

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Chair

Ms. Heather Parker

Vice Chair

Mr. Fleming El-Amin



Board Members

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

FORSYTH COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 1, 2023

Board Members Present

Dr. Palmer Edwards, Mr. Fleming El-Amin, Dr. Brooke Griffith, Dr. Charles Massler, Ms. Heather Parker, Ms. Sharon Pettiford, Dr. Linda Petrou, Ms. Sharon Rimm, Dr. Peter Robie, Dr. Ricky Sides, Ms. Gloria Whisenhunt

Board Members Virtually:

None

Board Members Absent

Mr. John Blalock, Mr. John Davenport, Dr. James Doub, Dr. Calvert Jeffers, Mr. J. Phil Seats, Ms. Claudette Weston

Staff Present,

Ms. Shontell Robinson, Ms. Denise Price, Ms. Christine Dowdell, Mr. Joshua Swift, Ms. Lorrie Christie, Ms. Tanya Donnell, Ms. Nicole Priddy, Ms. Brook Hamby, Ms. Sherita Sutton, Ms. Marissa Adams, Ms. Mia Stockton

Guests Present

None.

Call to Order

On Wednesday, February 1, 2023, the Forsyth County Health and Human Services Board held its regularly scheduled bi-monthly hybrid meeting. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Ms. Heather Parker at 5:30 p.m.

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed by all.

New Member Oath of Office

The oath of office was administered to Dr. Brooke Griffith by Board Chair, Ms. Heather Parker followed by a round of applause. Dr. Griffith introduced herself. She shared that she is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist. Dr. Griffith has over twenty years of experience in the Behavioral Health field. Currently, she works for Novant Health in the Behavioral Health area and she has been there for approximately two years.

Consideration of Board Minutes for December 7, 2022

The minutes from the December 7, 2023 Health and Human Services Bi-monthly Hybrid Board Meeting were reviewed. Discussion by Mr. El Amin, in the last paragraph, the word should be interfaith instead of interface. Ms. Parker asked for a motion to approve the amended minutes. Mr. El Amin made a motion to approve the amended minutes. Dr. Edwards seconded the motion. A quorum was present. The motion carried and the minutes were approved with 11 votes in favor.

Deputy County Manager's Comments – Ms. Shontell Robinson *(Complete- detailed handouts on file in the Administrative Binder)*

Health & Human Services Campus Improvements

DSS Building Renovation

The first-floor lobby will be undergoing renovations in an effort to make it more welcoming to the community. One of the walls will be removed in order to create more lobby space and one of the filing areas on the first floor will be renovated into offices.

Public Health Building Renovation

The primary renovation is the clinic area. If funds are available, the lobby will be renovated as well to match the aesthetics of DSS. We are also reviewing other areas of the building.

Auditorium Renovation

The auditorium in Annex 1 has been closed for renovations. It will hold approximately 100 people and it has a stage. The work on the roof is already under way. After renovations, it will be open to the departments and the community.

Highland Avenue Center Construction

The renovation has begun on the second floor. Now it is in the design phase. Daymark's outpatient unit will move up-stairs. Down-stairs will become the Crisis Center which was the original purpose for this space. Ms. Denise Price and her team will move upstairs. The Pharmacy will move from Annex 1 to the Highland Avenue building which is where it was originally supposed to be. Seventy-five percent of the prescriptions are for behavioral health services. The FROST (Forsyth Regional Opioid & Substance Use Team) Program, Partners, Atrium and Novant Health's Primary Care Centers will be housed there as well.

Park Construction

A park will be constructed next door to Annex 2, which is the old Monarch building. There is one acre of land. An RFP (Request for Proposal) has been started. The plan is to have a small

amphitheater and the county's first inclusive playground for those with and without disabilities. A small sporting court and picnic tables will be added.

Grounds Beautification

The goal is to make Highland Avenue look attractive and welcoming. Forsyth County's General Services team will assist.

Annex 2 (Future Renovation Project)

Renovations on Annex 2 will begin once funding has been identified. Monarch vacated their space on 9/30/22. A decision will be made to determine what the building needs are for the county or/and community. Ms. Robinson and her team walked the property so they would have a better idea of what would be needed for the renovations.

Smoke and Tobacco Free Campus

Due to the Medicaid Tailored Plan, the entire Forsyth County Health & Human Services campus will be required to become a smoke and tobacco free campus. It will be effective April 1, 2023. This requirement has not been communicated to the employees; however, ample notice will be provided. Information will be sent to employees within the next two weeks. There are several employees who utilize the smoking area. We will be providing information regarding free tobacco cessation programs for individuals who may be interested.

Director of Social Services Comments – Ms. Christine Dowdell

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

March is National Social Worker Month

This year's theme is Social Work Breaks Barriers. During the month of March, social workers will be celebrated throughout the agency.

Budget Season

Preparations have begun for the fiscal year 23-24 budget. All departments are assessing the needs of clients and programs. DHHS reported that there may be a delay in providing the budget estimates which outlines the specifics for each program. For example: Food & Nutrition Services, LINKS program, Foster Care, Adoptions etc. If any items need to be added to the budget, an addendum will be made. The budget will also include Medicaid Expansion. In addition to the regular budget, there will be a contingency budget to identify cost that is associated with Medicaid Expansion.

Job Fair

DSS Family & Children's Division collaborated with FC Human Resources to set up a hiring event which resulted in making 15 contingency offers. This event will continue once a month until the positions are filled. Human Resources staff are also planning to recruit at some of the colleges.

Adult Services Symposium

The event will be held in September 2023. The goal is to provide information to the aging population; caregivers, respite providers and any partners in the community. This will be an annual event.

Family Unification Program (FUP)

The Family Unification Program is a program under which Housing Choice Vouchers (HVC) are provided to two populations.

- Families for whom the lack of adequate housing is a primary factor.
- For a period not to exceed 36 months, otherwise eligible youths who have attained at least 18 years and not more than 24 years of age and who have left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in section 475 (5)(H) of the Social Security Act, and is homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless at age 16 or older.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP):

All ERAP funds have been exhausted, the final payments are being made to the providers. There will be a celebration for the staff who worked on this project over the past two to three years. DSS was able to provide over 44 million dollars to clients in the community. Housing stability was provided for 6,897 Forsyth County families. The average funding amount for participants was \$6,448.29.

Food & Nutrition Services:

The Public Health Emergency (COVID) will end in February 2023. There are no appeal rights to continue receiving the allotments because the federal government terminated the program across the US. Effective March 1, 2023, all households will receive regular approval allotments.

Director of Public Health Comments – Mr. Joshua Swift

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

COVID Update as of January 25, 2023

- Last 14 days – Lab confirmed cases decreased 35%
- Last 14 days – Deaths increased 7% (6 deaths over a two-week period)
- COVID Hospitalizations – 30 Forsyth County residents
- Lab Confirmed COVID Cases, March 6, 2022 through January 21, 2023 fluctuated.
- Projected COVID cases in NC – from January until April 2023, this time last year there were 8,000 lab confirmed cases per week.
- CDC Community Level – floating between high and medium and medical facilities continue to require masks. Still accepting walk-ins for COVID-19 vaccines (Monday-Wednesday 9- 4:30pm; Thursdays 9-7:30pm; Fridays 9-12:30pm).
- COVID future – the Federal Emergency Declaration has been extended through May 2023.
- Vendor supported testing will end March 30 as well as local support from the State’s temporary employee pool.
- At-home test kits are being distributed at ten FC Library Locations, FC Public Health and the FC Government Center. A kiosk has been requested to distribute the COVID test at no charge. In March or April 2023, the vaccine will be commercialized.
- Eventually the COVID vaccine will be given just like the Flu vaccine. Currently, there is a wait for Moderna and Pfizer to confirm the cost of the vaccine. Every Fall, health officials will make an educated guess on the variant. High risk individuals will mostly need two vaccines per year. Mr. Swift reported that Assistant Public Health Directors, Ms. Marie Stephens and Ms. Kamilah Pleasants are working with the insurance

companies to obtain the necessary credentials. They will continue to strategize and determine what the next steps will be.

Mr. Swift shared that four Forsyth County Assistant Public Health Directors and staff of Winston-Salem Forsyth County Emergency Management were guests at the Wake Forest Police Department where they received an award for partnering together throughout the pandemic.

Internal Health Services

Dental Clinic

The Preventive Dental Health program has completed screenings for most schools this year and the school hygienists are continuing follow-up calls. It is currently located on Cleveland Avenue. Mr. Swift is hopeful to move the clinic to Highland Avenue in the near future.

Emergency Preparedness – Health and Human Services Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Ms. Emily Austin attended a weeklong training at FEMA's National Emergency Training Center in Maryland on Exercise Foundations, Program Management and Design and Development. Ms. Austin is also serving as a local Public Health representative to North Carolina Department of Public Health Preparedness and Response (PHP&R) team for planning the state's annual symposium in May.

EPI (Epidemiology) & Surveillance – Created a 2014-2021 Forsyth County unsafe sleep database for the Forsyth County Unsafe Sleep Prevention Ad Campaign. They began reviewing the data collection and analysis to write the 2021 Forsyth County SOTCH (State of the County Health Report, an accreditation document) that is due March 6, 2023. Mr. Ed McNeal, the Forsyth County Communications Director, will assist Public Health in continuing to inform the community on unsafe sleeping habits for infants.

Community Health Services

Mr. Swift and his team are collaborating with Atrium and WSFCS in providing a School Based Virtual Clinic service to students and staff in six WSFC elementary schools (Smith-Farm, Hall--Woodard, Konnoak, Griffith, Union Cross, and Forest Park). Forsyth County Public Health nurses will continue testing for COVID in the school system.

Environmental Health

There are three vacancies in this program. The team conducted 124 Soil Site Evaluations and 111 repair evaluations for Fiscal Year 2023. The backlog for new soil site evaluations has increased to six weeks and backlog for septic system repairs has increased to three weeks, both due to staffing shortages and weather. The standard completion timeframe is two weeks.

Personal Health Services

Family Planning

Ms. Sherita Sutton and her team are applying for an Infant Mortality grant which is funded through the State of North Carolina. Forsyth County Public Health was one of the 15 Health Departments across the state to be invited to apply.

STD Clinic

Mr. Swift reported that they continue to recruit and hire nurses. Two nurses have been contracted from Medix for temporary employment. The goal is to transition them into County employees.

Immunizations

COVID, Monkey Pox and Flu vaccine clinics continue to operate.

Preventive Health Services

The POSSE (Prevent Ongoing Spread of Sexually Transmitted Infections Everywhere) unit have 2 additional sites pending. They have been working in the community with TROSA (Triangle Residential Options for Substance Abusers) and the Bethesda Homeless Shelter and they are expanding testing at ARCA (Addiction Recovery Care Association Inc.)

Maternal Child Health

Case managers participated in Christmas for the City and SmartStart Community Baby Shower. They incorporated participant meet-ups into the Christmas for the City event. Holiday gift bags were distributed to participants.

Men Talk Too

This group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Forsyth County Central Library. Community events are being planned in the community. The first one is a basketball game between the pastors versus the lay members. In the group, they will focus on men's mental and sexual health.

Outreach

Mr. Swift shared that staff and volunteers have been working with the Rescue Mission for several years. Ms. Monica Mize is working to help coordinate a small amount of emergency non-perishable food items with Crisis Control Ministries to store at Public Health.

Dr. Robie asked Mr. Swift if there is enough staff to certify swimming pools before June. Mr. Swift responded that the requests come in at the last minute but he is hopeful. He reported that they inspect pools at the subdivisions, the YMCAs, hotels and splash pads.

Director of Behavioral Health Comments – Ms. Denise Price

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

Behavioral Health

January is Mental Wellness Month

Mental Health Month serves as a reminder of the importance of attending to our mental wellness. According to a survey created by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the results of the survey show that:

- One in five U.S. adults experience mental illness each year
- 50% of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and 75% by age 24
- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among people aged 10-14

The US Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released the results of its annual National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). Highlights of key findings include:

- 16% of the US population (approximately 46 million individuals) meet the criteria for having a substance use disorder
- 94% of people with a SUD (Substance Abuse Disorder) reported not receiving treatment for their condition in 2021
- Approximately 1 in 4 adults reported living with a mental illness, a number that jumps to 33% for those age 18-25

Stepping Up

Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP) expanded to a broader population at the detention center beginning January 6th. Ms. Price was pleased to report that every week they have had a full house in attendance.

Pharmacy

Ms. Price reported that they are continuing to track utilization of expanded hours on Thursday evenings and that these hours match the hours of the public health clinic. The utilization is increasing. They have also established relationships with the Pharmacy Benefit Managers associated with LME/MCO (Local Management Entities/Managed Care Organizations) Tailored Plans which will be launched on April 1, 2023.

FROST (Forsyth Regional Opioid & Substance Use Team)

Ms. Price announced that Amanda Clark's last day with Forsyth County Behavioral Health was January 6th. Ms. Price also announced that interviews were conducted for the vacant position and a recommendation has been made. Ms. Price held a Quarterly FROST meeting on January 18, 2023.

Peer Support

Jose Perez, Peer Support Specialist, is maintaining "office hours" at rotating library branches which will allow individuals more opportunity to participate.

Upcoming Events

On February 9th, Behavioral Health participated in an ID Drive at Middle Fork, 3p-7p. Individuals who were not able to receive a regular ID were able to receive an ID document.

On February 18, 2023, Public Health held a Newcomers Event at Sin Frontera's Church, 11a-2p. At this event, a lot of community resources were shared with individuals.

Tidbits from the 1/18/23 Quarterly FROST Meeting

Four presenters shared their perspective on the State of Forsyth County: Atrium Wake Forest Baptist Health (Dr. Rachel Graves), Novant Health (Sara Mayer), Twin City Harm Reduction Collective (Rachel Thornley), and Mobile Integrated Health (Chris Sanders). They each had a different perspective on substance abuse in our area.

The following 2021 and 2022 data is from ODMAP (Over Dose) and contains only information that is entered by first responders which is not a full representation of overdoses in our community. There have been overdoses throughout the community in all zip code areas.

Ms. Rachel Thornley with Twin City Harm Reduction Collective (TCHRC), presented information regarding the very small volume of Forsyth County drug supply tested through the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill (street safe supply). Forsyth County does not have a drug checking machine; however, UNC does have one. Individuals can be given kits to use by

adding a minute amount of residue. It is sent to UNC by the individual where it can be tested to show what is actually in the drug.

The findings are as follows:

Heroin – Fentanyl, Fentanyl Analogs, Xylazine

Fentanyl – Fentanyl, Fentanyl Analogs, Xylazine, Methamphetamine

Cocaine – Cocaine

Methamphetamine – Methamphetamine

Ms. Thornley also shared the overdose reversals that are reported to their location. This graph represents self-reported overdose reversals that participants shared with TCHRC (Twin City Harm Reduction Collective). Many of these likely do not involve a response from law enforcement.

Twin City Harm Reduction Collective 2022 Results:

Syringes dispensed: 661,572

Syringes returned: 274,751

Naloxone kits dispensed: 4,850

Overdose reversals: 1,029

Unique individuals seen: 1,779

New participants: 218

Mr. El Amin asked if there is a follow up for those who have received treatment. Ms. Price responded that she will check with the program administrators and report

Highland Avenue Center

Ms. Price shared that they are working to have the tenants play musical chairs and offices in an effort to keep all services in that building. They anticipate the first-floor construction to include a facility-based crisis center (FBCC). In addition to the FBCC, the finished first floor will contain the BHUC (Behavioral Health Urgent Care), primary care clinic, Forsyth County pharmacy, and Partners Health Management (LME/MCO). The goal is to have this completed by the end of December 31, 2023. The second floor upfit will be in the first quarter of the calendar year 2024.

Also exploring some options for medication assisted treatment to be added by the existing partners on a limited basis. RHA will be the provider of the 16-bed adult Facility Based Crisis Center (FBCC). The Behavioral Health Care that is open 24/7 is operated by Daymark. RHA and Daymark are working together to decide what the processes will be. Ms. Price reported that there is a lot of work going on to prepare for the actual opening. All tenants are participating in the monthly meetings.

Behavioral Health Agreements April 23, 2018

A subcommittee worked on a survey to help prioritize what the needs are for funding for next year. The RFP (Request for Proposal) was posted this morning for the Behavioral Health and Opioid funding for next year. It will remain open until February 27.

- FY24 application drafted and being incorporated into Neighborly
- Community survey to help identify priority areas is complete
- Next step – issue RFP Opioid Settlement Overview
- FY24 application drafted and being incorporated into Neighborly

Progress is being made with the transitional residential facility for youth in DSS custody. Once the in-lieu of service definition is approved, Partners Health Management will issue a Request for Proposal to select a provider.

- A site evaluation has been conducted; minimal upfitting required.

Dr. Robie asked if Naloxone reverses a Fentanyl overdose. Ms. Price replied yes, Naloxone does reverse a Fentanyl overdose. Xylazine is appearing in the local drug supply. It makes you very lethargic; therefore, it may sometimes appear that the overdose has not been reversed.

Sometimes it may take multiple kits to reverse an overdose.

Educational Opportunity – School Nursing

*Nicole Priddy, Assistant Public Health Director and Brook Hamby, School Nurse Supervisor
(Complete- detailed handouts on file in the Administrative Binder)*

The nurses provided a School Health Program Manual to the HHS Board which will help them understand how they got to where they are today.

The State of NC recognizes that health and education are interdependent. Health related barriers to learning are crucial to the provision of an appropriate educational plan for every student. To meet that objective, NC has instituted comprehensive school health services in every school district across the state. It is done through the work of the NC Division of Public Health, the NC Division of Child Well Being, NC Department of Public Instruction, local Health Departments, local Education Agencies, local hospitals, health alliances and non-profits. These entities make up the comprehensive school health services.

In NC, school health nurses can be employed by a local health department, local school districts and some hospital systems. In Forsyth County, the majority of school health nurses are hired by the public health department.

The Oversight and Support for School Health Nurses

In NC, the support comes from two different departments: the Department of Health and Human Services and Children in Youth Branch.

The DHHS (Department of Health & Human Services)

It is the belief of DHHS that school health nurses are in the schools to facilitate the well-being and educational success of children with services geared to keeping them healthy, in class and ready to learn. They also view school health nurses as an integral part of the student instructional support personnel team when they combine with school social workers and counselors.

NC Department of Public Instruction

Under the programs and initiatives, there is a North Carolina Healthy Schools Initiative. They provide nurses with a model for supporting the healthy, safe, engaged and challenged student. The name of the model is Whole School Whole Community Whole Child.

EPI (Economic Policy Institute) View of School Nurses

They see school nurses and an integral part of access to education. They work toward eliminating health barriers to the educational process for students. Promote health and safety every day.

Every interaction with a student is an opportunity to promote some type of preventive health

education. Case management is provided for students who have chronic health issues. They communicate with schools, families and health providers.

Statutory Requirements

There is no specific statute in North Carolina that requires school health nursing services; however, it is mentioned in a few general statutes. The position and programs are supported by the Department of Health and Human Services.

What School Nurses Do

- Identify students with chronic and/or life-threatening health conditions
- Develop care or emergency action plans
- Meet with and assess their diabetic students each month
- Train and provide ongoing support for school staff
- Review training competency with assigned school staff
- Head lice check delegation to staff, provide medication and resources
- Review immunization records and health assessments
- Review medication and physician orders
- Liaison between the school and health department
- 504 IEP meetings as requested
- Hearing and vision screening as requested
- Conduct vision screening on students who are in grades 1, 3, 7 each year
- Assess education needs in the school and provide grade appropriate health education
- Provide health counseling and referrals to healthcare providers
- Collect and provide state mandated data every year to state school health regional consultant
- Home visits as necessary
- Assist with youth behavior risk survey

Forsyth County Department of Public Health Nurse Stats

August through December of this school year

Nurse student encounters— 11,967 (76% returned to class, 23% sent home, 1% 911 called)

Health Record Reviews

Medication order 2,737, health assessment records 4,836, immunization records 19,022

Health Screenings

- Vision Screenings Performed 6,350
- Vision Referrals 676
- Vision Referrals Secured 151—22% secured
- Hearing Screening Performed 466
- Hearing Referral 10
- Hearing Referral Secured 4—40% secured
- Medical/Mental Health Referrals 65
- Medical/Mental Health Referrals Secured 18—28% secured
- Dental Screenings 311
- Dental Referrals 15
- Dental Referrals Secured 0

Forsyth County Department Public Health Delegated Trainings (3,319 Trainings Completed)

- Staff Epipen Training—1,019
- Diastat--332
- Glucometer--131
- Insulin Pump—103
- Glucagon—324
- Nebulizer Treatment—74
- Medication—629
- Tube Feeding—131
- Urinary—11
- Vagal Nerve—65
- Other Trainings--449

These trainings are given to unlicensed personnel in order to assist the students in the absence of the school nurses. The nurses follow up with the staff at least once per quarter.

Forsyth County Department Public Health School Nurse Health Counseling

Between August and December 2022, there were 4,235 health counseling sessions with students. Most of the time, counseling is initiated by the student.

Differences

There are 37 school health positions, nurses provide oversight of the program

- 1 Public Health Nursing Supervisor-School Health
- 4 Public Health III-School Health Team Leaders
- 32 Public Health II-School Health Nurse Positions

There are four leaders who supervise groups of six to nine school nurses who carry an assignment of two to three schools. When nursing positions are vacant, no school goes without being assigned to a nurse. Forsyth County Department of Public Health nurses provide services to 64 out of 81 Forsyth County schools. There are 12 vacancies and the current vacancy rate is 33%.

There are 12 School Health Positions

- 1 Director of Nursing
- 6 Child Family Support Team (CFST)
- 5 Traditional School Nurses

The Child Family Support Team program was previously funded by the state. When the state funding ended, the school system decided to fund it. This funding helps create social worker and nurse teams. The traditional school nurse positions are temporarily funded through school year 23/24.

Percentage of Students Served by Agency

WS/FCS School Nurses 21%, Students 11,417; FCDPH School Nurses 79%, 41,967

School Nurse to Student Ratios

National Recommendation 1 Nurse: 750 Students

American Academy of Pediatrics recommends 1 Nurse: 1 School

There are articles that report over 40% of children had at least one health condition that required ongoing treatment as a part of their school day every day. Studies have also shown in districts with improved nurse to student ratios improve the education and health outcome for students by reducing chronic absences.

Committee Updates

FROST Committee Update -- John Blalock, Sharon Rimm, Claudette Weston

See updates in the Behavioral Health section by Director of Behavioral Health, Denise Price.

Legislative Update -- Dr. Linda Petrou

Dr. Petrou reported that the session opened up last week and they have not had any committee meetings at this time.

Mr. El Amin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

SR/tmd

Next Hybrid Meeting: April 5, 2023-5:30 p.m.