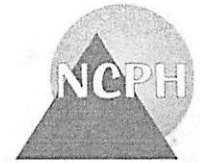




RICHMOND COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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



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: May 17, 2022
TIME: 7:00pm
LOCATION: Large Classroom and Webinar

BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Paul Smart, Chairperson
Jon Marks, Pharmacist
Aletha Lanier, Nurse
Bryan Land, Richmond County Manager
Cassandra Byers, Daymark Center Director
Evonne Moore, Social Worker
Dr. W. Cleveland, Dentist
Dr. Don Covington, Optometrist
Pat Solomon, Public Member

NON-BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Cheryl Speight, Health Director
Robby Hall, Director of Social Services
Holly Haire, Deputy Health Director
Theresa Smith, Deputy Social Services Director
Linda Taylor, Income Maintenance Supervisor
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:** Pat Solomon
 - **Motion Seconded By:** Jon Marks
 - **Motion Carried:** Yes

MEETING MINUTES: Paul Smart asked for a motion to approve the March 15, 2022, meeting minutes.

- **Motion Offered By:** Jon Marks
- **Motion Seconded By:** Pat Solomon
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

A. Cheryl Speight, Health Director, discussed the **Public Health Administrative Report**. Free drive-thru COVID-19 testing continues to be offered behind the Health Department on Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 6:00pm. North Carolina hints that the free testing sites may discontinue throughout the state due to the decrease in the number of positive cases. Free home test kits can be ordered online or purchased at pharmacies and drug stores. Free Covid and Booster vaccinations continue to be offered at the Health Department on Monday-Thursday from 8:00am-5:00pm, and Friday from 8:00am-11:00am. No appointment is required.

Supply chain issues from the pandemic has contributed to the current baby formula shortage. The shortage has had an impact on many families; however, Gerber Good Start baby formula is available through WIC.

Amanda Steen, Lead Social Worker Supervisor, has accepted a promotion as the Scotland County Health Director and her last day is May 31st. Pam Brown, Management Support Supervisor, announced retirement and her last day is June 30, 2022.

B. Robby Hall, Social Services Director, discussed **Social Services Administrative Report**. Child Support staff have made tremendous strides in collecting child support payments, despite limited collections during the Covid pandemic and staff turnover. We experienced a 216% growth in adult protective services and there is a need for more services to address the population. Also, we notice the adults in APS guardianship are younger in age. CIP and LIEAP clients continue to be served with approximately \$800,000 paid to various utility companies.

In recognition of Elder Abuse Month, DSS is partnering with Aging Services and Lumber River Counsel of Government to host our first annual Elder Abuse Walk on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, from 9:00am to 10:00am. The walk will begin at the DSS parking lot and proceed to the Harrington Square and return. The purpose of Elder Abuse Awareness Month is to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect. Money raised from the event will be given to Aging Services for use to help combat elder abuse.

C. Jacqueline Welch, **Aging Services Administrative Report**. Robby Hall reported in the absence of Jacqueline Welch. Donna Luther, Director of the East Rockingham Senior Center is retiring with over 20 years of dedicated service to the seniors of Richmond County.

Meals are delivered by our volunteers, Aging Service staff and DSS staff. A new part time driver began employment on May 16th and we anticipate adding more clients to the home delivered meals and reduce the waiting list. The In-Home Aide Program only has two aides currently employed; however, we are actively recruiting to hire more aides. The county approved an increase in the starting salary to entice applicants.

Aging Services staff participated in the Richmond County's Spring 2022 Litter Sweep and cleaned the tennis courts at the East Rockingham Senior Center with the help of seniors. Aging Services continues to sponsor several ongoing programs: "In the Kitchen with Judy", recorded videos of cooking recipes provided by the seniors or staff are aired on Tuesdays; "Lunch with LEOs" affords seniors to connect with members of Richmond County's law enforcement for lunch on the second Tuesday of each month at Godfather's Pizza; and "Alive After 55" is a supper club for seniors over age 55 to enjoy dinner with each other on the third Thursday of each month at a designated restaurant in Richmond County. Everyone is encouraged to check the website for additional details and upcoming events.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Recommendation for Selection of Advisory Board Member:

The board received two recommendations and applications to fill the public member position on the advisory board. Mr. Smart asked the members present at the meeting to submit a paper vote and those on webinar to submit their vote privately in the chat box. The votes were tallied resulting in Dennis Holloway receiving the majority of votes. He will be recommended to serve as a public member on the advisory board at the next County Commissioner meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. COVID-19 Update:

Cheryl Speight provided an update on COVID-19 in Richmond County. The number of positive COVID cases has slightly increased across the county over the past few weeks. Positive cases were at an average of one per day, however, are now reaching five to six per day. There has been no increase in hospitalizations or deaths. The NC Department of Health & Human Services reports updates on a weekly basis and the health department reports COVID data on Wednesdays on the webpage, which includes total cases and deaths.

The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) is studying and addressing the potential impacts of the Omicron variant and ways to fight the pandemic, including a vaccine. The FDA has been actively monitoring for the possible emergence of SARS-CoV-2 variants since early in the pandemic and has worked with medical product developers when a new variant emerges that could impact product performance. They anticipate having more information from the ongoing evaluation regarding if and how well the current vaccines work against this variant in the next few weeks.

B. Child Care Program

Linda Taylor presented information on the Richmond County daycare services and trends. In North Carolina, two-thirds of mothers with children under age six are in the workforce. With nearly 20% of North Carolina's children under age five (5) living in poverty, affordable childcare is an economic necessity for this state. The provision of subsidized childcare services means that families with poverty level incomes can afford childcare services which offer a quality early childhood education and therefore, will increase the chances for children to be healthy and succeed socially and academically. In 1964, North Carolina adopted and has maintained a program to subsidize the costs of childcare for eligible families. Goals of the subsidized child care program are to (1) enable parents to participate in job training or educational programs that will lead to their employment; (2) enable parents to maintain or seek employment to support their family and achieve economic independence; (3) provide childcare to children in need of early intervention to enhance their development; (4) provide childcare to children receiving protective services; and (5) facilitate the reunification of families, aid families in crisis, and prevent foster care.

North Carolina has a childcare center star rated license system that reflects the quality of childcare programs and allows programs to be recognized for providing higher quality care. A star rating of two to five stars is based on program standards and staff education. The program standards component includes the environment and level of care a child receives at the center. As star ratings increase at the facility, enhanced payments for cost of care can be received. Richmond County has 14 Child Care Facilities and 5 Licensed Child Care Homes. Four of the childcare facilities are religious sponsored program, which are not-rated and are not required to obtain a license, but they must meet all the licensing requirements except those that relate to staff qualifications, staff training, and activity plans and schedules.

Waiting lists provide an equitable and efficient method of allocating services when funding priorities are faced with limited resources. There are 297 cases receiving childcare benefits in Richmond County. The waiting list is slowly decreasing due to extra funds received from the state in December 2021. DSS staff contacted 277 families on the waiting list to see if they are still in need of childcare. From that list, 80 of those who responded were approved for childcare. Once approved, the families will receive childcare for 12 months and be recertified each year thereafter. Transfer cases from other counties are automatically approved for childcare.

Richmond County pays approximately \$512.00 per month per child for childcare. Families who are income eligible for childcare services are required to pay a portion of the cost of childcare through parental fees, except for children receiving child protective services, child welfare services, foster care services, or children with no income who reside in the home of another adult other than parents/stepparents/nonparent caretaker. Parent fees have been suspended since March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

- 7. INFORMAL DISCUSSION:** Mr. Smart asked if there were any other matters to discuss to which no one responded.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Smart asked for a motion to adjourn and the meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

- **Motion Offered By:** Jon Marks
- **Motion Seconded By:** Aletha Lanier
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

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

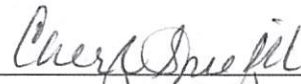
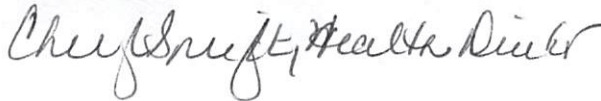
DATE: July 19, 2022

TIME: 7:00pm

LOCATION: Large Classroom and/or webinar



Paul Smart, Chairperson
Health & Human Services Advisory Board



Cheryl Speight, Health Director
Richmond County Health Department