



## RICHMOND COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

127 Caroline Street  
Rockingham, North Carolina 28379  
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North Carolina  
Public Health

Cheryl Speight, Health Director  
Holly Haire, Deputy Health Director

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

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

**DATE:** October 19, 2021  
**TIME:** 7:00pm  
**LOCATION:** Human Services Building large classroom and Webinar

#### **BOARD ATTENDANCE:**

##### In-Person:

Paul Smart, Chairperson  
Aletha Lanier, Nurse  
Thad Ussery, Public Member  
Jon Marks, Pharmacist  
Patricia Solomon, public member  
Dr. Don Covington, Optometrist  
Cassandra Byers, Daymark Center Director

##### Webinar:

Dr. John Stevenson, Retired Physician  
Evonne Moore, Social Worker  
Dr. Rick Watkins, County Commissioner  
Dr. W. N. Cleveland, Vice-Chairperson  
Ronald Tillman, NCDPS

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

Robby Hall, Director of Social Services  
Cheryl Speight, Health Director  
Holly Haire, Deputy Health Director  
Jacqueline Welch, Aging Services Director  
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:** Paul Smart asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda.
  - **Motion Offered By:** Aletha Lanier
  - **Motion Seconded By:** Thad Ussery
  - **Motion Carried:** Yes

4. **MEETING MINUTES:** Paul Smart asked for a motion to approve the July 20, 2021, meeting minutes.

- **Motion Offered By:** Thad Ussery
- **Motion Seconded By:** Aletha Lanier
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

A. Cheryl Speight, Health Director, addressed topics on the Public Health Administrative Report. Free COVID-19 testing continues to be offered behind the health department. Due to the increased demand for COVID testing, it is available Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 6:00pm. On September 29<sup>th</sup>, Richmond Community College began offering free COVID testing at the Cole Auditorium on Monday through Friday from 10:00am to 6:00pm. The rapid test is offered at the health department; it is not offered at the Cole Auditorium because they conduct testing outdoors and the test kits must be maintained at a certain temperature. Free COVID vaccinations continue to be offered at the health department on Monday-Thursday from 8:00am-5:00pm, and Friday from 8:00am-11:00am; no appointment is necessary.

The WIC department applied for and received a \$12,900.00 grant from the CDC. It is being used to renovate the WIC department, purchase new desks and shelves, remove the old carpet and replace with tile, and remodel the waiting area. Per state regulations, WIC staff continue to conduct business via telephone as their client base continues to increase.

B. Robby Hall, Social Services Director, discussed the Social Services Administrative Report. Child Protective Services (CPS) has experienced an increase in the number of children reported and subsequently residing temporarily in the building. There is also an increase in the number of adult cases reported through Adult Protective Services (APS). Alternative placement for adults and children is hard to find. Social workers continue to make home visits with clients.

Services for seniors continue and majority of services provided in September were for energy assistance, home health care, and home repairs. Multiple assistance programs for rent and utilities will be open and available to the public simultaneously. The LIWAP program will begin in mid-November to assist eligible residents with water bills. Applications for LIEAP will be accepted beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>. The CIP program is currently underway. The Resident Assistant Program (RAP) is a federal funded grant that provides the county with \$800,000 to be distributed to assist residents who are behind on rent and utility costs. RAP began in September and DSS staff received over 800 applications and distributed approximately \$126,000 to date.

C. Jacqueline Welch, Aging Services Director, reported on the Aging Services Administrative Report. The senior centers reopened with restrictions in place. The centers practice social distancing, require face masks to be worn, and maintain a limited capacity on the number of participants allowed in the buildings at any given time for meal sites and activities. Senior trips have resumed with limits on the number of people on the bus to maintain social distancing. The congregate meal sites are serving hot meals five days a week and the meal deliveries continue to be made weekly.

Aging Services continues to assist seniors by offering activities, supplemental services, and information. They received 47 new clients in September and assisted them with a variety of programs, including home health care and home repairs.

Aging Services and DSS will host the annual Senior Symposium on October 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at the Cole Auditorium. There will be two identical sessions each day and tickets can be picked up at Aging Services. Topics include Medicare 101, Fraud, bingo, and more. Lunch will be served and goodie bags with information from local resources and agencies will be distributed. Plans are in the works for a Christmas program and fruit bags for seniors.

**7. OLD BUSINESS:**

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

There is one vacancy on the advisory board for a public member to replace Carolyn Walker. Jacqueline Welch suggested to consider someone from the Aging Services Advisory Council. Since there were no recommendations made, Mr. Smart advised everyone to consider someone who is interested in serving on the board and forward the name(s) to him or Cheryl Speight before the next meeting.

**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. COVID-19 Update:**

Cheryl Speight provided an update on COVID-19 in Richmond County. North Carolina state sends COVID data on a weekly basis and the health department webpage is updated every Wednesday. Approximately 19,267 Richmond County residents have been vaccinated. To date, there are 7,088 positive COVID cases and 141 deaths. The number of positive cases has slightly decreased over the past few months and the high pace of people visiting the health department for vaccinations has slowed down.

*Testing*

Covid positive cases are tracked by age, gender, and race. Statistics reveal the majority of positive cases are people between the ages of 25-49 years old; 54% are female and 46% are male; and 48% of positive cases are Caucasian, 30% are African Americans, 11% are Hispanic and 20% are classified as Other. To date, a total of 142 Covid related deaths are reported among Richmond County residents, with the majority of those over the age of 60. Statistics reveal 49% were female and 51% were male; 29% were Caucasian, 19% were African Americans, 4% were Hispanic, 1% were American Indians and Asian/Pacific Islanders, and 5% were classified as other.

Free COVID testing is offered at the health department on Monday-Friday from 8:00am to 6:00pm. Other testing sites are Cole Auditorium, First Health Richmond Hospital, Fast Med, Goshen, and several doctor offices.

### *Vaccination*

Approximately 51% of Richmond County population 12 years and older are fully vaccinated and 56% of the population has received at least one dose. Statistics reveal the majority of Richmond County residents that are fully vaccinated are age 75+, and the scale declines by age; 46% are female and 39% are male.

COVID-19 vaccines are available to everyone age 12 and older. There are several COVID vaccines being administered at the health department. Pfizer is available for those 12 and older, while Moderna and Johnson & Johnson are available for adults 18 and older. Although we have no data on children 12 and under with COVID, there is a potential for students to test positive through interactions in schools.

Cheryl Speight explained the third dose COVID vaccine is a full dose given to those with immunocompromised immune systems, while the booster is given to those with normal immune systems. The COVID booster vaccines (Moderna and Johnson & Johnson) are expected to be available at the health department next week. COVID boosters can be given if it has been six months after the primary series of vaccination with Moderna or Pfizer; or two months after the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Those eligible include 65 years or older; 18 years or older who work or are a resident of a long term care facility; have underlying medical condition; or an occupational or institutional exposure to COVID.

#### **B. Health Department Bad Debt Write-Off:**

Cheryl Speight explained the bad debt write-off for the following clinics from January 2021 through June 2021: Maternal Health (\$985.86); Pregnancy Test/other services (\$127.73); TB (\$139.77); Immunization (\$204.90); Primary Care (\$453.16); and Family Planning (\$14,337.26). Family Planning is one of the largest clinics and the substantial amount can be attributed to birth control. Many of the family planning clients are youth who may not be employed or are covered on their parent's insurance. Ms. Speight indicated the bad debt can be recuperated if the clients willingly submit payment or through garnishment from their state income tax refund.

Paul Smart asked for a motion to approve the Bad-Debt Write-Off for the Richmond County Health Department for January 2021 through June 2021.

- **Motion Offered By:** Evonne Moore
- **Motion Seconded By:** Pat Solomon
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

#### **C. School of Government DSS Board Training – November 16-17, 2021**

The School of Government offers DSS Board training for health and human services board members and governing boards in consolidated counties. The training is a five hour webinar spread over two days that will serve as an orientation for individuals who serve on social services governing boards. Board members can view the training at the Health Department large classroom. Those who wish to attend offsite must register and will receive an invoice. The cost of the training will be covered by the Human Services department; invoices should be emailed to Sheila Brosier for payment prior to the training.

**D. Discussion to change time of Health & Human Services Board meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup>**

The School of Government DSS Board training is on the same day as the next Health & Human Services Advisory Board meeting. The training is at 9:30am to 12:00pm. It was discussed to change the time of the advisory board meeting to 12:00pm, immediately following the DSS board training. Everyone decided to keep the meeting time at 7:00pm.

**E. Recommendation for Approval of Reinstatement of Advisory Board Members**

The following board members' terms of service on the advisory board expires in January 2022. All were contacted prior to the meeting and agreed to serve for an additional three years.

Dr. William Cleveland	Ralph Souder
Evonne Moore	Dr. Rick Watkins
Patricia Solomon	Thad Ussery

Paul Smart asked for a motion to recommend reinstatement of the following board members for a new term to run from January 2022 through January 2025. The recommendation will be submitted for placement on the next County Commissioners meeting agenda for approval.

- **Motion Offered By:** Dr. John Stevenson
- **Motion Seconded By:** Jon Marks
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

9. **INFORMAL DISCUSSION:** Paul Smart asked if there were any other matters to discuss to which no one responded.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** Paul Smart asked for a motion to adjourn and the meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

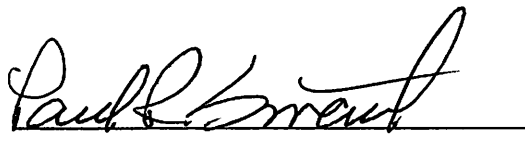
- **Motion Offered By:** Alethia Lanier
- **Motion Seconded By:** Thad Ussery
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

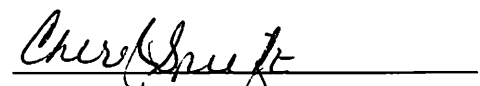
**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held via webinar and/or in person based on the status and any restrictions imposed due to the Covid pandemic.

**DATE:** November 16, 2021

**TIME:** 7:00pm

**LOCATION:** To be determined.

  
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Paul Smart, Chairperson  
Health & Human Services Advisory Board

  
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Cheryl Speight, Health Director  
Richmond County Health Department