

The Buncombe County Health and Human Services Board met on September 23, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. This was a virtual meeting.

- Health and Human Services Board Members: Lucy Lawrence Chairperson; Johnnie Grant, Vice-Chair; Amy Lenell, Greg Narron, Linda Weldon, Mona Ellum, Savannah Lamb, Carol Coulson, Amanda Edwards and Elizabeth Lima were in attendance.
- Health and Human Services staff: Stoney Blevins, Rebecca Smith, Phillip Hardin, Stacie Saunders, Stacey Wood, Lisa White, and Christa Lance were in attendance.
- Curt Euler, County Attorney was in attendance.
- Community member Pat Johnson was in attendance.
- Warren Wilson College Students: Rebecca Pahorasky, Milen Buchanan, Paula Castellanos, Kenia Romero, Andres Escobar, Jody Escarvage and Janika
- RJC Observer Kathy was in attendance

CALL TO ORDER

- Health and Human Services Board Chairperson, Lucy Lawrence called the meeting to order at 12:00.

REVIEW AND ACTION OF BOARD AGENDA

- The Board reviewed the September 23, 2022 meeting agenda. One change will be that the Safety Committee will not present today. Board member Linda Weldon motioned to accept the agenda with the one change. Board member Savannah Lamb seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in approval. The agenda is attached and made a part of these minutes.
- The Chairperson asked if any Board member had any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matter coming before the Board and none were stated.

REVIEW AND ACTION OF BOARD MINUTES

- The Board reviewed the August 26, 2022 minutes. Board member Greg Narron motioned to accept the minutes as presented. Board member Linda Weldon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in approval. The Board minutes are attached and made a part of these minutes.

ANNUAL BOARD TRAINING

Public Health Director Stacie Turpin Saunders introduced the annual HHS/BOH training to the board. Saunders stated that annual training is required in the NC Local Health Department Accreditation benchmarks. Saunders stated that training provides the HHS Board with information about their rule making duties, advocacy role, and keeps them up-to-date on emerging governance and public health issues. Saunders stated that the training today will be on the Health NC 2030 report and relation to local priorities and work. The Board then was presented the training: [Healthy NC 2030 - UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health](#). This training provided an overview of the Healthy NC 2030 report including the development of a common set of goals and objectives to mobilize and direct state and local efforts to improve the health and well-being of North Carolinians. The report addresses factors that drive health, both medical and non-medical. These include:

1. Attaining high quality, longer lives free of preventable disease, disability, injury and premature death.
2. Achieving health equity, eliminating disparities, and improving the health of all groups.
3. Creating social and physical environments that promote good health for all, and
4. Promoting quality of life, healthy development, and healthy behaviors across all life stages.

The training explained that 21 health indicators were selected from the following five domains:

1. Social and Economic Factors
2. Physical Environment
3. Health Behaviors
4. Clinical Care
5. Health Outcomes

The training provided specific indicator examples of life expectancy and chronic disease. The training also reminded Board members of the role they have in helping achieve Healthy North Carolina 2030 goals including reviewing local community reports, ensuring that local plans align with HNC 2030 and establishing rules, policies or advocacy that support health improvement. Saunders concluded by stating the local community health assessment does align with HNC2030 particularly regarding the three local priorities of infant and maternal health outcomes, substance use and mental health and chronic disease. As with HNC2030, Saunders stated that the local assessment and plans also integrate equity into the data, strategies and action. During discussion, Board member Greg Narron noted the report was created in 2019 and issued in 2020, prior to current events including COVID-19 and Supreme Court rulings. Narron stated that in light of the training and the role of the Board to advocate for health opportunities, the HHS board should further discuss the potential impact of the Dobbs ruling on reproductive access and any advocacy the Board may consider. Board Chair Lucy Lawrence appreciated Narron bringing forth the issue and stated that the Board could further discuss in October.

PRESENTATION/UPDATES

SFY 22 ANNUAL FISCAL REPORT

- Lisa White presented the SFY 22 Annual Fiscal Report. This report is attached and made a part of these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

EDITS/UPDATES TO BOARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

- HHS Director Stoney Blevins discussed with the Board the edits and updates to the Board Operating Procedures. We have made edits in how a meeting can be held. Board member Johnnie Grant motioned that the operating procedures be approved as presented. Board member Amy Lenell seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in approval. The Operating Procedures are attached and made a part of these minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was stated.

DIRECTORS REPORT

- Director Stoney Blevins shared with the Board that the Health Department won the Public Health Department of the Year award for counties 60,000 or over in population.
- Next steps on gun safety. We were able to capture all recommendations by the committee chairs. We will now put it into an action plan. The Justice Resources Department got some ARPA dollars to work around gun safety. They are using a Public Health model to do it. There will be an opportunity for our two departments to work together.
- Active Aging Center presentation to the Commissioners has been pushed back to October 4th.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

- Chairs were elected by two of the three committees today. Elizabeth Lima will continue to Chair the Benefits and Opportunities Committee and Amy Lenell will be the chair of the Health and Wellness Committee. The Safety and Support Committee did not elect a chair but will do so before the next Board meeting.
- Advocacy letter that the Exec committee crafted. This letter was requesting that the local Buncombe County Delegation consider how we might be able to change the state statute related to the LIEAP Program and Crisis Intervention Program in order to raise the minimum levels that families can be afforded for energy expenses. We have heard back from 2 delegates of our Buncombe County delegation. Senator Julie Mayfield and Representative Caleb Rudrow. Senator Mayfield has asked for further data. We will hopefully have further detail to share at the October meeting.
- Dr. Jim Pitts has served on the Board and Safety Committee. He has been on the Board for 7 years and has tendered his retirement. We want to thank Dr. Jim Pitts for his contribution to the Board.

- Due to the vacancy of Dr. Pitts position, Lucy is asking if the Board would like to post this vacancy to be filled. If so do you have any suggestions on fields you would like to attract? Possibly mental health providers or law enforcement and people who receive our services.
- Recognition of Warren Wilson College students.

ADJOURNMENT

- Chairperson Lucy Lawrence informed the Board that she would entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board member Savannah Lamb motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 1:24pm. Board member Johnnie Grant seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in approval.

Minutes read and approved this ____ day of _____, 2022.

Lucy Lawrence
Health and Human Services
Board Chairperson

Stoney Blevins
Executive Secretary to the Board