

The Buncombe County Health and Human Services Board met on September 28, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. at 200 College Street.

- Health and Human Services Board Members: Frank Castelblanco-Chair, Stephanie Kiser-Vice Chair, Ken Putnam, Gregory Narron, Carol Coulson, Terry VanDuyn, Jim Pitts, Sharon West, Rick Elingburg, Jacquelyn Hallum, Yvette Jives, Dan Frayne and Lucy Lawrence, Sonya Greck.
- Health and Human Services staff: Phillip Hardin, Amy Davis, Rebecca Smith, Rob Morrell, Jan Shepard, Jennifer Mullendore, Becky Kessel, Brad Watts, Meredith Benjamin, Ellis Vaughn, Katie Swanson, Zo Mpofu and Christa Lance
- County Staff Attorney Brandon Freeman was in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

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

REVIEW AND ACTION OF BOARD AGENDA

- The Board reviewed the September 28, 2018 meeting agenda. Board member Rick Elingburg moved that the Board approve the agenda as presented. Board Member Ken Putnam 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

- 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 August 31, 2018 Board meeting minutes. Board member Ken Putnam motioned that the Board approve the minutes of the August meeting. Board Member Carol Coulson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in approval. The Board Minutes are attached and made a part of these minutes.

FY 19 FINANCIAL UPDATE

- Business Officer Rob Morrell provided an overview of the detailed budget available to the HHS Board members on the Intranet.
- The HHS Fiscal Year 2019 Financial Update and the Performance Analysis Review are attached and made a part of these minutes.

SERVICE PRESENTATIONS

- WNC Substance Use Alliance Presentation – Matt Gannon with Vaya Health presented on the WNC Substance Use Alliance. The WNC Substance Use Alliance was formed as a means to organize resources and leverage existing efforts and work, to create or replicate solutions across the region to address not only the opioid crisis, but also the negative impacts from all substance use disorders on families and communities. The purpose of the Substance Use Alliance is to formulate and monitor the implementation of a comprehensive community substance use strategic plan. A copy of the presentation is attached and made a part of these minutes.
- BCHHS Preparedness and Response – Fletcher Tove, Preparedness and Security Officer for Health and Human Services presented to the Board on the HHS Preparedness Program and how it works. September is National Preparedness month. Fletcher made available to each Board member a resource bag to take home. The presentation is attached and made a part of these minutes.

NEW BUSINESS – LETTERS OF SUPPORT

- WIC - Health Director Jan Shepard provided information to the Board regarding proposed federal legislation, the Wise Investment in Our Children (WIC) Act. She outlined the purpose of this Act: to improve maternal health and child health outcomes by expanding WIC eligibility for at-risk infants, children and new mothers. This Act has three components: 1) extend eligibility for children from age five to age six; 2) permit states to certify infants for two years instead of one and 3) permit states to extend eligibility for breastfeeding and postpartum mothers for

two years instead of one. This extension to the age of six will reduce the nutrition gap between WIC and the National School Lunch program. As part of the presentation, Jan reviewed the Buncombe County WIC data regarding average caseload and the dollar value of WIC food purchase, as well how the WIC Participation Rate would be impacted by this legislation. Buncombe County WIC was one of twelve national and three North Carolina county recipients of the Loving Support of Excellence Gold Premier award from the USDA, recognizing excellence in breastfeeding promotion and support. Jan distributed information to the Board about the Act and local WIC data, and requested that Board members consider a letter to our Congressional and Senate representatives in support of the WIC Act. A board member asked about the current climate of overall legislative support for the WIC Act. Jan will provide additional information pertaining to this request. The presentation is attached and made a part of these minutes.

- Child Welfare- In response to a Board request for additional information regarding child welfare staff turnover, Social Work Director Rebecca Smith and HHS Director Stoney Blevins gave a report on the current challenges, opportunities and impacts facing the child welfare system. Child welfare staff turnover in Buncombe County reached 34.2% in SFY 18, even though BCHHS has good performance outcomes and excellent organizational structures in place. The current fiscal year turnover to date is 6.3% to date with an annual projection of 24%. To explain the pressures on staff, current system impacts from the federal, state and local level were shared with the Board. Special attention was given to the pending rollout of the NC FAST software system into child welfare. Of specific concerns are the poor performance and fiscal impact of prior NC FAST installments in other HHS service areas, poor system performance in pilot counties, inefficiency noted in pilot counties., a large fiscal impact on Buncombe County taxpayers, the potential demoralization of an already burdened child welfare workforce and most importantly; the potential to have a negative impact on safety net services to vulnerable children at risk of abuse and neglect. The Board engaged in a thoughtful and lively discussion in the matter and agreed to support advocacy efforts when appropriate to insure a competent state child welfare automation system. HHS director Blevins will continue to research the issue and bring more information to the board in the future.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The Director's report was incorporated into the Child Welfare discussion. Director Blevins shared the following BCHHS plan for child welfare excellence in Buncombe County:
 1. Stabilize and support staff through targeted recruitment, adjusted scheduling, robust onboarding program for new staff, a strong focus on staff safety and a renewed focus on staff resiliency as part of our trauma responsive culture at HHS.
 2. Advocate for a planful, data driven implementation of the new modified manual.
 3. Oppose the rollout of NC FAST P4 in its current design/ level of performance.
 4. Advocate for a 2019 opt in to the FFPSA.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT AND ADJOURNMENT

- Chairperson Castelblanco informed the Board that he would entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board member Ken Putnam motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 1:49pm and Board member Rick Elingburg seconded and the motion was unanimous in approval.

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

Frank Castelblanco
Health and Human Services
Board Chairperson

Stoney Blevins
Executive Secretary to the Board