



RICHMOND COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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North Carolina
Public Health

Cheryl Speight, Health Director
Holly Haire, Deputy Health Director

Robby Hall, Social Services Director
Theresa Smith, Deputy Social Services Director

RICHMOND COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: July 19, 2022
TIME: 7:00pm
LOCATION: Large Classroom and Webinar

BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Paul Smart, Chairperson
Jon Marks, Pharmacist
Aletha Lanier, Nurse
Dennis Holloway, Public Member
Cassandra Byers, Daymark Center Director
Evonne Moore, Social Worker
Dr. W. Cleveland, Dentist
Dr. Don Covington, Optometrist
Thad Ussery, Public Member
Dr. John Stevenson, retired Physician
Pat Solomon, Public Member
Dr. Rick Watkins, County Commissioner

NON-BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Cheryl Speight, Health Director
Robby Hall, Director of Social Services
Tierra Gilbert, QCPI Supervisor

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Paul Smart called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. He welcomed Dennis Holloway as the new advisory board member who will serve in the role of public member, and everyone introduced themselves.
- 2. INVOCATION:** Thad Ussery delivered the invocation for the meeting.
- 3. CONSENT AGENDA:** Paul Smart asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

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

MEETING MINUTES: Paul Smart asked for a motion to approve the May 17, 2022, meeting minutes.

- **Motion Offered By:** Dr. Don Covington
- **Motion Seconded By:** Dennis Holloway
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Tierra Gilbert read a thank you card that the board received from the family in loving memory of Richard C. Lanier, husband of Aletha Lanier who serves as one of the board members.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A.** Robby Hall read the **Public Health Administrative Report** for Cheryl Speight. Beginning December 1, 2022, all buildings and grounds of agencies that receive Medicaid funding must be tobacco/smoke free, including vape. The mandate states there can be no use of these products anywhere on the property of the agency that receives funding, including inside personal cars. This includes the Human Services complex and applies to staff as well as visitors to our building. Kendra Faries, Public Health Educator will be conducting smoking cessation classes for interested staff. These classes are currently ongoing and open to the public.

Free drive-thru COVID-19 testing that is offered behind the Health Department on Monday through Friday will discontinue at the end of July due to the decrease in the number of positive cases in North Carolina and the expense to operate the drive thru. The Health Department ordered free home tests kits and staff visited the school nurses to demonstrate proper use of the tests. Others can contact the Health Department for instructions on how to accurately use the tests and read the results. The public can also find where to get free home tests kits on covid19.ncdhhs.gov/PickUpTests.

Covid-19 Update: The NC Department of Health & Human Services reports updates on a weekly basis and the health department reports COVID data on Wednesdays on the webpage, which includes total cases and deaths. To date, have been 13,841 positive COVID cases, which equates to a county positivity rate of 31%. There have been 195 COVID-related deaths reported. The webpage now reports a transmission risk. The CDC assigns a community risk level (low, medium, or high) for every county. The level is based on hospital beds in use, hospital admissions and new Covid-19 cases. Richmond County has a medium level of transmission risk.

- B.** Robby Hall, Social Services Director, discussed **Social Services Administrative Report**. DSS has seen an increase in the number of citizens visiting the building in person at reception and applying for various programs. The Food & Nutrition Program (FNS) has seen an increase of 1,400 to 1,500 people this year, mostly senior citizens. Approximately 14,000 people were on Medicaid prior to Covid and we have seen an increase to 20,000. LIEAP served many citizens, especially seniors, as the poverty level for eligibility increased from 130% to 180%.

Total collections for Child Support fell short of meeting its goal this fiscal year due to no new arrests, reduced court dates, increased unemployment during the Covid pandemic, and staff shortages in Child Support. The Child Support staff have made tremendous strides in collecting child support payments, despite limited collections during the Covid pandemic and staff turnover.

- C. Robby Hall read the **Aging Services Administrative Report** in the absence of Jacqueline Welch. All congregate meal sites (East Rockingham, Ellerbe, and Hamlet) are open and serve hot meals, five days a week for clients to come by and eat or pick up. The In-Home Aide Program is 50% staffed with in-home aides and we are actively recruiting. Nevertheless, the waiting list continues to decrease slightly.

Kim Hotter was selected as the new Director of the East Rockingham Senior Center and brings a plethora of ideas and exciting programs for seniors. The East Rockingham Senior Center offers Senior Water Aerobics every Tuesday and Thursday through August from 5:00pm-6:00pm for a one-time fee.

Aging Services and Lumber River Area Agency on Aging sponsored a Veteran's Program on June 30th at the Cole Auditorium and it was well received by the participants. The next Veteran's Program will be held in conjunction with Richmond Community College's Annual Our Heroes Tree Program, on September 21st at the Cole Auditorium from 9:00am-11:00am. Upcoming field trips include tour of the African American Museum of History & Culture and a textile factory in Gastonia, NC on July 19th; tour of the Greensboro Science Center on July 29th; and chartered bus ride on July 29-31 to attend the Atlanta Braves baseball games, which includes hotel room near ballpark stadium, tickets to two games and shuttle transportation to and from the stadium. Everyone is encouraged to check the website for additional details and upcoming events.

6. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **Phase I – Review of Changes in DSS Committee Report:**

The Social Services Administrative Report has been upgraded to include charts to display increase and decrease comparisons in various programs for the current fiscal year. These charts will be included in the Social Services Administrative Report to provide a clear picture of the data. It was suggested to include data from previous years and display the charts in color. Robby Hall welcomed other suggestions for improvement.

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

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

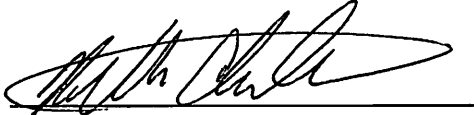
- **Motion Offered By:** Aletha Lanier
- **Motion Seconded By:** Thad Ussery
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held via webinar and in person in the large classroom at the Health Department.

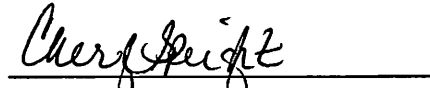
DATE: September 20, 2022

TIME: 7:00pm

LOCATION: Large Classroom and/or webinar



Paul Smart, Chairperson
Health & Human Services Advisory Board



Cheryl Speight, Health Director
Richmond County Health Department