



RICHMOND COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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North Carolina
Public Health

Tommy Jarrell, PhD
Director of Health & Human Services

Robby Hall
Director of Social Services

RICHMOND COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: August 18, 2020
TIME: 7:00pm
LOCATION: Human Services Building large classroom and WEBEX Webinar

BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Paul Smart, Chairperson
Dr. Tommy Jarrell, Director, Health & Human Services
Aletha Lanier, Nurse
Dr. Don Covington, Optometrist
Cassandra Byers, Daymark Center Director
Carolyn Walker, Public Member
Pat Solomon, Public Member
Dr. Rick Watkins, County Commissioner
Dr. William Cleveland, Dentist
Evonne Moore Leonard, Social Worker
Dr. John Stevenson, Retired Physician

NON-BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Robby Hall, Director of Social Services
Jacqueline Welch, Aging Services Director
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:** Paul Smart asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

- **Motion Offered By:** Evonne Moore
- **Motion Seconded By:** Carolynn Walker
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

MEETING MINUTES: Paul Smart asked for a motion to approve the May 19, 2020, meeting minutes.

- **Motion Offered By:** Evonne Moore
- **Motion Seconded By:** Carolyn Walker
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- A. Dr. Jarrell addressed topics on the Public Health Administrative Report. The Health department is following the guidelines outlined in North Carolina Governor's Phase II. Although the building remains locked, it has not prohibited our staff from assisting clients. The public can obtain forms and applications from the front lobby and deposit them in a drop box located outside the Social Services entrance door. WIC staff reach their clients via telephone and benefits are issued remotely. Social workers conduct virtual visits in lieu of physical home visits. Environmental Health staff have seen a 25% increase in applications for permits, septic tanks and wells. Restaurant inspections were halted during the onset of the pandemic; however, environmental health staff used the time to educate restaurant owners and employees. The clinics continue to schedule patients and are operating at 95%; dental services are operating at 70%.

Richmond County encountered its first case of rabies since 2017, when a fox located on Spruce Street in Ellerbe bit a man on August 14, 2020. After being sent to the North Carolina State Lab for testing the fox tested positive for rabies and was euthanized by the Richmond County Sheriff's Department.

- B. Director Hall discussed the Social Services Administrative Report. The public has limited access to Social Services staff; however, staff continue to answer questions and provide assistance as needed. DSS made 2214 contacts in July through reception, not including mail-in contacts. CPS and APS staff continue to conduct field visits using precautionary measures. APS has experienced an increase in phone calls from the public requesting assistance. CPS has noticed a drop in investigations surrounding abuse and neglect. Many of these incidents are reported by school officials; however, school has been suspended since March and the number of reports have declined. The Cares Act impacted child support collections since the courts were closed and no orders were processed or enforced. Forthcoming is an adjustment to Medicaid to cover COVID-19 testing and treatment.
- C. Jacqueline Welch reported on the Aging Services Administrative Report. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Aging Services is focusing heavily on its nutrition programs. All home delivered meal and congregate clients receive either a five day shelf stable box or five day freezer meal box. Volunteers and staff are delivering

weekly to the HDM clients while the congregate clients can pick up their weekly meal and box.

Through donations from the community and partnership with local restaurants, we are able to provide many of our clients with soups, frozen and canned dinners, breakfast products, bread, milk, eggs, paper goods, cleaning supplies and many other items. The state of North Carolina has provided extra funds which will be used to reduce the waiting list for home delivered meals. The Food for Pets initiative has been successful as donations have poured in with pet food and pet supplies.

Aging Services is hosting a T-shirt fundraiser event for Meals on Wheels. The t-shirt was designed by Jacob Gardner, a child with a vision of how important nutritional meals to home bound older adults are. The funds raised from this t-shirt will go toward purchasing meals for seniors in need. To date, 23 t-shirts were sold; our goal is 50. The fundraiser ends on August 28th.

The Senior Centers remain closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, activities and services are being provided to the seniors. Staff make daily wellness check phone calls to each senior; one staff is creating craft bags from donated items for seniors who want to stay busy at home.

Aging Services has been a huge promotor of the 2020 Census and publishes information in the monthly newsletter and track the number of responses in each city.

6. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. COVID-19 Update:

Approximately 6,600 Richmond County residents have been tested, which equates to 15% of the population. Testing is conducted at numerous sites throughout the county for those who have symptoms. The drive-thru site at First Health Richmond Memorial Hospital conducts testing for those who have a referral on Monday-Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm, and the results come back within 24-48 hours. Nursing staff from the health department assist by conducting tests at the hospital and are collecting data from other testing sites. All positive test results are reported to the health department and a daily dashboard is posted on the Richmond County website with test results. To date, there are 583 positive cases of which 118 are active, 456 have recovered, and 9 have succumbed. Statistics reveal 60% are female and 40% are male.

The Genesis Project is a voluntary organization that conducts tests free of charge in communities throughout Richmond County. To date, they have conducted 350 tests.

The health department is continuously taking strides in preventing the spread of COVID-19 while safeguarding our staff and the public. We are checking employees' temperatures and screening everyone before they enter our building and we have strategically installed numerous COVID barriers and hand sanitizer dispensers throughout the building. The health department has received additional funding for

COVID-19 CARES Activities that will be added to salary, fringe and office supplies. Two temporary contract tracers were hired to track and notify those persons who may have come into contact with positive cases.

B. 2017-2020 Strategic Plan

Dr. Jarrell reviewed goals set in the 2017-2020 Strategic Plans and identified areas of accomplishment.

Goal 1: By June 30, 2020, at least 5 Richmond County employers will be enrolled in the HEAL (Healthy Employees and Lifestyles) Richmond Program.

Result: At this time, only one employer has enrolled in the HEAL program and our 2020 goal was not met. However, we will continue to recruit industry leaders to participate in the program.

Goal 2: By June 30, 2020, the Teen Pregnancy rates will be decreased by 3% and the STD cases will be decreased by 15%.

Result: Our goal for the reduction in our county teen pregnancy rate was met and exceeded. However, our teen STD cases did not decrease by 15%, but instead rose by 19%. We will continue teen sexual health education through the Richmond County Schools Healthful Living classes to address the county's climbing teen STD cases.

Goal 3: By June 30, 2020, the number of monthly MAP (Medical Access Plan) visits in the Richmond County Community Care Clinic will increase by 200 percent.

Result: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic that occurred during the last quarter of 2020, a nine month average was calculated for the number of Community Care Clinic visits for the last fiscal year. The number of Community Care visits has been greatly impacted by COVID-19 and our goal was not met. However, the number of Community Care visits did increase by 192%.

Goal 4: By June 30, 2020, Naloxone will be readily available in Richmond County.

Result: The goal to have Naloxone available at the Richmond County Health Department was not met. Since 2018, we have had Naloxone available in both emergency kits at the health department and in 2019; we began a partnership with the Drug Endangered Family Taskforce (DEFT).

Goal 5: By June 30, 2020, at least 95 percent of all annual agency required staff training will be offered and completed online.

Result: As of June 2020, 67% of all annual training for the year has been completed online using our Litmos program. Our goal of 95% was not met; however, strides have been made and we will continue to increase annual staff training online.

Dr. Jarrell announced the 2019 Community Health Assessment (CHA) report has been completed and was used to develop the five goals for the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan.

- Goal 1. The Richmond County teen pregnancy rate will be reduced by 5%.
- Goal 2. The five year infant mortality rate for Richmond County will be reduced by 5%.
- Goal 3. The opioid prescribing for Richmond County residents will be reduced by 5%.
- Goal 4. The number of smokers in Richmond County will be reduced by 5%.
- Goal 5. The number of Richmond County Community Care Clinic diabetic patients that have an A1C greater than 9 will decrease by 3%.

The board recommended including to reduce STD in teens by 5% in goal #1.

D. Bad Debt Write-off

Dr. Jarrell discussed the budget and expenditures for fiscal year July 2019-June 2020, and identified the bad debt write-off in each clinic area of the health department. Paul Smart asked for a motion to approve the 2019-2020 Bad Debt Write Off.

- **Motion Offered By:** Aletha Lanier
- **Motion Seconded By:** Evonne Moore
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

E. Subsidized Child Care local policy

The Richmond County Subsidized Child Care Program policy is due for annual review and approval by the board. Director Hall gave an overview of the local policy which describes how child care services are provided and how the waiting list is prioritized when the program is faced with limited funding. The policy does not provide child care funding, but addresses how we proceed once funding becomes available and if such funding becomes inadequate. Paul Smart asked for a motion to approve and accept the local policy on the Subsidized Child Care Program.

- **Motion Offered By:** Aletha Lanier
- **Motion Seconded By:** Carolyn Walker
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

8. **INFORMAL DISCUSSION:** None.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Paul Smart asked if there were any other matters to discuss to which no one responded; therefore, he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

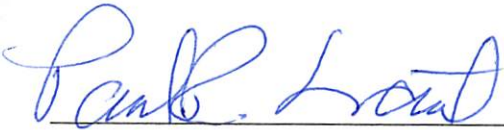
- **Motion Offered By:** Aletha Lanier
- **Motion Seconded By:** Evonne Moore
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

NEXT MEETING: Dr. Jarrell discussed the location of the next meeting to be held either via webinar or in person based on the status and any restrictions imposed as a result of the pandemic. Since the next regularly scheduled meeting is September, the committee agreed to postpone until November, unless there are urgent issues to address.

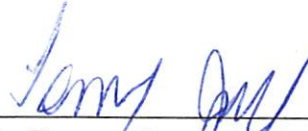
DATE: November 17, 2020

TIME: 7:00pm

LOCATION: To be determined.



Paul Smart, Chairperson
Health & Human Services Advisory Board



Dr. Tommy Jarrell, PhD
Health & Human Services Director