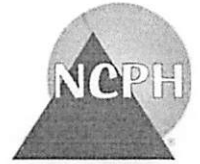




RICHMOND COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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



North Carolina
Public Health

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: March 16, 2021
TIME: 7:00pm
LOCATION: Human Services Building large classroom and WEBEX Webinar

BOARD ATTENDANCE:

In Person:

Paul Smart, Chairperson
Dr. Tommy Jarrell, Director, Health & Human Services
Aletha Lanier, Nurse
Thad Ussery, Public Member

Via Webinar:

Bryan Land, County Manager
Dr. Don Covington, Optometrist
Pat Solomon, Public Member
Dr. William Cleveland, Dentist
Evonne Moore, Social Worker
Dr. John Stevenson, Retired Physician
Dr. Ralph Souder, Veterinarian
Jon Marks, Pharmacist
Ronald Tillman, Board of Education
Dr. Rick Watkins, County Commissioner
Jacqueline Welch, Aging Services Director

NON-BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Robby Hall, Director of Social Services
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:** Aletha Lanier
- **Motion Seconded By:** Thad Ussery
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

MEETING MINUTES: Paul Smart asked for a motion to approve the November 17, 2020, meeting minutes.

- **Motion Offered By:** Thad Ussery
- **Motion Seconded By:** Aletha Lanier
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

A. Dr. Jarrell addressed topics on the Public Health Administrative Report. The Health Department continues to offer the Covid-19 test on Monday-Friday from 10:00am-5:00pm and Saturdays from 10:00am-3:00pm with the exception of inclement weather days. Other testing sites are open to the public. Health Department staff have been working collectively with First Health Richmond Hospital to administer the Covid-19 vaccine. The vaccine is currently offered to citizens 65 years and older, health care workers and essential employees. The Health Department continues to track the number of active Covid-19 cases throughout the county and post on the Richmond County webpage.

B. Director Hall discussed the Social Services Administrative Report. DSS reception staff processed 2180 contacts with clients/customer in February, which equates to about half of the amount of client contacts prior to the Covid pandemic. Although the public has limited access to enter the Social Services building, they are using the outside drop mailbox and electronic application process.

There has been a decline in the number of clients using Medicaid transportation; clients are not going to the doctor as much and/or are using the telehealth system. Director Hall discussed Medicaid Direct and how the Medicaid transformation will have an impact on non-emergency medical transportation. Every plan will have their own transportation service and it is anticipated that 80% of clients will reserve transportation service with brokers through their private medical providers while 20% of clients will remain with DSS.

DSS is on target with meeting the collection goal set for child support payments this fiscal year. There are 214 children on the day care waiting list; however, this number is expected to decrease with the new Covid bill which will include an allotment for day care services.

C. Jacqueline Welch reported on the Aging Services Administrative Report. Staff from Aging Services, DSS and Area of Richmond Transit, along with volunteers continue to actively deliver and/or serve meals to seniors. Volunteers are needed and Ms. Welch encouraged the group to solicit volunteers. Aging Services continue to receive donations

of shelf stable food items, blankets, other household items and pet food. Ms. Welch is looking into applying for a grant from PETCO to assist with supplying pet supplies to seniors who struggle in providing for their pets.

The Senior Centers remain closed; however, the staff have implemented interactive, virtual programs and activities for seniors, such as online bingo, Covid related trivia/facts, Crafts to Go, and In the Kitchen with Judy videos. New activities will launch in April on Facebook. GLOW-Gorgeous Ladies (or gents) Of the Weekdays, hosted by Jacqueline Welch, will highlight weekday fashion, beauty, and wellness tips. Also, a virtual exercise video between the senior centers. Aging Services received 15 new clients and assisted a total of 23 seniors in February with food stamps, housing, Medicaid, home health care, repairs, and ramps to name a few.

Aging Services publishes a monthly newsletter to seniors with valuable information, tips, announcements, and upcoming events for seniors. The board members commended the newsletter and expressed the need to expand its reach throughout the community. Ms. Welch is working on creating a church email list to forward the newsletter to churches in Richmond County.

Ms. Welch announced the following upcoming events:

April 9, 2021 – A Covid-19 community event “Remembering Those We’ve Lost” will be held at 8:00pm in the Human Services parking lot to commemorate one-year anniversary of life lost to Covid in Richmond County.

April 24, 2021 – Richmond County Earth Day Community Clean Up, county-wide volunteer litter pick up event from 8:00am-11:00am. Sponsorship is open to individuals, groups, and businesses; event t-shirts will be sold.

6. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **COVID-19 Update:**

Dr. Jarrell provided an update on COVID-19 in Richmond County. Approximately 44,000⁺ Richmond County residents have been tested. To date, there are 39,914 negative cases; 4,276 positive cases of which 38 are active, 4,146 have recovered, and 92 have succumbed. This data and a map of active cases by zip code is updated daily and posted on the Richmond County webpage.

Testing

Covid testing began in April 2020 with free testing sites at the Health Department and First Health Richmond Hospital. Fast Med, Goshen, and other doctor offices also offer Covid testing and report their results to the Health Department.

Covid positive cases are tracked by age, gender, and race. Statistics reveal the majority of positive cases are people between the ages of 51-64 years old; 55% are female and 45% are male; and more than half are Caucasian.

Richmond County experienced a surge in Covid related deaths by 5.9%. To date, a total of 92 Richmond County residents have succumbed with Covid-19. Statistics reveal most of those deaths occurred in people over the age of 60 years old; 52% were female and 48% were male; and more than half were Caucasian.

Vaccination

Richmond County received the Covid-19 Moderna vaccine and began administering it in January. The Health Department and First Health Richmond Hospital partnered together to form vaccine clinics to offer the vaccine to eligible residents in accordance with the North Carolina directives. The clinics are still serving residents 75 years and older, as well as all those eligible to include 65 years and older, healthcare workers and essential employees. They administer approximately 800 doses per week.

The Moderna vaccine is a two-part injection taken 28 days apart. To date, 26% of the eligible population in Richmond County has been partially vaccinated, which means they have received the first injection of Moderna. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is a single dose injection and we anticipate delivery of 200 doses this week. The Health Department and hospital will continue to administer vaccinations based on the amount of vaccine received each week. Beginning next week, vaccinations will be open to residents 18-64 years old with health issues. Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, and other pharmacies will begin to offer vaccinations soon.

The COVID County Alert System is a color-coded tracking system used to pinpoint North Carolina counties with the highest levels of Covid-19 spread. Richmond County is among other counties currently in the lowest tier level, as the number of positive cases has reduced. For two consecutive days this month, Richmond and Moore First Health hospitals reported no inpatient Covid related hospitalizations of Richmond County residents. Dr. Jarrell asked everyone to encourage family, friends, and others in the community to get the Covid vaccine. Several community outreach efforts have increased communication and awareness to the public.

In addition to the Covid vaccine, the Health Department has special vaccination clinics throughout the year for influenza and child immunizations.

B. Bad Debt Write-Off:

Dr. Jarrell presented the Bad Debt Write-Off for the Health Department for the time period of July 2020 through December 2020. Bad Debt is caused by clients who have not paid their bills. These clients are billed at least six times before the debt is sent to the North Carolina Department of Revenue Debt Offset Program. He explained clinics cannot deny service to clients due to non-payment of previous bills.

Paul Smart asked for a motion to approve the Bad Debt Write Off as presented.

- **Motion Offered By:** Thad Ussery
- **Motion Seconded By:** Dr. William Cleveland
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

8. INFORMAL DISCUSSION:

Several board members commended the Health Department and First Health Richmond Hospital for their efforts in coordinating Covid testing and vaccinations. The vaccination process at the hospital is very organized and exhibits a great working relationship between the Health Department and hospital staff.

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:** Jon Marks
- **Motion Carried:** Yes

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held via webinar and/or in person based on the status and any restrictions imposed due to the Covid pandemic.

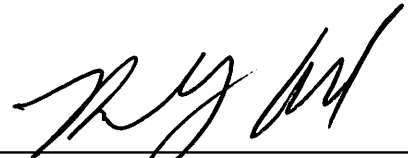
DATE: May 18, 2021

TIME: 7:00pm

LOCATION: To be determined.



Paul Smart, Chairperson
Health & Human Services Advisory Board



~~Dr. Tommy Jarrell, PhD~~
Health & Human Services Director
Robby Hall, MHA