



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 18, 2023
TIME: 7:00pm
LOCATION: Large Classroom and Webinar

BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Paul Smart, Chairperson
Jon Marks, Pharmacist
Aletha Lanier, Nurse
Dr. Don Covington, Optometrist
Dr. Ralph Souder, Veterinarian
Dennis Holloway, Public Member
Evonne Moore, Social Worker
Cassandra Byers, Daymark Center Director
Thad Ussery, Public Member
Dr. John Stevenson, retired Physician
Pat Solomon, retired Nurse
Ronald Tillman, Board of Education

NON-BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Cheryl Speight, Health Director
Robby Hall, Director of Social Services
Linda Taylor, Economics Program Manager
Darcey Wiggins, Food & Nutrition Supervisor
Sheila Brosier, Administrative Assistant

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Paul Smart called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
2. **INVOCATION:** Mr. Smart delivered the invocation for the meeting.
3. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Mr. Smart asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda.
 - **Motion Offered By:** Dennis Holloway
 - **Motion Seconded By:** Ronald Tillman
 - **Motion Carried:** Yes

MEETING MINUTES: Mr. Smart asked for a motion to approve the May 16, 2023, meeting minutes.

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

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- A. Cheryl Speight, Health Director, discussed the **Public Health Administrative Report**. The 2022 Community Health Assessment (CHA) report was approved and will be posted on the website and copies will be available at the public library, county buildings, etc. Copies of the CHA were distributed to the board members.

Free Covid-19 vaccines are offered to the public on Tuesdays by appointment only. Free Covid test kits are also available to the public and can be picked up at the registration window.

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 third Tuesday of the month from 10:00am-2:00pm, through December. They are looking to providing more types of tests in the mobile unit.

The Farmers Market & Food Trucks are at the DSS parking lot every Wednesday throughout the summer. The Farmers Market features fresh vegetables and fruit from a local farm from 3:00pm to 6:00pm and various food trucks will be set up from 11:00am to 6:00pm.

Ms. Speight discussed the NC Heat Report which is published weekly on the NCDHHS website and displays the maximum heat and temperature range by week. The report shows the number of heat related illness, hospital visits and deaths, and the causes. Heat exhaustion appears to be the number one cause of hospital visits, occurring mostly in individuals between the ages of 25-44 and 65+. The Health Department and First Health will partner to bring awareness to the heat index, particularly, to highlight the danger of leaving children unattended in parked vehicles. They plan to post a closed vehicle in the parking lot and display the heat index to show the public the impact and severity of leaving children in hot vehicles.

- B. Robby Hall, Social Services Director, discussed the **Social Services Administrative Report**. Child Support collections exceeded its goal for the fiscal year, collecting a total of \$6,286,572.07. Each month our assigned State Human Services Program Consultant completes a quality review of 4 cases in the Child Support Program. Our Child Support staff ended their 4th consecutive fiscal year with a perfect score.

The number of children in foster care has decreased slightly as more court hearings have been held and placements for children have been found. We are seeing an increase in adult guardianship over the past several months. Approximately one-third are under age 40.

Medicaid Expansion is on hold until further notice. In March 2023, the North Carolina legislature passed Medicaid expansion. While some parts of the bill are effective upon signing, much of Medicaid expansion cannot roll out until the 2023 state budget passes.

Eligibility for Medicaid in North Carolina is based on an individual's circumstances and income. Expansion will raise the income limit to 138 percent of the federal poverty level. The income limit is higher for children younger than 19 who rely on Medicaid. Their families can make up to 266 percent of the federal poverty level.

The state must redetermine the eligibility of more than 2.9 million people who are currently receiving Medicaid. Before the pandemic, Medicaid recipients usually experienced an annual or semiannual review to verify that they continued to qualify for coverage. But many of the state's more recent enrollees, who gained coverage during the public health emergency, have never gone through the process. Statewide enrollment grew 36 percent during the pandemic, with over 797,000 people newly qualifying for coverage from March 2020 until April of this year.

DHHS estimates that as many as 300,000 individuals could lose coverage in connection with the unwinding. Many individuals who lose Medicaid in the coming months will become eligible again after expansion is implemented. Terminations are scheduled to begin in July; and expansion will not officially begin until a state budget is approved.

- C. Jacqueline Welch, Aging Services Director, provided the **Aging Services Administrative Report**. The Congregate Meal Sites and Home Delivered Meals programs continue to serve the seniors with hot and/or boxed meals five days a week. The In-Home Aide program is still seeking to hire full time and part time workers to reduce the waiting list.

Aging Services staff host a plethora of events at the senior centers each month. Seniors enjoyed a trip to Cape Fear Botanical Gardens in Fayetteville and lunch with shopping in Cheraw this month. The East Rockingham Senior Center pool offers water aerobics for seniors only on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:00pm. Other social and recreational activities hosted by the centers include exercise classes, bingo, billiards, chair volleyball, cornhole, painting, arts and craft classes. Upcoming activities and events can be found in the monthly newsletter.

To beat the July heat, Aging Services is soliciting fans or monetary donations to purchase fans for seniors 55 years or older in Richmond County. Richmond County DSS and Carolina Hearts collected 101 fans for seniors.

6. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

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

Darcey Wiggins reviewed the criteria and benefits of the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) and Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) and Weatherization. Applications are accepted beginning July 1st with new funding is allocation and will continue until the CIP allocation is exhausted or until the end of the state fiscal year,

whichever comes first. DSS has been allocated \$41,000.00 for CIP thus far and has received 107 applications.

Each county is required to develop and implement an Energy Program Outreach Plan to inform county residents and assure 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.

The outreach plan requires approval of the board. Mr. Smart asked for a motion to approve the Richmond County Energy Programs Outreach Plan.

- **Motion Offered By:** Evonne Moore
- **Motion Seconded By:** Dennis Holloway
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

8. **INFORMAL DISCUSSION:** None.

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

- **Motion Offered By:** Dennis Holloway
- **Motion Seconded By:** Ronald Tillman
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

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

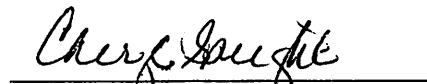
DATE: September 19, 2023

TIME: 7:00pm

LOCATION: Richmond County Health Department Large Classroom



Paul Smart, Chairperson
Health & Human Services Advisory Board



Cheryl Speight, Health Director
Richmond County Health Department