



## RICHMOND COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

127 Caroline Street  
Rockingham, North Carolina 28379  
Phone: 1-910-997-8300  
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North Carolina  
Public Health

Cheryl Speight, Interim Health Services Director  
Holly Haire, Interim Health Services Deputy Director

Robby Hall, Acting Human Services Director  
and Director of Social Services

### **RICHMOND COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** May 18, 2021  
**TIME:** 7:00pm  
**LOCATION:** Human Services Building large classroom

#### **BOARD ATTENDANCE:**

Paul Smart, Chairperson  
Dr. Tommy Jarrell, Director, Health & Human Services  
Aletha Lanier, Nurse  
Thad Ussery, Public Member  
Dr. William Cleveland, Dentist  
Evonne Moore, Social Worker  
Dr. John Stevenson, Retired Physician  
Dr. Rick Watkins, County Commissioner

#### **NON-BOARD ATTENDANCE:**

Robby Hall, Director of Social Services  
Cheryl Speight, Director of Patient Services  
Sheila Brosier, Administrative Assistant

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Paul Smart called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
- 2. INVOCATION:** Paul Smart delivered the invocation for the meeting.
- 3. CONSENT AGENDA:** A motion to approve the consent agenda could not be offered since the quorum was not met in the number of board members present.
- 4. MEETING MINUTES:** Minutes from the November 17, 2020 meeting were previously distributed to the board. A motion to approve the minutes could not be offered since the quorum was not met in the number of board members present. Therefore, the meeting minutes will be included on the next meeting agenda.
- 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

## 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Dr. Jarrell addressed topics on the Public Health Administrative Report. The Health Department continues to offer free Covid-19 testing. Since the number of people being tested daily has declined, the testing site will streamline its schedule beginning in June to Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00am-5:00pm and Saturdays from 10:00am-3:00pm with the exception of inclement weather days. Covid vaccinations are being offered free of charge at the Health Department on Monday-Thursday from 8:00am-5:00pm, Friday from 8:00am-11:00am and Saturday from 10:00am-2:00pm and available to anyone age 18 and over; no appointment is required. The Health Department continues to offer weekly community vaccine clinics at different locations throughout Richmond County. Community clinics were held at Dobbin Heights Community Center, Holly Grove Church, Ashley Chapel Church, Cordova Fire Department, Hoffman Recreation Center, and Ellerbe Fire Department. Future community clinics will be posted on the Health Department website.
- B. Director Hall discussed the Social Services Administrative Report. DSS completed foster care training with the foster parents and is planning a foster care parent appreciation event on May 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:00pm – 7:00pm. Director Hall noted Covid has an impact on the increase in the number of children in foster care. Many relatives were unable to accommodate the children due to Covid; and the courts were closed which resulted in children not being moved into homes.

Open enrollment for managed care ended on May 14<sup>th</sup> and automatic enrollment runs through July 21<sup>st</sup> for those who did not enroll during open season. On May 17<sup>th</sup> representatives from several managed healthcare providers that represent Richmond County coordinated with DSS and set up a drive thru event in the parking lot for Richmond County residents to obtain information about the various providers.

DSS applied for a grant with the Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Program for \$900,000.00, which would provide Richmond County residents assistance with rent and utilities based on meeting certain criteria. There are multiple programs offered in DSS that overlap in benefits (LIWAP, LIEAP, CIP, etc.). The grant guidelines and regulations are being reviewed and a plan to implement the program and distribute funds will be drafted.

DSS is working with the district attorney, law enforcement, and others to establish a Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) in our region, which includes Richmond, Anson, and Scotland counties. The purpose of a CAC is to have a multi-disciplinary team to respond and address child abuse allegations through the coordination of professional services for children and to provide counseling, medical examinations, forensic interviews, law enforcement intervention and other resources within these local communities.

- C. Robby Hall reported on the Aging Services Administrative Report in the absence of Jacqueline Welch. Aging Services received 14 new clients and assisted a total of 18 seniors in April with food stamps, housing, Medicaid, nutritional supplements, home health care, and home repairs. The senior centers and meal sites remain closed due to Covid; nevertheless, staff from Aging Services, DSS and Area of Richmond Transit, along with volunteers continue to deliver and/or serve meals to seniors. The meal sites are expected to re-open on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Aging Services staff have been creative in implementing new interactive, virtual

programs for seniors despite the senior centers being closed. Many of their programs and events are published in their monthly newsletter which Director Hall reviewed. Aging Services is hosting an outdoor yard sale on May 21<sup>st</sup> and May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8:00am-1:00pm at 559 Airport Road in Rockingham. Proceeds will benefit the Dementia Friendly Program.

7. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.

8. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. COVID-19 Update:

Dr. Jarrell provided an update on COVID-19 in Richmond County. Approximately 49,000<sup>+</sup> Richmond County residents have been tested. To date, there are 44,473 negative cases; 4,701 positive cases of which 50 are active, 4,555 have recovered, and 96 have succumbed. This data and a map of active cases by zip code is updated and posted on the Richmond County webpage on the weekdays. As the number of Covid testing being performed reduces, the webpage dashboard will only be updated twice per week. Other sites are conducting COVID tests and their results are reported to the health department. However, there are home test kits that can be purchased at drug stores and those results are not reported to the health department.

*Testing*

Covid positive cases are tracked by age, gender, and race. Statistics reveal the majority of positive cases are people between the ages of 51-64 years old; 54% are female and 46% are male; and 53% of positive cases are Caucasian, 34% are African Americans, 10% are Hispanic and 3% are classified as Other. We are beginning to see more confirmed cases among our younger population. Additionally, deaths related to Covid are occurring among the younger age group. To date, a total of 96 Covid related deaths are reported among Richmond County residents, with the majority of those over the age of 60. Statistics reveal 53% were female and 47% were male; 61% were Caucasian, 32% were African Americans, 2% were Hispanic, 2% were American Indians, and 3% were classified as other.

*Vaccination*

Approximately 14,785 Richmond County residents are at least partially vaccinated; 30% of the population are fully vaccinated while 33% of the population is partially vaccinated. The majority of residents who are partially or fully vaccinated are 65 years of age and older. Statistics reveal the percentage of Richmond County residents by race who have received vaccines is commensurate with the population by race. Outreach efforts in the community from the Health Department staff have increased vaccine rates among minorities. Staff have visited churches, community centers, and set up mini clinics in neighborhoods throughout Richmond County to educate residents, answer questions, and administer vaccination. There is a 911 mobile command center that goes into various communities to administer vaccines.

Free Covid vaccine is offered at the Health Department with no appointment required. Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, and other pharmacies also offer vaccinations. Vaccines will soon be offered to people ages 12 and up.

**B. Richmond County DSS Subsidized Child Care Local Policy Revision:**

Robby Hall reviewed the revision to the Subsidized Child Care Local Policy which includes the additional last sentence “Richmond County will not add to the 4% set aside for vulnerable populations.” This inclusion was mandated by the state and requires a vote for approval by the board. A motion to approve the revised policy could not be offered since the quorum was not met in the number of board members present. Therefore, the policy will be included on the next meeting agenda.

**C. Recommendation for Selection of Advisory Board Member:**

Cheryl Speight will serve as Interim Health Director and replace Dr. Jarrell after his retirement. There is one vacancy on the advisory board for a public member to replace Carolyn Walker. Mr. Smart encouraged everyone to recommend someone who is interested in serving on the board and forward the name(s) to Cheryl Speight.

**9. INFORMAL DISCUSSION:**

Dr. Jarrell introduced Cheryl Speight, current Director of Patient Services, who will serve as the Interim Health Director upon his retirement. Holly Haire, current Director of Environmental Health and General Services, has been assigned as Interim Deputy Health Director. Robby Hall will assume the responsibilities of Acting Human Services Director and maintain his role as Director of Social Services.

Dr. Jarrell expressed his appreciation to the Health & Human Services board for their support during his tenure working in the Health Department. He stated he plans to continue to work in the community and with other advisory boards.

All of the board members expressed their gratitude for Dr. Jarrell’s dedication, service and commitment to the health department and the community throughout his many years of service. They commended him for his leadership during the Covid pandemic in structuring and carry out the mission to provide free testing and vaccinations throughout Richmond County through his effective coordination with the health department staff, First Health Richmond Hospital, and other agencies. Other comments included high regards for his presence in the schools and community over the years.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

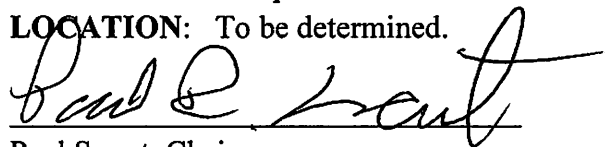
Paul Smart asked if there were any other matters to discuss to which no one responded. The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held via webinar and/or in person based on the status and any restrictions imposed due to the Covid pandemic.

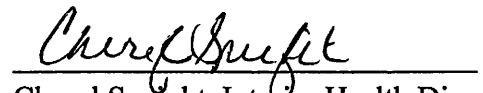
**DATE:** July 20, 2021

**TIME:** 7:00pm

**LOCATION:** To be determined.



Paul Smart, Chairperson  
Health & Human Services Advisory Board



Cheryl Speight, Interim Health Director  
Richmond County Health Department