

# CONSOLIDATED HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

## Chair

Mr. J. Phil Seats, R.Ph., MBA

## Vice Chair

Mr. Fleming El-Amin, County Commissioner



## Board Members

Mr. John Blalock  
Dr. B. Keith Cash, OD  
Ms. Pamela Corbett, MA  
Mr. John Davenport, Jr., PE  
Dr. Palmer Edwards, MD  
Dr. Calvert Jeffers, DVM  
Ms. Amanda Kistler, RN  
Dr. Charles Massler, DDS, M.Ed.  
Ms. Heather Parker  
Dr. Linda L. Petrou, PhD.  
Ms. Sharon Pettiford, RN  
Ms. Sharon A. Rimm, LCSW  
Dr. Peter Robie, MD  
Dr. Ricky Sides, DC  
Ms. Claudette Weston  
Ms. Gloria D. Whisenhunt, County Commissioner

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MINUTES March 4, 2020

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. J. Phil Seats, Chair  
Mr. John Blalock  
Mr. John Davenport  
Dr. Palmer Edwards  
Dr. Calvert Jeffers  
Dr. Charles Massler  
Ms. Heather Parker  
Dr. Linda L. Petrou  
Ms. Sharon D. Pettiford  
Ms. Sharon A. Rimm  
Dr. Peter Robie  
Dr. Ricky Sides

### MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Keith Cash  
Ms. Pamela Corbett  
Mr. Fleming El-Amin  
Ms. Claudette Weston  
Ms. Gloria Whisenhunt

### GUESTS PRESENT

None

### **Call to Order:**

On Wednesday, March 4, 2020, the Forsyth County Health and Human Services (HHS) Board held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting in the Boardroom at the Forsyth County Department of Public Health (FCDPH). Mr. J. Phil Seats, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### PH/DSS STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Shontell Robinson  
Mr. Victor R. Isler  
Mr. Joshua R. Swift  
Mr. Emanuel Barrera  
Ms. Lorrie Christie  
Ms. Sherri Cook  
Ms. Glenda Dancy  
Ms. Tanya Donnell  
Ms. Shalynn Fields  
Ms. Maya James  
Mr. Tony Lo Giudice  
Ms. Alexandra Moss  
Mr. Adam Pendlebury  
Ms. Denise Price  
Ms. Christa Smith  
Ms. Marie Stephens  
Ms. Mia Stockton  
Mr. John Thacker  
Ms. Jennifer Tubbs  
Ms. Elizabeth White

## **Moment of Silence:**

A moment of silence was observed by all.

## **Consideration of Minutes:**

The minutes of the February 5, 2020 HHS Board were reviewed. Dr. Linda Petrou made a motion to approve and Dr. Charles Massler seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Assistant County Manager's Comments:** Ms. Shontell Robinson gave the following updates (see handout on file in the Administrative Binder):

- **Coronavirus Communication:**
  - Met with Mr. Joshua Swift (Public Health Director) and Mr. August Vernon (Emergency Management Director) on Monday, to clarify the role of Emergency Management and Public Health during a public health emergency. It was discussed that Public Health is the lead agency communicating about coronavirus to the community or media. Mr. Swift will ensure he is seeking guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).
  
- **Local Updates:**
  - **Winter Work Session with Board of Commissioners on February 27, 2020**
    - Family Justice Center Update - will be a one shop stop for domestic violence victims; reallocating funds from the current Safe on Seven funds to provide staffing for Family Justice Center; county employees would report to either Ms. Robinson or Department of Social Services. A final determination will be made within the next couple months.
    - Mental Health Service Delivery Barriers and Concerns - Ms. Robinson informed the Commissioners during the Winter Work Session about the County's current challenges with Cardinal not meeting its statutory obligations. The main issues are delays in providing service, denials of service and lack of provider network.
  
  - **Behavioral Health Subcommittee Update**
    - Met a few weeks ago - applications are closed - will meet again in a few weeks - \$4 million of Behavioral Health funding.
  
  - **Senior Connect Expo**
    - May 19, 2020 (9:00am - 12:00pm) at Hanes Hosiery (501 Reynolds Blvd.)

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

- **Federal and Statewide Updates:**
  - **NCALHD Legislative Priorities**
    - Close the Medicaid Coverage gap
    - Additional state funding for communicable and emerging infectious diseases
    - Restore funding for women's and children's health block grant
    - Protect state water supply from industrial products and processes impact
    - Would affect social determinants of health

➤ **Coronavirus - COVID 19**

- State Public Health lab will begin testing early March with a 12-hour turnaround before samples go to CDC
- Discussions about isolation and quarantine (N.C.G.S. 130A-2(3a) and N.C.G.S. 130A-2(7a) - how do we close schools? / what about field trips?
- Conference calls every Tuesday with NC Division of Public Health
- Keeping our website up-to-date/working with State Public Health and CDC

Mr. Seats asked if all the samples are going to the state lab, does CDC retest. Mr. Swift responded yes, the tests are confirmed by CDC. Mr. Seats then asked about the availability of testing kits and Mr. Swift responded that currently there are 300 at the state lab.

Mr. Swift continued to report that there are no identified cases in Forsyth County. The Wake County case is presumptive. We are working with schools and local partners in the area (meeting on Friday) and meeting with two hospitals tomorrow. The message being given in order to protect yourself and others is: stay at home if you are sick; wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; clean frequently touched surfaces and objects, have plans in place if you need to stay out with a loved one.

Dr. Peter Robie spoke about the Coronavirus case in Wake County and the cases at the nursing home in Washington State - he reiterated to the rest of the Board that all information should come from the Health Department.

Dr. Petrou commented that this has potential to spread and that people who have died have had underlying problems.

Mr. Swift told everyone to spread the message to family and friends, on Facebook - you do not need a mask - wash hands frequently. He made reference to the April 2009 H1N1 pandemic where 40-50 million people got it - got vaccine in October 2009 - it was not over until 2010.

Mr. John Davenport commented that there is a better chance of getting the flu.

Mr. Swift displayed a map from Johns Hopkins University showing Coronavirus global cases (will send link to Board members).

A question was asked if dogs could get the coronavirus and Dr. Calvert Jeffers said he has seen it in puppies a lot and there is a vaccine for dogs. When asked if dogs can transfer to people Dr. Jeffers mentioned a case he had last week where a dog had a weak positive and its owner had a strong positive.

Mr. Swift said we are asking the public to be calm - there is a lot of misinformation out there.

➤ **Medicaid Transformation**

- At the State Health Directors meeting last month, the NC Medical Board gave a presentation that said to expect transformation to happen early 2021
- Nine agencies have applied to be Lead Pilot Entities across the state (can expect

four to be awarded). One of the nine applicants is Piedmont Regional Triad Development (includes Forsyth, Guilford, and Rockingham) - Mr. Swift and Mr. Victor Isler was involved with this.

- **Local Updates:**

- March is National Nutrition Month - Theme: Eat Right, Bite by Bite
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC) -
  - Average participation for November 2019 was 7,724 (93% of the 8,352 base assigned by the department)
  - Eligible population in Forsyth County (below 185% of poverty) is 14,894 - we are doubling down on efforts to get out there in the community
  - Pop-up WIC offices - State WIC is working to improve food choices and availability
- Minor's Consent
  - Law passed giving minors (11-17 years old) the right to request confidentiality in accordance with NC Law (N.C.G.S. 90-21.5, N.C.G.S. 90-21.4(b)). Local Health Departments must obtain a written opt-out request from the minor each visit. The state is working with Electronic Medical Records (CureMD) and the Department of Public Health to facilitate the process. Six pilots are currently testing the process across NC. Mr. Swift added we are working on a 2 to 3 day hold - making sure it is processed correctly. Ms. Glenda Dancy stated this is more for STD and pregnancy (Family Planning) testing - this will allow information to be more confidential.

Dr. Massler raised the following questions - if an 11 or 12 year old wants to access services and it is not shared with parents. Does this put the County at risk? Can a parent sue the County? What law says it has to be confidential? Ms. Dancy responded that no law says it - the health department does this - we tell them that services are confidential. The law states we do not have to have consent to treat a minor.

Ms. Sharon Pettiford asked if the minor can be counseled and educated about service and Ms. Dancy responded yes.

**Department of Social Services (DSS) Director's Comments:** Mr. Isler reported the following (see complete/detailed handouts on file in the Administrative Binder).

- **Federal and Statewide Updates:**

NC DHHS MOU Agreements

- 27 measurements/no corrective action taken - continuing to use measures as performance measurements - division directors are working on this.
- There is a lack of data validation.

Public Charge Update

- Effective February 24, 2020, Medicaid and SNAP will be added.
- Pregnant women will be excluded.
- 700,00 individuals nationwide - we were never a waiver state so it is business as usual for us. In NC - no impact - removed ourselves from the waiver option.

Childcare Subsidy

- Statewide spending is at 91% - we are working to get coefficient up - freeze has been lifted.

- To manage the waitlist, DSS will hold a group application process - the average waitlist is 2,300 and above. Ms. Sharon Rimm commented on 2,700 children being served and 2,900 waiting. Mr. Isler responded 11,000 in Forsyth County to be served.

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#### NC Child Welfare and Family Services Plan Design Team Conference

- Held February 24, 2020 - participation from Mr. John Thacker's staff .

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#### ● **Local Updates:**

- Social Worker's appreciation month is March - the theme is Generations Strong!
- Forsyth Tech Community College (FTCC) education navigator is now onsite.
- Dr. Dean Duncan from UNC Chapel Hill came to DSS to talk about human trafficking.
- Mr. Thacker was invited as a panelist for the NC Child Wellbeing Transformation Council.
- Efforts being made to partner Child Support Collections and Courts - parents ability to pay in active dialogue with judges.

#### **Public Comment:**

None

#### **Standing Committees:**

#### ● **HHS Board Strategic Plan Update** - Dr. Massler presented the following updates:

- The committee met on January 25th. They are not ready to report, but hope to have the final report at the April Board meeting. Dr. Massler commented that this has been a collaborative process, in which the Strategic Planning Committee is working collaboratively based upon guidance provided by the County Manager, the Assistant County Manager overseeing Health and Human Services, the Forsyth County Director for Social Services, the Forsyth County Health Director, and members of the Strategic Planning Committee of the Board of Health and Human Services. Committee members include: Mr. Fleming El Amin, Ms. Pamela Corbett, Ms. Heather Parker and Dr. Massler, with Mr. Phil Seats joining the discussion as HHS Board Chair.

#### ● **Legislative Committee Update** - Dr. Petrou reported there were no updates and stated that the primary election was yesterday and the Legislature has done nothing because of the primaries. The Legislature will be out by early June.

#### **Old Business:**

#### **New Business:**

#### ● **FY 2020-2021 Budget Requests (PH)**

Mr. Adam Pendlebury, Business Manager went over the Public Health budget highlighting the **Total Expenditures** (salaries, benefits, other compensation, operating, capital outlay), **Total**

**Revenues** (intergovernmental, charges for services, other revenue, licenses and permits) and **County Dollars** (total expenditures and total revenues).

Mr. Pendlebury stated that the continuation budget was up \$1,263,340 or 4.9%. This is because current personnel expenditures are up \$972,675 or 5.1%; operating expenses are up \$290,665 or 4.6%. The continuation budget does not include the alternate service level requests.

The revenue changes are down \$60,536 or 25.1%. There has been an increase in *licenses and permits* for Environmental Health because the weather has been good and people have been coming in mainly about construction. *Intergovernmental revenue* is up \$451,102 or 6.6% because of modest increases to some agreement addendums, except for WIC. *Charges for services* are down \$287,268 or 20.2% driven by an expected drop to Medicaid Cost Settlement - FY21 is estimated at a decrease of \$369,011. *Other services* are down \$259,830 or 6.9% - MOE funds to support the Pharmacy remain unchanged (\$615,000); the Kate B. Reynolds dental clinic grant will expire, reducing revenues by \$143,930. Revenue true-up at the cost of \$100,000. *Alternate service level requests* = \$175,293 - this includes new position requests for 2 fulltime school nurses (current ratio is 1:1,743) - county cost = \$151,093. *Other alternate service level changes* = \$24,200 - WIC Facilities at the Walter Marshall Building and renovations to an area at DSS to create workstations for 4 WIC employees.

- **FY 2020-2021 Requests (DSS)**

Ms. Elizabeth White, Deputy Director reported on the DSS budget highlighting their **Total Expenditures** (salaries, benefits, other compensation, operating - includes Foster Care payments, capital outlay), **Total Revenues** (intergovernmental, charges for services, other revenue) and **County Dollars** (total expenditures and total revenues).

Ms. White stated the following drivers for the requested budget: *Salaries/Benefit increases and decrease* (In home aide transition to contract = \$864,424; adult community position transition to contract = \$15,000 - contracted with Senior Services; position requests - total cost = \$519,320 / county share = \$228,632.56). *Operating budget increases* (In home aide transition to a contract = \$384,000; adult community position transition to a contract = \$15,000; foster care payments increase = \$200,000; laserfiche - document management system = \$107,000) and *mailroom design and additional batch scanners* - design mailroom to accommodate six staff and purchase two additional large batch scanners for all staff to process mail into the document management system.

Ms. Rimm asked if Coronavirus affects us budgetwise. Mr. Swift responded it will probably start because of staff being pulled away.

Dr. Petrou commented that if there is a disaster, there will be federal dollars that will trickle down to the state.

Dr. Palmer Edwards asked in regards to Coronavirus, who makes countywide decisions. Mr. Swift responded PH works with Emergency Management - driven by NC Department of Public Health where information is coming down from CDC. He added he can not speak for the hospitals. Mr. Swift assured Board members that we have plans and agreements in place.

Dr. Robie congratulated Ms. Robinson and Mr. Swift on the great job they have been doing. Ms. Robinson stated it is really the staff who have the boots on the ground.

After going through all of the budget requests for PH and DSS, Mr. Seats asked for a motion to approve. Dr. Robie made a motion to approve and Dr. Petrou seconded. The Board unanimously agreed to recommend both budgets to the County Manager and Commissioners.

**Other Business or Announcements:**

None

**Adjourn:**

Mr. Seats asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. John Blalock made a motion and Mr. Davenport seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

SR/lgc

**Next Meeting: April 1, 2020 - 5:30pm**