

The Buncombe County Health and Human Services Board met on October 28, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. This was a virtual meeting.

- Health and Human Services Board Members: Lucy Lawrence Chairperson; Amy Lenell, Greg Narron, Linda Weldon, Savannah Lamb, Carol Coulson, Amanda Edwards, Dan Frayne, Yvette Jives, LeeAnne Tucker, David Thompson, Steven Valeika, Martha Salyers and Elizabeth Lima were in attendance.
- Health and Human Services staff: Stoney Blevins, Rebecca Smith, Phillip Hardin, Stacie Saunders, Stacey Wood, Lisa White, Kelli Buckner, Jennifer Mullendore and Christa Lance were in attendance.
- Curt Euler, County Attorney was in attendance.
- Community member Pat Johnson and Gerri Delaney were 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 October 28, 2022 meeting agenda. Board member LeeAnne Tucker motioned to accept the agenda as presented. Board member Linda Weldon 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 September 23, 2022 minutes. Board member Martha Salyers motioned to accept the minutes as presented. Board member Yvette Jives seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in approval. The Board minutes are attached and made a part of these minutes.

#### **PRESENTATION/UPDATES**

##### **SFY 22 ANNUAL FISCAL REPORT**

- Lisa White presented the SFY 23 Annual Fiscal Report. This report is attached and made a part of these minutes.

##### **HHS AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT SFY 22**

- Stacey Wood presented the FY22 Annual Report to the Board. A copy is attached and made a part of these minutes.

##### **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORT**

- Dr. Jennifer Mullendore, BCHHS Medical Director, presented data regarding 2021 communicable disease incidence in Buncombe County, as well as trends in reportable communicable diseases and conditions from 2014-2021. She highlighted the increase in hepatitis A infections starting in 2018, many of which were linked to the large, national outbreak involving person-to-person transmission predominantly among persons who use drugs and persons experiencing homelessness. The BCHHS Communicable Disease Infection Prevention Mobile Team is planning events to provide community-based hepatitis A education and vaccination at locations serving these at-risk populations. The COVID-19 pandemic reduced the availability of chlamydia testing across the US, leading to a drop in new chlamydia infection in 2020; in 2021, new diagnoses of chlamydia did not return to pre-2020 numbers. In contrast, new gonorrhea infections have been increasing over the last several years, even in 2020, but had a fairly significant decrease in 2021. There remain significant disparities in the rate of new chlamydia and gonorrhea infections between black and white residents in Buncombe County, which mirrors the rest of the state and country. Dr. Mullendore named structural racism, especially within the criminal justice system, as the cause of these disparities, and promoted continued work to dismantle racism. In 2021, there was an increase in newly diagnosed HIV infections in the county; there also were more individuals reporting injection drug use as their exposure risk and more infections in females. New early syphilis infections had decreased in 2018, but have been increasing steadily ever since; a majority of cases are in men who report having sex with

men, but there has been an increase of infections in females. No congenital syphilis has been identified in Buncombe County residents, although this is not the case in other NC counties and across the US. Reported cases of Lyme disease decreased by almost half from 2020, but still remain significantly higher than cases of spotted fever rickettsiosis which surprisingly fell to zero in 2021. Dr. Valeika pointed out that research continues to show that providers fail to prescribe the recommended treatment of doxycycline to children with suspected tickborne illness. Dr. Mullendore agreed that this remains an issue and that she will issue a reminder to local healthcare providers. Finally, a large increase in acute hepatitis C infections has been seen since 2019 and new invasive group A streptococcal infections have remained high for the past several years; many of these infections were associated with injection drug use.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- No old business

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **POLICY UPDATE “WRITING & REVISING POLICIES”**

- Kelli Buckner reviewed the policy with the Board. The procedures have been pulled out because they change often. Board member Elizabeth Lima motioned that the policy be accepted as presented. Board member Dan Frayne seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in approval.

#### **DIRECTORS REPORT**

- Active Aging Center presentation to the Commissioners was presented and received good feedback.
- Public Health Accreditation took place this October.
- START Program is in the process of going through national accreditation. One of only a few sites across the nation.

#### **CHAIRPERSONS REPORT**

- Women’s Health discussion has been moved to the Health Committee.
- Advocacy from July Board meeting LIEAP and CIP programs. Board suggested that we advocate rate from 400-600 to 1000. Sent letter to the Buncombe County legislative. Caleb Rudow supports a CIP increase to 1000 and may introduce a bill in the 2023 session. Senator Julie Mayfield has shown interest as well.
- November and December meeting will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday instead of the 4<sup>th</sup> due to the holidays.
- Board vacancies – Consumer/Public Advocate with lived experience as an HHS customer will be posted.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

- Chairperson Lucy Lawrence informed the Board that she would entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board member Linda Weldon motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 1:43pm. Board member Steve Valeika seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in approval.

Minutes read and approved this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

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Lucy Lawrence  
Health and Human Services  
Board Chairperson

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Stoney Blevins  
Executive Secretary to the Board