



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: January 15, 2019
TIME: 7:00pm
LOCATION: Large Classroom of the Health & Human Services Complex

BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Thad Ussery, Interim Chairperson
Dr. W. N. Cleveland, Vice Chairperson
Dr. Rick Watkins, County Commissioner
Dr. Tommy Jarrell, Director, Health & Human Services
Dr. Don Covington, Optometrist
Bryan Land, Richmond County Manager
Aletha Lanier, Nurse
Evonne Moore, Social Worker
Jon Marks, Pharmacist
Dr. Dale McInnis, President, Richmond Community College
Paul Smart, retired Engineer
Patricia Solomon, Public Member
Dr. Ralph Souder, Veterinarian
Dr. John Stevenson, retired Physician
Ronald Tillman, Board of Education
Carolyn Walker, Aging Services

NON-BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Robby Hall, Division of Social Services Director
Jacqueline Welch, Aging Services Director
Laine Floyd, Health Educator
Sheila Brosier, Administrative Assistant

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Thad Ussery, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
2. **INVOCATION:** Mr. Ussery gave the invocation for the meeting.
3. **WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER:** Mr. Ussery welcomed Dr. Rick Watkins as the new board member and representative for the County Commissioners.
4. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Mr. Ussery asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

- **Motion Offered By:** Paul Smart
- **Motion Seconded By:** Jon Marks
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None
6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None
7. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.
8. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Election of Chairperson: Mr. Ussery turned the meeting over to Dr. Jarrell, who opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chairperson for the Advisory Board. Mr. Ussery nominated Paul Smart to serve as Chairperson, and was second by Ms. Moore.

- **Motion Offered By:** Dr. McInnis
- **Motion Seconded By:** Dr. Watkins
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

B. Election of Vice Chairperson: Dr. Jarrell opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson for the Advisory Board. Ms. Lanier nominated Dr. Cleveland to serve as Vice Chairperson, and was second by Ms. Moore.

- **Motion Offered By:** Jon Marks
- **Motion Seconded By:** Dr. Watkins
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

Mr. Ussery expressed his appreciation to the board members for their confidence in him during his tenure as Chairperson. He further stated it was a pleasure to serve as the Chairperson, and he looks forward to working with the new Chairperson and serving on the committee as a public member.

C. Presentation of 2018 SOTCH Report – *Laine Floyd, Health Educator*

Ms. Floyd provided an overview of the State of the County Health Report 2018 (SOTCH) for Richmond County, and presented a PowerPoint slideshow which highlighted the progress made in the last year on selected health priorities and identified the most recent county health data. Each year, the SOTCH Report is reviewed at the Health & Human Services Advisory Board meeting, is electronically sent to the County Commissioners, and is posted on the Richmond County Health Department webpage. Hard copies are also available to the public at the health department and public libraries.

Ms. Floyd identified the health priorities in Richmond County as *diabetes, infant mortality, and teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases*. In 2018, Richmond County was ranked among 99 other counties in the state of North Carolina in health categories, such as length of life, quality of life, health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and physical environment. Richmond County was ranked 91 for health outcomes; and 89 for length of life. Both of these rankings have increased since the previous year.

Data revealed the leading causes of death in 2017 in Richmond County were heart disease and cancer. The state of North Carolina has a significantly high number of diabetic patients, and the Richmond County Health Department has placed priority on monitoring diabetes and clinical care. A recent event was hosted at First Health Hospital to provide glucose screening and educational information about diabetes to the public. Information is also filtered to faith based organizations and churches each month via letter/mail by Ms. Floyd.

Ms. Floyd discussed mortality and morbidity data, and placed emphasis on infant mortality. The most common cause of infant mortality is Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). In an effort to reduce the infant mortality rate in Richmond County, the Health Department offers Babies Easy Safe Sleep training to parents to teach safe sleep practices for infants. In 2018, a total of 14 classes were held with 68 participants and one Spanish speaking class was held with 13 participants.

Review of statistics on teen pregnancy rates in Richmond County revealed the pregnancy rate among 15-17 year old girls has remained the same compared to prior years. Data revealed an increase in pregnancies among 18-19 year old girls. Although the overall teen pregnancy rate in Richmond County continues to decrease, it is almost double the rate of the state of North Carolina. For the third year, the Richmond County Health Department is offering the Redefining and Empowering Adolescent and Community Health (REACH) program to 8th and 9th grade students,

which includes pregnancy prevention classes at four middle schools, Ninth Grade Academy, Ashley Chapel Education Center, and Richmond Community College. REACH also partners with the Community Advisory Group and Youth Leadership Council to engage the community in teen pregnancy prevention. Along with teen pregnancy emerges sexually transmitted diseases. Chlamydia and gonorrhea are the most prevalent STIs among teenagers. Ms. Floyd concluded her presentation by addressing new initiatives to prevent pre-term births and drug dependent infants, such as exploring grant funding to enable the establishment new programs.

D. Health & Human Services Budget Update Presentation – *Dr. Jarrell, Mr. Hall*

Dr. Jarrell provided an update on the Richmond County Human Services Department’s budget and an overview of budget initiatives. A review of last year’s budget revealed a decrease in funding compared to previous years. Human Services budget revenue is generated by the county (26%); federal and state government and grants (70%); and clients that utilize our services (4%). The department’s actual expenditures of \$14.8 million fell 8% below the projected expenditures of \$16.2 million in fiscal year 2018; and actual expenditures fell 9% below the projected expenditures in fiscal year 2017.

A breakdown of Richmond County’s general fund expenditures reveal Human Services spends 28% of the county’s budget, which is the largest budget expenditure of all other departments in the county. Notably, Human Services makes up 33% of county employees, with approximately 174 full time and 20 part time staff on board.

Budget initiatives include:

- Working to become more efficient with available resources;
- Striving to obtain more grants to fund additional services and programs; and
- Consolidating resources without reducing services provided to the public.

Director Hall cited the continuing resolution and current government shutdown is projected to have an impact on certain services in the future. Many programs, such as Food and Nutrition Program benefits, are funded through February while some programs are funded through May. Several programs may have funds in reserve that can be used to extend benefits. However, our agency is unsure of how other programs will be impacted during the government shutdown. As additional guidance is provided, notifications will be made to our clients that will be affected.

Dr. Jarrell and Director Hall discussed proposed changes in Medicaid that will have a direct impact on the Health Department and its clients as early as July 2019.

Medicaid, which currently serves as one entity, will establish multiple Medicaid providers that can be contracted by patients for services. This may require the Health Department to work with many providers under the auspices of Medicaid, in contrast to working with the current stand-alone entity. Medicaid transformation has the potential to increase administrative time, incur addition costs, and affect our future budget.

E. Substance Affected Infants – *Robby Hall, Division of Social Services Director*

Director Hall addressed the emerging issue of drug affected infants that are exposed to a variety of illegal substances prior to birth, and its association with potential physical and developmental problems in children. New legislation mandates all cases of drug affected infants are required to be reported directly to the Department of Social Services (DSS) for investigation and treatment referral, and in an effort to decrease pre-term births. DSS received a grant through the Drug Endangered Taskforce to fund Healthy Beginnings and other programs. This program affords staff to work with parents prior to the birth of their infant through the first two years of age.

Data reveals the most common drugs found in mothers and infants are marijuana and cocaine. From August 2017 through December 2018, drug tests were conducted in Richmond County of mothers and/or their infants after birth. Of 122 cases tested, 66% of mothers tested positive for drugs; while 91% of babies tested positive. This disparity can be attributed to several occurrences:

- Drugs can remain in an infant much longer than in an adult body.
- The potency of certain drugs can have a longer-lasting effect on an infant.
- The type of drug tests used and its sensitivity can vary among mother and infant.
- Oftentimes, hospitals may only test the mother or infant, and not both.

Furthermore, mothers residing in Richmond County may have given birth to infants in hospitals outside of this county; therefore, drug test results were not included in our data. More accurate data can be gathered when drug tests are conducted on both mother and new born infant at the onset of suspicious drug use or reported history of drug use. Further research can determine the correlation between parental drug use and pre-term births. Future data to be collected will be reported on a fiscal year basis.

9. INFORMAL DISCUSSION

Dr. Jarrell announced the resignation of Shirley Fuller as a board member, due to health concerns. Ms. Fuller indicated she has enjoyed working with everyone on the board. Mr. Ussery suggested the board send a thank you card for her services. Dr. Jarrell introduced Sheila Brosier as the new Administrative Assistant for the Department of Human Services.

Dr. Jarrell stated the agency is in preparation for the North Carolina Health Department re-accreditation site visit which is scheduled in the fall of 2019.

Mr. Tillman recommended to identify several teenagers who would be interested in attending the board meetings and extend an invitation. This will enhance conversation and possibly gain a different perspective on certain issues affecting the teenage population. The board members agreed to consider the recommendation.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Smart asked if there were any other matters to discuss, to which no one responded, so he motioned to adjourn the meeting.

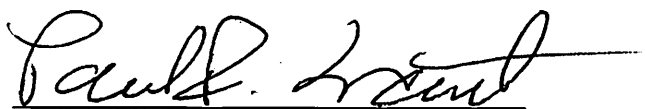
- **Motion Offered By:** Paul Smart
- **Motion Seconded By:** Jon Marks
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

NEXT MEETING:

DATE: March 19, 2019

TIME: 7:00pm

LOCATION: Large Classroom, Health & Human Services Complex



Paul Smart, Chairperson
Health & Human Services Advisory Board



Dr. Tommy Jarrell, PhD
Health & Human Services Director