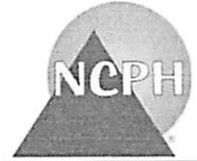




RICHMOND COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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

Cheryl Speight, 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 (Revised)**

DATE: March 21, 2023
TIME: 7:00pm
LOCATION: Large Classroom and Webinar

BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Paul Smart, Chairperson
Jon Marks, Pharmacist
Aletha Lanier, Nurse
Dr. Dale McInnis, President, Richmond Community College
Cassandra Byers, Daymark Center Director
Thad Ussery, Public Member
Pat Solomon, public member
Dr. John Stevenson, retired Physician
Bryan Land, County Manager
**Dr. Don Covington, Optometrist
**Dennis Holloway, Public Member

NON-BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Cheryl Speight, Health Director
Robby Hall, Director of Social Services
Jacqueline Welch, Aging Services Director
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:** Paul Smart delivered the invocation for the meeting.
- 3. CONSENT AGENDA:** Mr. Smart asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

- **Motion Offered By:** Aletha Lanier
- **Motion Seconded By:** Pat Solomon
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

MEETING MINUTES: Mr. Smart asked for a motion to approve the January 17, 2023, meeting minutes.

- **Motion Offered By:** Pat Solomon
- **Motion Seconded By:** Dr. Covington
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

A. Cheryl Speight, Health Director, discussed the **Public Health Administrative Report**. The Health Education department is hosting a Women's Health Summit on April 20th at the Cole Auditorium from 10:00am–2:00pm. A host of vendors will offer information on personal safety, mental health, domestic violence, child and infant safety, maternal health, breastfeeding, Safe Surrender Laws, NC Works job search help, alcohol and drug substance abuse, Head Start information, and more. The event is open to the public.

Goshen Medical Center will continue to provide EKG and tobacco screenings free to the public from their mobile unit which is onsite at the health department parking lot every Tuesday from 9:00am-2:00pm, until further notice. They provided screenings to 80 people in February and expect the numbers to increase each month.

The County Commissioners expressed the importance of bringing awareness to the community about surrendering unwanted newborn babies in a safe manner. North Carolina's Safe Surrender Law allows a parent to surrender a newborn up to seven days old to a responsible adult without the parent providing his or her name. Safe Surrender is legal and aims to prevent newborns from being hurt or abandoned. Cheryl Speight is conversing with school nurses and will gather information to display in the health department.

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**. The number of participants in the Food & Nutrition (FNS) program has increased during COVID. Families enrolled in FNS have gotten at least \$95 extra per month through emergency allotments since March 2020 due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. February 2023 was the last month to get these extra benefits. This was due to a federal change that ended emergency allotments for all states as of March 2023.

Thanks to the Aging Services liaison staff for assisting seniors with applying for the LIEAP, LIWAP and CIP programs. Approximately \$347,000 of LIEAP funds have been allocated for seniors. The LIWAP Program received an allotment of \$131,000 to assist eligible residents with water bills. The CIP funds have been exhausted.

April is Child Abuse and Prevention Awareness Month and DSS will host the 4/4@4! Child Abuse Prevention event. On April 4th at 4:00pm, anyone interested can meet outside of the DSS building to begin an awareness walk to the old courthouse to plant pinwheels and hear guest speakers.

- C. Jacqueline Welch, Aging Services Director, discussed the Aging Services Administrative Report. There are 130 people on the waiting list for Home Delivered Meals and 96 people on the waiting list for In-Home Aide. Aging Services is seeking volunteer drivers to assist with these programs.

Aging Services received a grant of \$55,556.00 for a Housing and Home Improvement Program that assists adults 60 years or older with needed minor home repairs to improve living conditions and functional accessibility of their home. Repair services are performed by local volunteers and licensed contractors. Seniors can submit an application and priority will be given to low income disabled adults in greatest need. The program will be advertised in the Aging Services monthly newsletter and Lirosia Wall is the point of contact.

Ms. Welch discussed activities at the senior centers highlighted in the monthly newsletter. On March 21st staff were invited to wear brightly colored and or mismatched socks to bring awareness to World Down Syndrome Day. Aging Services distributed socks to the seniors and took pictures. On March 23rd, the Veteran's Breakfast & Learn will be held from 9:00am-11:00am at the Cole Auditorium. Breakfast will be prepared by Roberdel Baptist Church and fruit was donated by The Berry Patch. 125 veterans registered for this event. The week of April 17-22 is Earth Day Community Clean Up. Household hazardous waste can be brought to the Social Services parking lot on Saturday, April 15th for proper disposal.

6. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Opioid Settlement

Robby Hall gave an overview of the NC Opioid Settlement Fund presentation that was presented at the County Commissioners meeting. Richmond County has joined national settlement agreements with companies engaged in the manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of opioids. As a result, Richmond County has been allotted opioid settlement funds in the amount of \$4,825,356.00 to be distributed over an 18 year payment plan during 2022 through 2038. The first two allotments received by the county for fiscal year 2022-2023 total \$592,992. Before spending any opioid settlement funds, a local government must formally authorize the expenditure in its budget or through a separate resolution or ordinance. The budget or resolution should (1) indicate that it is an authorization for expenditure of opioid settlement funds; (2) state the specific strategy or strategies the county or municipality intends to fund; and (3) state the amount dedicated to each strategy for a stated period of time. The county has chosen Collaborative Strategic Planning and the Drug Endangered Family Taskforce (DEFT) to provide oversight and monitor how the opioid settlement funds are used.

Opioid settlement funds may be used to support programs or services listed below that serve persons with opioid use disorder or any co-occurring substance use disorder or mental health condition.

- Collaborative strategic planning
- Evidence-based addiction treatment
- Fund evidence-based recovery support services
- Recovery housing support
- Employment-related services
- Early intervention programs, services, or training
- Naloxone distribution
- Criminal justice diversion programs
- Addiction treatment for incarcerated persons
- Reentry Programs

Director Hall discussed priorities for DEFT to move forward with the opioid settlement funds. Within the next 30 days, DEFT will create bylaws to establish membership criteria, meetings, and voting using Roberts Rule of Order; form a board of members through solicitation of nominations to be recommended to the county commissioners for approval; utilize data collection and other resources to determine the three top priority needs of the community related to opioid use; and develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) by July 2023.

North Carolina Opioid Settlements has a state-run information website for planning, procedures, monitoring and reporting Opioid Settlement Funds for counties.
[Data Dashboards - North Carolina Opioid Settlements \(ncopioidsettlement.org\)](http://ncopioidsettlement.org)

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:** Dr. Stevenson
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

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

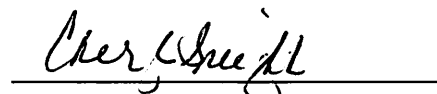
DATE: May 16, 2023

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