

The Buncombe County Health and Human Services Board met on June 24, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. This was a virtual meeting.

- Health and Human Services Board Members: Lucy Lawrence Chairperson; Amy Lenell, LeeAnne Tucker, Carol Coulson, Steven Valeika, Dan Frayne, Savannah Lamb, Amanda Edwards, David Thompson, and LeeAnne Tucker were in attendance.
- Health and Human Services staff: Stoney Blevins, Rebecca Smith, Phillip Hardin, Stacie Saunders, Stacey Wood, Lisa White, Kelli Buckner, Ginger Clough and Chiloh Reece were in attendance.
- Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager was in attendance.
- Curt Euler, County Attorney was in attendance.
- Community members: Tom Belt was in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

- Health and Human Services Board Chairperson, Lucy Lawrence called the meeting to order at 12:30.

REVIEW AND ACTION OF BOARD AGENDA

- The Board reviewed the June 24, 2022 meeting agenda. Board member LeeAnne Tucker motioned to accept the agenda as presented. Board member Amy Lenell seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in approval. The agenda is attached and made a part of these minutes.

REVIEW AND ACTION OF BOARD MINUTES

Review and Action of the April 2022 Board 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.
- The Board reviewed the April 22, 2022 minutes. Board member Linda Weldon motioned to accept the minutes as presented. Board member Steven Valeika seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in approval. The Board minutes are attached and made a part of these minutes.

Review and Action of the May 2022 Board Minutes – Lucy Lawrence, Chairperson

- 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.
- The Board reviewed the May 27, 2022 minutes. Board member Dan Frayne 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.

PRESENTATIONS/UPDATES

Community Health Assessment Update Ginger Clough, Health Promotions Supervisor

1. CHA Presentation – Ginger Clough

Ginger Clough, Health Promotion Supervisor, provided an overview and summary of the 2021 Community Health Assessment (CHA) for Buncombe County. Clough explained that the CHA is required for Local Health Departments and must be conducted every 3-4 years. The 2021 Buncombe County CHA is a collaborative process conducted in partnership with multiple community organizations through the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Advisory Council. The CHIP Leadership Team provides guidance and recommendations to the council and BCHHS for development, implementation, and evaluation of the CHIP for equitable population health outcomes. Clough provided an overview of the CHA process including primary and secondary data collection. She also provided that Health Promotions Team compiled primary and secondary data for the CHIP Advisory Council to review and prioritize the health focus areas. Clough added that the three priority health areas are Infant Mortality/Birth Outcomes, Mental Health & Substance Abuse, and Chronic Health Disease (Diabetes

& Heart Disease). The most prominent and influential root causes identified during data analysis for these health priorities are systemic racism and oppression and the pair of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Adverse Community Experiences. See slides 17-22 for data specific to the three priority areas of Infant Mortality, Mental Health & Substance Abuse, and Chronic Disease. Buncombe County HHS will continue to advance cross sector collaboration and dismantle white supremacy culture and undo racism with focus on these three priority areas. Clough also shared most recent demographic data regarding the changing population of Buncombe County. This included:

- Population demographic shift-rapidly growing 65+ population
- 18% children birth-18 years old live in poverty
- 13% of residents have at least 1 disability
- 31% of residents live in homes with substandard conditions
- 70% of BIPOC residents had wage loss due to COVID19 pandemic
- 24% of Women residents loss employment due to COVID19 pandemic
- 49% residents are paying >30% of income for rent; 27% for mortgage
- Overall birth rate decreasing; African American/Black teens (15-19) highest pregnancy rate by age group

Clough detailed the next steps in the CHA process which includes the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Throughout the spring and summer of 2022, the CHIP Advisory Council, Health Promotions Team and other key stakeholders will gather with community members in informal settings, formal focus groups and listening sessions to share the CHA results and hear residents' experiences and recommendations for addressing the root causes of the identified priority areas. Once the focus groups and listening sessions are completed, the information shared by community members will be combined with the primary and secondary CHA data to develop the Community Health Improvement Plan. The CHIP will be submitted in September 2022 to the NC DHHS.

After presenting and reviewing the CHA information, David Thompson made a motion to adopt the 2021 CHA, Savannah Lamb seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and voted was called where motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Active Aging Center Update

Stoney Blevins provided an update on the Active Aging Center project including a timeline of activities from 2018 until current. He then turned the topic over to Lucy Lawrence, who made a motion on behalf of the HHS board to send a letter to the BOCC outlining the purpose of the AAC, action steps to date, and challenges associated with a lack of clarity on whether the county is willing to serve as owner/ operator of the AAC facility. A motion was made by Lucy Lawrence to send a letter to Chairman Newman and seconded by LeeAnn Tucker. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting format for SFY 23

Stoney Blevins shared with the Board that the Federal Public Health Emergency that was to sunset July 15, 2022 is now expected to continue until at least October 15, 2022 and perhaps through the end of calendar year. In light of this fact, the HHS Board does not need to take action on whether to return to in-person or hybrid meetings as required by NC law absent a public emergency declaration.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY UPDATE

Board Policies – Stacie Turpin Saunders

1001.56A Accessible Facilities and Services: Saunders presented the now assigned Board policy 1001.56A regarding Accessible Facilities and Services. Saunders explained that prior, this policy was assigned as an Administrative policies.

However, given its connection to Federal requirements and laws like the American Disabilities Act, it has been moved to Board policies for the Board to review, approve, and assure in their role as governing body of local public health.

Saunders informed the Board that the following changes had been made to the policy:

- Added the HHS Board Chair signature
- Changed the policy number from 1000.56A to 1011.56A to reflect the move from Administrative to Board policy
- Updated the process in Section 6 to include that the workforce will receive training on health literacy at time of orientation.

The Board had no questions or concerns regarding the changes. Amy Lenell a motion to approve the policy, Linda Weldon seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

1001.56B Non-Discrimination: Saunders presented the now assigned Board policy 1001.56B regarding Non-Discrimination. Like the previous policy, the policy was previously Administrative and it now being converted to Board policy for the previous reasons stated. Saunders stated that the following items had been updated:

- Added a HHS Board Signature
- Changed the policy numbers from 1000.56B to 1001.56B to reflect the move from Administrative to Board policy
- Updated the legal guidance in section 7

The Board had no questions or concerns regarding the changes. Steven Valeika made a motion to approve the policy, Carol Coulson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

1001.84 Cultural Competency: Saunders presented the now assigned Board policy 1001.84 regarding Cultural Competency. Like the previous two policies, this was an Administrative policy and is now being converted to a Board policy. Saunders stated that the following items had been updated:

- Added the HHS Board Signature
- Changed policy number from 1000.84 to 1001.84 to reflect move from Administrative to Board policy
- Updated the workforce definition in section 4
- Updated links to legal guidance in section 7

The Board had no questions or concerns regarding the changes. David Thompson made a motion to approve the policy, LeeAnne Tucker seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Stoney Blevins gave a brief update on Medicaid expansion activities at the NC legislature. In May, SB 408 (expansion bill) passed the Senate with only one dissenting vote. The House had publicly expressed little interest in voting on the bill in the short session; however, this week the House introduced a House Committee Substitute for SB 408. If passed, a Joint Committee on Medicaid Modernization will be formed with members from both chambers, and potential legislation would be considered no earlier than December 15, 2022. HHS staff will continue to monitor this situation and keep the board informed.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

Lucy Lawrence stated that the Executive Committee recommends that we continue meeting virtually rather than in person until hybrid technology is obtained that would allow members to participate either in- person or virtually in the same meeting. There was no disagreement from Board members with this recommendation to continue virtual meetings at this time. This issue of ongoing meeting format will be addressed by a formal vote of the Board later in the fall or early winter if and when the Federal Public Health Emergency is lifted.

ADJOURNMENT

- Chairperson Lucy Lawrence informed the Board that she would entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board member LeeAnne Tucker motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 1:30pm. Board member Carol Coulson 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