

The Buncombe County Health and Human Services Board met on August 26, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. This was a virtual meeting.

- Health and Human Services Board Members: Lucy Lawrence Chairperson; Johnnie Grant, Vice-Chairperson; Amy Lenell, LeeAnne Tucker, David Thompson, Greg Narron, Linda Weldon, Martha Salyers, Mona Ellum, Dan Frayne, Savannah Lamb, Carol Coulson and Steven Valeika were in attendance.
- Health and Human Services staff: Stoney Blevins, Rebecca Smith, Phillip Hardin, Stacie Saunders, Lisa White, Kelli Buckner, Stacey Wood and Christa Lance were in attendance.
- Curt Euler, County Attorney was in attendance.
- Community members Tom Belt and Pat Johnson 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 August 26, 2022 meeting agenda. Board member Martha Salyers motioned to accept the agenda as presented. Board member Steven Valeika 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 July 22, 2022 minutes. Board member LeeAnne Tucker 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.

PRESENTATION/UPDATES

HEALTH COMMITTEE

- Board member Amy Lenell and Health Director Stacie Saunders presented a PowerPoint from the Health Committee. The PowerPoint is attached and made a part of these minutes.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Environmental Health Administrator, Jessica Silver, provided an annual Environmental Health report to the HHS Board. Silver reviewed data points for FY 2022 and linked the data to activities performed by Environmental Health to prevent and/or reduce the incidence of negative public health outcomes for the environment and citizens who access resources within Buncombe County. The presentation specifically highlighted onsite wastewater permitting and repair applications, which protect ground and surface water contamination. Silver provided examples including septic repairs and improper septic system complaints that have been submitted and addressed by BC HHS Environmental Health Specialists. Silver emphasized that septic issues are priority events for response in order to protect the residents, neighbors and others against raw sewage and also to protect potential impact to ground water. Silver shared that turnaround times in Onsite Wastewater program has reduced to 6 weeks due to workflow improvements and additional staffing. Silver also discussed the Food & Lodging Inspection program and provided information on the large number of high complexity restaurants in Buncombe County. This level of complexity requires additional time and staffing to best meet the growing food industry locally. Additionally, Silver provided information on public swimming pool inspection data. In particular, Silver reviewed a recent pool incident in which improper chemical storage and usage required immediate pool permit suspension. Silver emphasized the role of Environmental Health is protecting public against pool injury and incident. Board members inquired about specific examples of public swimming pools, if funds are available to assist with septic repairs, and discussed septic program priorities with regards to addressing complaints and repairs. The PowerPoint is attached and made a part of these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMUNITY GUN SAFETY STRATEGIES

- Amy Lenell with the Health Committee. This committee's recommendations were:
 - Submit a request to Strategy and Innovation to evaluate current practices and best practices for gun violence prevention.
 - Submit a request to the county legal department to see if monitoring is being done on legal changes related to gun control.
- David Thompson with the Safety and Support Committee. This committee's recommendations were:
 - Need to focus on prevention and early childhood intervention.
 - Ways to increase access to Circle of Security Parenting groups through the kindergarten students and their parents across Buncombe County.
- Phillip Hardin with the Benefits and Opportunities. This committee's recommendations were:
 - Include information about gun violence/safety on all communications that HHS produces.
 - Declaring gun safety as a Public Health Crisis.
 - Getting the Baptist Ministers Union involved. This recommendation was made by Board Member Johnnie Grant.

NEW BUSINESS

ADVOCACY LETTER

- A draft letter was sent to the Board regarding the statutes for the Emergency Assistance plan as well as LIEAP. This is concerning low funding caps. Lucy is asking the Board for a vote of approval. Martha Saylers moved that the letter be accepted as presented and Amy Lenell seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in approval. The letter is attached and made a part of these minutes.
- Director Stoney Blevins presented to the Board on the Board Operating Procedures for the Board. Some changes are the address of the meeting and removing some websites that were not correct. The next thing was meeting options. Curt spoke on Hybrid meetings. Unfortunately, Buncombe County does not have the technology to allow for Hybrid meetings currently. Changes will be made and the Operating Procedures will be brought back before the Board in September.

DIRECTORS REPORT

- Stacie Saunders provided information to the HHS Board regarding the global and national Monkeypox outbreak.. As of August 26, BCHHS has identified 5 cases of Monkeypox. BCHHS continues to offer testing for individuals. Messaging has been widely distributed regarding importance of testing and seeking an assessment for anyone who may have symptoms. BCHHS has been working with area providers to ensure that medical homes and other medical providers where individual may seek testing, understand the importance of including Monkeypox testing in their assessment, how to test, testing lab options, and local health department support. BCHHS continues to act as a Monkeypox Vaccine hub for the region and has shown great success in providing doses to area provider as well as administering vaccine through our clinic and in the community. As of August 23, BCHHS has received 1210 doses of vaccine. BCHHS has transferred 350 doses to other WNC providers. BCHHS has administered over 960 doses through our clinic and outreach events. BCHHS is expected to receive an additional shipment of 200 doses on August 26. The Mobile Team has provided six (6) Monkeypox vaccine outreach events thus far with five (5) more planned in the coming weeks. Our Monkeypox Response team is currently planning for our Blue Ridge Pride presence, as well.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

- The letter approved by the Board in June to be sent to Commission Chair Brownie Newman on the Active Aging Center.

- Commitment letters and committee selections are due by September 9th.

ADJOURNMENT

- Chairperson Lucy Lawrence informed the Board that she would entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board member Johnnie Grant motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 2:03 pm. Board member Martha Saylers 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