

RICHMOND COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: July 17, 2018

TIME: 7:00pm

LOCATION: Large Classroom of the Health & Human Services Complex

BOARD ATTENDANCE: Chairperson Thad Ussery, Paul Smart, Ronald Tillman, Dr. W.N. Cleveland, Dr. Don Covington, Carolyn Walker, Patricia Solomon, Aletha Lanier, Jon Marks and Evonne Leonard.

NON-BOARD ATTENDANCE: Dr. Tommy Jarrell, Robby Hall, Jacqueline Welch, Amy Greene and Generations Art Project guests: Chad Mayfield, Asia Morrison and Mary Ann Deese.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson, Thad Ussery called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
2. **INVOCATION:** Evonne Moore Leonard gave the invocation for the meeting.
3. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Chairperson, Thad Ussery asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda;
 - **Motion Offered By:** Ronald Tillman
 - **Motion Seconded By:** Evonne Leonard
 - **Motion Carried:** Yes
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None
5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None
6. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **Opioid Public Hearing**

Dr. Jarrell stated that he has received positive feedback regarding the Public Hearing. The only complaint he noted was in regards to interested parties who were unaware of the event. All board members agreed that the Hearing was a success and were pleased with the outcome. They also made note that in the event of another public hearing they will do more to advertise for it.
7. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. **Generations Art Project**

DSS Director Robby Hall and Aging Services Director Jacqueline Welch discussed the progress of the Generations Art Project that brought Foster Children and Senior Citizens together for Art classes. The latest project with

the collaboration was that of a mural which was designed and painted by the seniors and Foster Children with the assistance of a world renowned artist, Tunde Afolayan.

Director Hall showed a picture of the mural that would be hung in the DSS lobby and unveiled at a ceremony with local supporters and participants in attendance.

Two of the foster children who participated in the project were present at the meeting and briefly spoke about their experience. Chad Mayfield stated that he really enjoyed creating art and that he had hidden a few things in the mural. However, he was only willing to disclose that there were some fish in the stream that he had painted. He would not state other hidden images due to the nature of the images and their respective meaning to him on an emotional level.

Asia Morrison was also present and was another participant of the Generations Art Project. She noted that she hid some faces in the stream and that she is still adding small touches to the mural and has enjoyed expressing herself through Art.

Director Hall asked that the board decide on a date that would best suit each of them to attend the unveiling. Chairperson Thad Ussery stated that he would like for Director Hall to send a list of dates to all the board members via email noting available dates and they would vote in response to the email for the final decision on the unveiling date.

B. Consideration And Approval Of:

i. Program Integrity Agreement With District Attorney

Director Hall reviewed the Program Integrity Agreement that they had developed with the local District Attorney. He clarified the terms of the plan which stipulate that any case with the Program Integrity unit that reaches a debt of \$10,000.00 and has can prove that fraud was committed through the finding of three false claims, would be presented to the District Attorney for consideration of pursuing criminal charges to collect the debt. After an in-depth discussion about the plan, the policies, the goal and the objective of both the department and the District Attorney regarding the collection of debt, the board asked that Director Hall amend the plan as follows:

1. Debt totals of \$5,000.00 should be presented to the District Attorney for consideration of pursuing criminal charges.
2. Decrease the number of false claims from three to one before a decision of deceit can be determined.

Director Hall agreed to take the board's recommendations to the District Attorney for consideration and to notify the board of his decision regarding the change in terms to the plan.

ii. Richmond County CIP/LIEAP Plan For 2018-2019 Fiscal Year

Director Hall discussed the CIP/LIEAP plan for the coming year. He stated that the plan details the outreach program that the unit utilizes in order to better serve the community. The plan includes working with local businesses, agencies and organizations to provide CIP/LIEAP services to Social Services clients in need. CIP/LIEAP are programs that assist elderly adults with energy assistance. Director Hall asked for the board to vote on the plan to approve it;

- **Motion Offered By:** Evonne Leonard
- **Motion Seconded By:** Carolyn Walker
- **Motion Carried:** Yes.

iii. State/County Accountability MOU

DSS Director Robby Hall discussed the CIP/LIEAP Plan by stating that it is an agreement that holds the Department of Social Services responsible for any agency errors that result in the awarding of benefit funds to an ineligible client or the overabundance of benefits to a client. In short, if a caseworker mistakenly provides benefits to a client that is not eligible, Social Services will be responsible for replenishing the lost funds, rather than the client or the county. Director Hall explained that, without signing the MOU, Social Services will not receive federal funding to help support the cost of the program. Director Hall also noted that the commissioners expressed concern about the MOU but those concerns were disregarded. This agenda item did not require a vote but Director Hall wanted to inform the board of the MOU stipulations and that the department has decided to take on a malpractice insurance policy that will assist in the event that an error leaves the department vulnerable to a large reimbursement.

iv. TB Program Update

Dr. Jarrell introduced the Director of Patient Services, Cheryl Speight, and asked her to update the advisory board on the Tuberculosis Program at the Health Department. Mrs. Speight informed the board that the Health Department offers TB skin tests as well as test results and treatment. If the skin test shows a positive result, the patient is sent to the hospital for an x-ray to determine the stage of the bacterial disease. If the x-ray shows no signs of "Active Tuberculosis" (i.e. latent) then the health department will administer an antibiotic to the patient and release them from care. If the patient has "Active Tuberculosis" then they are placed on Direct Observe Therapy, quarantined and will be under the Health Departments care for the entirety of the nine month treatment plan. The state mandated treatment plan requires the Health Department to send a nurse to the patient's place of residence and watch them take their medication. The patient is instructed how to properly control the contagions of the disease and is told to wear a protective hospital mask when exposure is foreseeable or if there is the potentiality for exposure. Mrs. Speight explained that the patient has to complete the plan of treatment and then be tested again with a negative result before they are released from care and allowed out of quarantine. It was also noted that the Health Department nurses who treat the TB patients are specially trained in TB treatment protocol and practice safe measures by wearing PPE gear.

Dr. Jarrell noted that he asked Mrs. Speight to discuss the program with the Advisory Board of Health due to the increase in case numbers in the past year. Currently, the Health Department is treating thirteen Tuberculosis patients, three of which are in the active stages of the disease while the other ten were diagnosed with latent stage Tuberculosis. Dr. Jarrell is concerned with the rising number of cases and wanted the board to be aware of the growing issue.

8. INFORMAL DISCUSSION

Jacqueline Welch informed the advisory board that the Department of Social Services had signed up to take the Dementia Friends training course on July 25, 2018. She also noted that to date, her and the other Champions of the initiative

had trained 53 people to be Dementia Friendly and awarded 5 agencies the Dementia Friendly Business window sticker to display in their place of business demonstrating the agencies knowledge, tolerance and acceptance of the Dementia community.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson, Thad Ussery asked if there were any other matters to discuss, to which no one responded, so he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting;

- **Motion Offered By:** Jon Marks
- **Motion Seconded By:** Paul Smart
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

NEXT MEETING:

DATE: September 18, 2018

TIME: 7:00pm

LOCATION: Large Classroom, Health & Human Services Complex.

X

Thad Ussery, Chairperson
Health & Human Services Advisory Board

X

Tommy Jarrell, PhD
Health & Human Services Director