

The Buncombe County Health and Human Services Board met on May 25, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. at 200 College St.

- Health and Human Services Board Members: Frank Castelblanco, Vice-Chair, Johnnie Grant, Jennifer Wehe-Davis, Yvette Jives, Rachel Keener, Jim Pitts, Sonya Greck, Jacquelyn Hallum, Jennifer Partlow and Terry VanDuyn
- Health and Human Services staff: Phillip Hardin, Amy Davis, Rebecca Smith, Jennifer Mullendore, Rob Morrell, Jan Shepard, Zo Mpofo, Becky Kessel, Brad Watts, Paul Watson, Ellis Vaughn, Jessica Silvers, Stacey Wood, Meredith Benjamin and Christa Lance.
- County Staff Attorney Brandon Freeman was in attendance.
- Evan Drake, Pharmacy colleague to Stephanie Kiser and Kristen Spears, student at UNCA were in attendance.
- Potential Board Members, Wendy Boxer, Dr. Steven Valeika, Dr. Gregory Narron, Dr. Richard Munger, Dr. Dan Frayne and Dr. Steven Shulruff were in attendance.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Frank Castelblanco, Health and Human Services Board Vice -Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12:00.

ACTION ITEMS

- The Vice-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 25, 2018 Board agenda.
- The Board reviewed the April 27, 2018 Board meeting minutes. Board Member Sonya Greck moved that the Board approve the minutes of the April 27, 2018 meeting as presented. Board Member Rachel Keener seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in approval. Agenda and Board Minutes are attached and made a part of these minutes

PROPOSED FY19 BUDGET PRESENTATION

- Business Officer Rob Morrell presented the FY19 proposed HHS budget. The presentation is attached and made a part of these minutes.

BILLING AND FEE SCHEDULE

- In accordance with the powers and duties granted to the Board by NCGS 130A-39(g), the Board may approve fees for services rendered by the Health Department, based upon a plan recommended by the local health director.
- The Board was provided information about the importance of Health Department services in protecting and promoting the health of the community, emphasizing that the majority of clients receiving Clinical Services from the Health Department are considered low income. The methodology and data utilized to determine costs was reviewed with the Board, including a market analysis to inform fee setting, a review of volume of encounters by self, partial or full pay, and impact of revenue from the Medicaid Cost Settlement. Board members asked questions about the market analysis and assistance for those with limited ability to pay. The review of the Fee Schedule included Environmental Health Services, which now breaks down septic permitting costs for larger units and is located in a different line item from last year. These fees are also based on market analysis for large counties and neighboring counties to assure comparison by size and region. The Health Department now charges fees for temporary/guest permits for visiting tattoo artists to assure compliance with state law for tattoo safety. HHS Director Stoney Blevins formally requested the HHS Board to modify the fees as recommended by staff. Board member Rachel Keener motioned that the Billing and Fee Schedule be approved as presented. Board member Jennifer Wehe-Davis seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in approval. The presentation is attached and made a part of these minutes.

HEALTH STRATEGIC PLANNING

- Health Director Jan Shepard discussed importance of Strategic Planning to guide the work of the Health Department and illustrated how Strategic Planning relates to the work of the Board and their role in Accreditation. She reviewed the process of developing the three year Strategic Plan, which was informed by a review of data from the CHA and other resources. Participants reviewed the strengths and accomplishments, challenges and opportunities and goals and priorities for the future to formulate a 90 day implementation plan for the Strategic Priorities of 1) Enhancing the quality and delivery of services and 2) Investing in a competent and resilient workforce. The Board was presented with a copy of the Strategic Plan document, PowerPoint and 90 day implementation plan for review and discussion.
The presentation is attached and made a part of these minutes.

SYRINGE EXCHANGE PRESENTATION

- Medical Director Dr. Jennifer Mullendore presented one facet of the ongoing response to the Opioid epidemic in our community and as a follow up to last month's update from Ellen Frost and Opioid Town Halls. She outlined the Health Department and community partners' response plan for safe syringe and needle disposal. This response addresses communicable disease incidence as well as public safety to include safe disposal from injectable drug use and residents with health conditions who require injectable medications. The plan includes education to public, working with solid waste to increase access to safe disposal within the community and working with local organizations invested in addressing environmental and waste disposal issues in our community. The increase in Hepatitis B in Buncombe County and the region was reviewed, as well as the number of new HIV diagnoses in western NC. Dr. Mullendore discussed harm reduction strategies and the impact of social inequalities affecting vulnerability and capacity for drug-related harm reduction. She provided information on Syringe Exchange Programs (SEPs) and how components of the 2016 STOP Act legislation are implemented in our community and recommendations for further steps to broaden the scope and availability of SEP's. Dr. Mullendore is presenting this information to the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners on June 5. The presentation is attached and made a part of these minutes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- No Director's Report was given.

CHAIRS REPORT AND ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Minutes read and approved this ____ day of _____, 2018.

Frank Castelblanco
Health and Human Services
Board Vice-Chairperson

Stoney Blevins
Executive Secretary to the Board