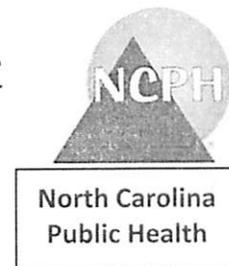




## RICHMOND COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

127 Caroline Street  
Rockingham, North Carolina 28379  
Phone: 1-910-997-8300  
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Heather Horne, Health Director  
Holly Haire, Deputy Health Director

Theresa Smith, Interim Social Services Director

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

**DATE:** May 20, 2025  
**TIME:** 7:00pm  
**LOCATION:** Large Classroom and Webinar

#### **BOARD ATTENDANCE:**

Dennis Holloway, Chairperson  
Thad Ussery, public member  
Paul Smart, retired Engineer  
Cassandra Byers, Behavioral Health  
Dr. John Stevenson, retired Physician  
Pat Solomon, public member

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

Heather Horne, Health Director  
Theresa Smith, Deputy Social Services Director  
Darcey Wiggins, FNS / Energy Program Supervisor  
Dr. Patricia Powell-Patrick  
Tammy Brigman  
Sheila Brosier, Administrative Assistant

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Dennis Holloway called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
- 2. INVOCATION:** Dennis Holloway delivered the invocation for the meeting.
- 3. CONSENT AGENDA:** The appropriate number of board members was not present to establish a quorum.

**MEETING MINUTES:** The appropriate number of board members was not present to establish a quorum. Therefore, the meeting minutes from November 19, 2024 and March 18, 2025 will be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Heather Horne, Health Director, discussed the **Public Health Administrative Report**. The NCLHD accreditation site visit is scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup>. Staff are preparing for the site visit and compiling data and records that will be requested for review.

The Health Department celebrated National Public Health Awareness Week on April 7-11<sup>th</sup> to show appreciation for the contributions made by our health professionals to the Richmond County community. This year's theme was "It Starts Here: Your Health is Our Mission" and marked 30 years of recognition.

Several Health Department units (WIC, Social Workers, Nursing and Public Education) attended as vendors at the Diapers & Wipes Community Drive sponsored by Blue Cross/Blue Shield at the Dobbins Heights Community Center on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Information and trinkets were handed out to approximately 150 participants.

Marketing efforts for the late night clinic have increased foot traffic. The late clinic is open on the second and fourth Tuesday each month until 7:00pm and incentives are offered for women with appointments. New brochures, rack cards and yard signs were made to promote services offered by the health department. The number of WIC clients and dental patients has increased. There has been an increase in Environmental health permits, especially for food truck vendors and caterers.

In March 2025, there were 222 measles cases reported in 12 states. Since then, the number has risen to 1,024 in 30 states, with a concentration in Texas and New Mexico. There are no cases reported in North Carolina at this time. Richmond County is 97.3% in compliance with vaccinations among school aged children.

- B. Theresa Smith, Interim Social Services Director, discussed the **Social Services Administrative Report**. Foster Care Appreciation Month is May and was adopted through a proclamation by the Board of County Commissioners. Child Protective Service staff will host an appreciation banquet for the foster parents and guardian on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm at the East Rockingham Senior Center. There are currently 89 children in foster care and the number has steadily decreased. On the contrary, the number of adults in Adult Protective Service is increasing, and notably a younger adult population. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is recognized on June 15<sup>th</sup> each year. DSS is hosting its annual Elder Abuse Awareness Walk on June 2<sup>nd</sup> starting at 9:00am in the DSS parking lot.

There are 164 on the day care waiting list. Three daycares in Richmond county have closed this year, which poses concerns for those on the waiting list and impacts special needs children and those in DSS custody and foster care.

- C. Theresa Smith provided the **Aging Services Administrative Report** in the absence of Jacqueline Welch, Aging Services Director. Kudos to Theresa Smith and Karen Steen for spearheading this year's Senior Games. Many events were held at the senior centers and other locations throughout the county. Approximately 245 seniors participated this year and many new sports/games were added.

The East Rockingham Center was closed for construction during the week of May 12-16 to upgrade the handicap accessible concrete walkway. The congregate meal sites continue to serve hot meals five days a week for clients to take out or eat on site. Volunteers and staff continue to deliver meals through the Meals on Wheels program on Monday-Friday. The In-Home Aide program welcomed 9 new clients and the waiting list is decreasing due to the hiring of staff. Sharon Morrison and Lirosia Wall are the senior liaisons who assist seniors with enrolling in programs and providing services. They assisted 50 new clients and a total of 83 clients were served in April.

6. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Board Membership

There are several board members whose terms have expired. The board has been diligently seeking others who would be interested in serving on the board in those specific positions and asked to extend an invitation to the board meeting.

Dr. Patricia Powell-Patrick introduced herself; a resident of Richmond County employed as a licensed clinical counselor with the Scotland County School District. She expressed an interest in serving on the board. If nominated, she will replace Evonne Moore, who served in the role of Social Worker and whose term expired in February 2025.

Tammy Brigman introduced herself; a resident of Richmond County employed as a Registered Nurse at First Health Hospital. She expressed an interest in serving on the board. If nominated, she will replace Aletha Lanier, who served in the role of Registered Nurse and whose term expired in February 2024.

In addition, the membership terms for Casaandra Byers ends in May 2025 and Dennis Holloway ends in July 2025. Both have agreed to renew their terms. The appropriate number of board members was not present to establish a quorum; therefore, a motion for nominations of the above will be deferred to the July meeting.

B. Bad Debt Write-Off – Heather Horne

The Bad Debt Write Off from February through April 2025 for the clinics was distributed to the board members with the advance materials for review. The appropriate number of board members was not present to establish a quorum. Therefore, the motion for vote will be forwarded to the board members via email. This item will be included on the agenda for the July meeting.

C. Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) Outreach Plan – Darcey Wiggins

Darcey Wiggins presented the Energy Programs Outreach Plan for fiscal year 25-26 to the board for approval. The outreach plan includes the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP), Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP), and Weatherization Program. Each county is required to develop and implement an Energy Program Outreach Plan to inform county residents and ensure eligible households are made aware of the assistance available

through these programs. Ms. Wiggins presented the Richmond County Energy Outreach Plan which engages a number of community partners, to include housing authority, public libraries, school system, churches, food banks, day care centers, Aging Services, senior centers, volunteer programs, and others. Materials, flyers, and applications will be available at various sites. Aging Services and CAP staff will schedule visits to senior centers, housing authority, and senior apartment complexes to assist those eligible with completing applications. CAP staff will provide special help with the home-bound population. The programs will be advertised on the website, community/government television channel, local newspaper, and radio stations.

CIP is a federally funded program that assists households experiencing a heating or cooling related crisis. A household is considered to be in a life threatening or health related crisis if the heating or cooling source is disconnected, or the household is currently experiencing or is in danger of experiencing a life-threatening or health-related emergency due to lack of heating/cooling, and sufficient, timely, and appropriate assistance is not available from any other source. To be eligible, households must be in a heating/cooling crisis as defined above, must meet an income test, must be U.S. citizens or eligible aliens, and may not earn total gross (pre-tax) income that exceeds 150% of the federal poverty level. Applications will be taken from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 or until CIP funds are exhausted.

LIEAP is a federally funded program that provides a one-time vendor payment to help eligible households pay their heating bills. To be eligible, households must meet an income test, must be responsible for its heating bills, cannot have resources over \$2,250, and must be U.S. citizens or eligible aliens. Households including a person aged 60 or older or disabled persons receiving services through the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services are eligible to sign up for assistance from December 1 through December 31. All other households may apply from January 1 through March 31 or until funds are exhausted.

Ms. Wiggins stated funding for LIEAP was reduced this year with the majority of funds used by senior citizens in December 1-31<sup>st</sup>. LIEAP funds opened to the public on January 1<sup>st</sup> and were exhausted by January 6<sup>th</sup>.

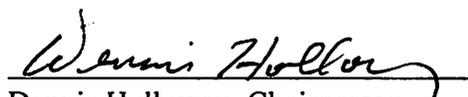
8. **INFORMAL DISCUSSION:** None.
9. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

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

**DATE:** July 15, 2025

**TIME:** 7:00pm

**LOCATION:** Richmond County Health Department Large Classroom

  
Dennis Holloway, Chairperson  
Health & Human Services Advisory Board

  
Heather Horne, Health Director  
Richmond County Health Department