaths they are experiencing in the more rural provinces. Dr. Edwards pointed out that internationally other countries are having the same issue and continue to look for creative solutions.

Dr. Massler asked how the replacement for Partners is going, and Ms. Robinson responded that things are going much better; however, there are still opportunities for improvement. Partners staff are more responsive and are working more hand in hand with DSS which feels more like a partnership. Ms. Dowdell added that there is a Care Coordinator from Partners located at DSS to assist adults and children.

New Business

Board Action

Health and Human Services Board Recommendations

Ms. Parker announced that four HHS Board positions will be filled. The first position is for a Psychologist. No applications were submitted for this position. It will be reposted.

Ms. Parker announced that the current HHS Board Psychologist, Ms. Pamela Corbett will be resigning. Ms. Parker thanked Ms. Corbett for her dedication and time served on the HHS Board and wished her well. Ms. Corbett responded that it has been an honor to serve on this board. While she struggled with this decision, she felt that someone else may be able to make a greater contribution. Ms. Corbett wished everyone the very best.

Ms. Parker announced that applications were received for the other positions of social worker and consumer.

Ms. Parker asked for a motion to accept her acclimation for the Psychiatrist nomination of Dr. Palmer Edwards. Dr. Petrou made a motion and Mr. El-Amin seconded it. A vote was taken by roll call. Mr. John Blalock, Ms. Pamela Corbett, Mr. John Davenport, Dr. Palmer Edwards, Mr. Fleming El-Amin, Dr. Calvert Jeffers, Dr. Charles Massler, Ms. Heather Parker, Dr. Linda Petrou, Ms. Sharon Pettiford, Ms. Sharon Rimm, Mr. J. Phil Seats and Ms. Gloria Whisenhunt all voted yes. A quorum was present. The motion carried and Dr. Edwards has been approved for another term with 13 votes in favor.

There were two applications submitted for the social worker position, Ms. Sharon Rimm and Ms. Alexia Mitchell. Mr. John Blalock, Ms. Pamela Corbett, Mr. John Davenport, Dr. Palmer Edwards, Dr. Calvert Jeffers, Dr. Charles Massler, Ms. Heather Parker, Dr. Linda Petrou, Ms. Sharon Pettiford, Ms. Sharon Rimm, Mr. J. Phil Seats and Ms. Gloria Whisenhunt all voted for Ms. Rimm. Mr. Fleming El-Amin voted for Ms. Mitchell. Ms. Rimm was approved for another term with 12 votes in favor and 1 opposed.

There were two applications submitted for the consumer position, Ms. Ellen Kay Endriss and Dr. Linda Petrou. Mr. John Blalock, Ms. Pamela Corbett, Mr. John Davenport, Mr. Fleming El-Amin, Dr. Calvert Jeffers, Ms. Heather Parker, Dr. Linda Petrou, Ms. Sharon Pettiford, Ms. Sharon Rimm, Mr. J. Phil Seats and Ms. Gloria Whisenhunt all voted for Ms. Petrou. Dr. Palmer Edwards and Dr. Charles Massler voted for Ms. Endriss. Dr. Petrou was approved for another term with 11 votes in favor and 2 opposed.

Ms. Parker announced that these applications will be sent to the Forsyth County Commissioners for confirmation based on the HHS board's recommendation.

Educational Opportunity (Foster Care System) -- Ms. Christine Dowdell

Ms. Dowdell presented to the board, Petition to Permanence: The Foster Care System.

In order for a child to be taken into DSS custody, there has to be an active child protective services case or a judge may order it even if there is no case. Referrals may come in from the community; however, the majority come from various professionals. Social workers may have to be available at any given time (24/7/365). The after-hours unit are available to initiate cases after regular business hours. There is a 2-stepscreening process which is completed by the social worker and the social work supervisor. Once the report is accepted for investigation, they have to determine if it is a forensic investigation or family assessment, which they have 30 to 45 days to complete. If it is determined that the child will not be safe in the home, the option is to put a temporary safety assessment in order. The child will be temporarily moved to a home that the parents agree to. If there are concerns with a temporary placement, the child will be brought into the custody of DSS. The permanent plan is always reunification with the family. Due to the COVID pandemic, several cases have been continued and DSS is desperately in need of foster and adoptive parents. If someone is interested in becoming a foster parent, they will have to complete MAPP (Model Approach Partnership to Parenting) or Deciding Together class. If the parental parents are still around after a period of time, they can request their parental rights be reinstated.

<https://www.ncleg.net/enactedlegislation/statutes/html/bysection/chapter7b/g7b-101.html>

General statute laws have to be followed. In North Carolina, a fetus is not a child until it is born which is when DSS gets involved.

Ms. Pettiford asked if social workers are safe when they go out to the home. Ms. Dowdell responded that a lot of the time the social worker goes into the home alone but if they feel there are safety issues, they can request a law enforcement escort.

Committee Updates

FROST(Forsyth Regional Opioid & Substance Use Team)

Mr. Blalock reported that he, Ms. Rimm and Ms. Weston continue to meet monthly with Ms. Price and Ms. Clark. They continue to work on advancing the recommendations that were mentioned in the previous HHS Board meeting. The next FROST meeting is on 10/19/22 at 12:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at Public Health and there will also be a hybrid option. Dr. Massler asked what the shelf life is for Naloxone. Ms. Price responded the shelf life is 3 years.

Legislative Update -- Dr. Linda Petrou

Dr. Petrou reported that no meetings are being held right now. Most elected officials are out campaigning.

Announcements

Ms. Whisenhunt announced Operation Green Light for Veterans. The Forsyth County Commissioners passed a resolution to participate. County buildings will be lit in green lights beginning on 11/9 through 11/13 to recognize veterans.

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

SR/tmd

Next Hybrid Meeting: December 7, 2022-5:30 p.m.