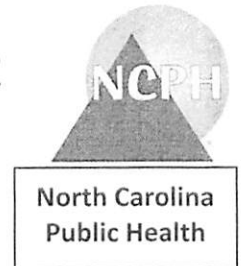




RICHMOND COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

127 Caroline Street
Rockingham, North Carolina 28379
Phone: 1-910-997-8300
Facsimile: 1-910-997-8336 Health Dept



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: September 19, 2023
TIME: 7:00pm
LOCATION: Large Classroom and Webinar

BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Paul Smart, Chairperson
Jon Marks, Pharmacist
Aletha Lanier, Nurse
Dr. Don Covington, Optometrist
Evonne Moore, Social Worker
Cassandra Byers, Daymark Center Director
Dr. John Stevenson, retired Physician
Pat Solomon, retired Nurse
Ronald Tillman, Board of Education
Bryan Land, County Manager
Dr. Rick Watkins, County Commissioner
Dr. William Cleveland, Dentist

NON-BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Cheryl Speight, Health Director
Robby Hall, Director of Social Services
Jacqueline Welch, Aging Services Director
Kelly Kirk, CAC Coordinator
Tierra Gilbert, QCPI Supervisor
Lirosia Wall, Aging Services Senior Liaison
Rosa Nelson, Aging Services
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:** Aletha Lanier

- **Motion Seconded By:** Evonne Moore
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

MEETING MINUTES: Mr. Smart asked for a motion to approve the July 18, 2023, meeting minutes.

- **Motion Offered By:** Ronald Tillman
- **Motion Seconded By:** Jon Marks
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

A. Cheryl Speight, Health Director, discussed the **Public Health Administrative Report**. Health Education staff will host the second annual Spooktacular event at the Health Department for DSS foster care children and families of Richmond County employees. The event will include a variety of health related vendors and the hallways will be decorated for Halloween/Harvest with goodies for the trick or treaters.

Three new staff are joining the health department this month-- Crystal Jefferson, Medical Office Assistant, Amanda Moore, Processing Assistant IV, and Brooke Bell, Dental Assistant. Kim Crump, Nursing Supervisor, will retire on September 30th after 19+ years of service.

FLU vaccines are offered Monday-Thursday, 8:00am-5:00pm and Fridays, 9:00am-11:00am. Residents can call to make an appointment; walk-ins will be accepted. Free Covid test kits are still available to the public. The new Covid vaccine was ordered and will be offered upon arrival. The vaccine is geared toward the new variant.

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.

B. Robby Hall, Social Services Director, discussed the **Social Services Administrative Report**. There has been a recent turnover in staffing. Recruitment and hiring initiatives have resulted in seven of the nine vacant positions to be filled.

Narcan was ordered through the Opioid Settlement Funds and will be distributed to the first responders, schools, and law enforcement. Usage and future orders will be monitored by Bob Smith, EMS Director.

C. Jacqueline Welch, Aging Services Director, provided the **Aging Services Administrative Report**. The Alzheimer's Walk will be held on November 2, 2023, from 9:30am – 11:00am. The one mile walk will begin and end at the Social Services parking lot and proceed on a designated route through downtown Rockingham. Light refreshments will be available after the walk. The event is open to the public and t-shirts can be pre-ordered by contacting Aging Services.

6. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Board Membership

Review of the membership roster reveals five board members' terms have expired and each has served three consecutive terms on the board. According to the Richmond County Board of Health By-Laws, "Members of the board shall serve three-year terms. No member shall be eligible to serve for more than three consecutive terms." Ms. Speight indicated these bylaws were written for the Richmond County Board of Health; there may be separate written by-laws for the Health & Human Services Advisory Board, which was established in 2014 as a result of the consolidation of the Health and Social Services departments. The UNC School of Government was contacted as they have a division that specializes in consolidated agencies. They advised the general statute for a Board of Health does not address Advisory Boards; however, it does indicate its membership should mirror that of a Board of Health. Several suggestions were made to the board for consideration.

- Extend the membership of those who expired while actively recruiting for others who are interested and committed to serve on the board. Membership consists of representation from specific occupations that reflect the population of the county. The expired positions will need to be filled by a registered nurse, optometrist, pharmacist, engineer, and a representative from the general public.
- Submit a resolution to the Board of County Commissioners requesting to extend the expired memberships for one year. Also, develop a set of by-laws for the Advisory Board.
- The Health & Human Services Division was established through the consolidation of the Health and Social Services department in February 2014. At that time, the Health & Human Services Board was established. Obtain the Board of Health meeting minutes from that time period and see if a resolution and/or by-laws were created regarding a Health & Human Services Advisory Board.

The board members discussed each suggestion and made a recommendation to prepare a list of all board members to review their initial appointment dates and number of terms in office. It appears several other memberships are due to expire within the next 12 months after serving three consecutive terms on the board. Mr. Smart added that a special call meeting can be scheduled if needed to continue the review and make a final recommendation.

B. Housing & Home Repair Program – Lirosia Wall / Rosa Nelson

The Housing Repair and Home Improvement Program assists adults 60 years or older with needed minor home repairs to improve living conditions and functional accessibility of the home. Repair services are provided by local volunteers and contractors willing to donate their time and skills. The program began on March 1, 2023, and 136 applications have been received to date. Applications can be obtained online or picked up at the Aging Services office in Rockingham. Priority for applicants is determined by a rating scale and

given to low income disabled adults in greatest need and clients in Adult Protective Service; all others are put on a waiting list. There are currently 59 seniors on the waiting list.

A total of 39 homes have been repaired. Some home improvements that have been completed include repairs to showers, bathtubs, sinks, and faucets, floors, handrails, heating and cooling units, and other minor repairs. Through the program seniors have received new doors, windows, replacement of appliances that no longer work, and window air conditioners. Severely damaged homes have been referred to Habitat for Humanity, Central Piedmont, and other organizations for assistance. Through consultation with the applicants, Lirosia Wall assessed additional needs and referred clients to other services, such as Meals on Wheels, Medicaid, and transportation.

C. Medicaid Expansion Update – Robby Hall

In March 2023, North Carolina legislature passed Medicaid expansion. While some parts of the bill are effective upon signing, much of Medicaid expansion cannot officially begin until the 2023 state budget is passed. Medicaid expansion is expected to increase enrollment by 18% in Richmond County. DSS was authorized funding for additional staff positions to accommodate the increase. The majority of those who were dropped from Medicaid did not complete recertification. Those who lost Medicaid will become eligible again after expansion is implemented.

D. Tri-County Child Advocacy Center – Kelly Kirk

Kelly Kirk, CAC Coordinator, provided an overview of the Tri-County Child Advocacy Center (CAC), which is located at 112 East Washington Street in Rockingham. The CAC encompasses three counties, serving Richmond, Anson and Scotland. Named “Our House”, its mission is to maintain a multi-disciplinary team to respond and address child abuse allegations through the coordination of professional services for children and to provide counseling, medical examinations, forensic interviews, law enforcement intervention and other resources within these local communities. A multi-disciplinary team (MDT) for response to child abuse allegations includes mandatory representation from the following and may include other community and/or state disciplines:

- Law enforcement
- Child Protective Services
- Prosecution
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Victim Advocacy
- Children’s Advocacy Center

The MDT conducts monthly meetings in each county to review child cases and recommend services for the child and family/caregiver. MDT members are routinely and actively involved in investigations, case reviews and/or interventions throughout the life of the case. The CAC also serves as a resource for social services, law enforcement, parents, and schools by providing outreach and education and by identifying gaps in services for families in crisis.

Each of the three counties allotted \$25,000.00 annually to support the CAC. Other agencies, such as Eastpointe and Sandhills, committed to provide funding. Most recently, Pinnacle Services agreed to serve as the mental health linkage partner for assessments and billing purposes. Through Kelly Kirk's efforts, CAC has contracted a doctor, nurse practitioner and forensic interviewer to perform needed services.

The process of establishing a CAC began in 2021 with the support of our District Attorney's Office. Through oversight and guidance provided by the NC CAC, Our House Tri-County CAC has attained provisional status.

8. INFORMAL DISCUSSION:

Jon Marks passed along salutations from Thad Ussery and provided an update on his condition. Paul Smart commended the Health Department staff responsible for gathering the data for the Community Health Assessment report. He commented on the data included in the report and encouraged the board to think about what we can do as an agency to improve in certain areas.

9. ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Smart asked for a motion to adjourn and the meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

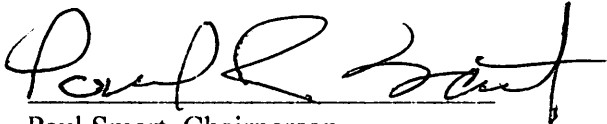
- **Motion Offered By:** Alethia Lanier
- **Motion Seconded By:** Dr. Covington
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

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

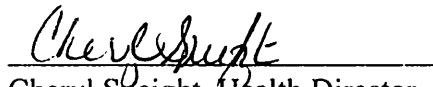
DATE: November 14, 2023

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