



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: January 17, 2023
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. Don Covington, Optometrist
Thad Ussery, Public Member
Ronald Tillman, Board of Education
Pat Solomon, public member
Dr. John Stevenson, retired Physician
Bryan Land, County Manager

NON-BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Cheryl Speight, Health Director
Robby Hall, Director of Social Services
Theresa Smith, Deputy Director of Social Services
Sheila Brosier, Administrative Assistant

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Paul Smart called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
- 2. INVOCATION:** Thad Ussery delivered the invocation for the meeting.
- 3. CONSENT AGENDA:** Mr. Smart asked the board to add an item to the agenda to cover the annual election of officers. The board agreed and he asked for a motion to approve the revised meeting agenda.

- **Motion Offered By:** Aletha Lanier
- **Motion Seconded By:** Dennis Holloway
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

MEETING MINUTES: Mr. Smart asked for a motion to approve the November 15, 2022, meeting minutes.

- **Motion Offered By:** Dr. Stevenson
- **Motion Seconded By:** Evonne Moore
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

A. Cheryl Speight, Health Director, discussed the **Public Health Administrative Report**. Health Education offers several programs to the public that are funded by grants. *Prevent T2 Lifestyle Change Program* is a course for those who are at risk for diabetes or have pre-diabetes and guides participants in learning how to make minor adjustments in lifestyles that lead to changing overall health and preventing type 2 diabetes. Many participants were referred to the program from FirstHealth Annual Wellness Event. The *Fresh Start Smoking/Vaping Cessation Program* is a part of the Quit Smoking campaign and offers a free four week tobacco cessation class. *Catch My Breath* is a new program that teaches kids about the hazards of vaping. *Baby Easy Safe Sleep* is a one hour training for expectant mothers on how to properly lay babies down to sleep. Referrals were made from the Health Department Maternity Clinic and FirstHealth Hospital. This grant was provided due to the high infant mortality rate.

The Covid Vaccine Clinic is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 8:00am-5:00pm, and Fridays from 8:00am-11:00am. No appointment is required. The weekly Covid-19 Update for Richmond County can be found on the link <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker>. The Department of Health & Human Services state website has lots of information pertaining to Covid that is updated every Wednesday.

B. Robby Hall, Social Services Director, discussed the **Social Services Administrative Report**. There are currently 111 children in foster care. DSS has seen an increase in the number of Adult Protective Service cases and has hired an additional social worker. There are currently 53 adults in guardianship.

LIEAP applications were available to households with disabled persons and seniors aged 60 or older from December 1-31, 2022. Approximately \$347,000 of LIEAP funds have been allocated for seniors. All households can apply for the remaining funds beginning January 3, 2023 through March 31, 2023, or until funds are exhausted. The CIP funds have been exhausted.

C. Jacqueline Welch, Aging Services Director, discussed the **Aging Services Administrative Report**. Aging Services welcomed April Moore, new Accounting Technician who will handle accounting and financial donations for Aging Services. Items such as heaters, fans, blankets, and funds are being donations by the local community and distributed to seniors in need. The *Meals on Wheels for Dogs of Richmond County* continues to solicit donations for pet food to help our HDM clients that struggle in providing food for their animals.

The 42nd Annual Senior Christmas Party was held at the Cole Auditorium on December 8th and was well attended. The Lunch with LEOs and Alive After 55 Supper Club events continue, and future events and field trips are in the planning phase for 2023. All events will be published in the monthly newsletters.

The Kings Gate Church in Rockingham feeds over 600 people every Tuesday at their facility. Aging Services will look at partnering with them to provide for some of the seniors on the home delivered meals waiting list.

6. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Election of Officers

Paul Smart opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Health & Human Services Advisory Board. Thad Ussery nominated Paul Smart for Chairperson. Robby Hall asked for a motion to approve the nomination.

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

Aletha Lanier nominated Dr. Cleveland for Vice-Chairperson. Robby Hall asked for a motion to approve the nomination.

- **Motion Offered By:** Aletha Lanier
- **Motion Seconded By:** Dennis Holloway
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

B. High Risk Behavior and Foster Care Placement of Children

Robby Hall discussed the increasing number of foster children entering care continues to strain county staffing and resources. Lack of treatment level foster homes have reached crisis levels in North Carolina, requiring children to stay in uncertified placements or out of county. Over the past year, there have been a total of 15 children residing in the DSS building. Robby Hall briefly described one youth with behavioral issues who resided in the building and was transferred back and forth from other facilities since June 2022. On occasion, the youth exhibited aggressive behaviors toward staff and medical/treatment professionals which led him to being transferred to various crisis centers that would accept his case. The youth was admitted to the hospital for drug overdose and IVCs and is currently on runaway status. This is just one case of many across the state. There is a need for more treatment facilities that provide secure custody to handle behavioral health and safety issues to include drug use and overdose among youth.

8. **INFORMAL DISCUSSION:** None.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Smart asked for a motion to adjourn and the meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

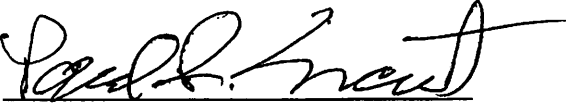
- **Motion Offered By:** Thad Ussery
- **Motion Seconded By:** Dennis Holloway
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

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

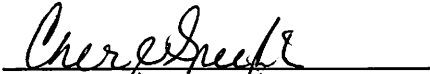
DATE: March 21, 2023

TIME: 7:00pm

LOCATION: Richmond County Health Department Large Classroom and via webinar



Paul Smart, Chairperson
Health & Human Services Advisory Board



Cheryl Speight, Health Director
Richmond County Health Department