

The Buncombe County Health and Human Services Board met on July 28, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. In attendance were:

- Health and Human Services Board Members: Susanne Swanger, Chairperson; Jacquelyn Hallum, Ken Putnam, Rick Elingburg, Rachel Keener, David McClain, Sharon West, Yvette Jives, Jim Pitts, Lucy Lawrence, Dwight Mullin, Frank Castelblanco, Stephanie Kiser and Jim Holland
- Buncombe County HHST staff: Christina McEntee and Merry Michalsen were in attendance.
- Health and Human Services staff: Tammy Shook, Jan Shepard, Tracie Franklin, Katie Swanson, Sara Bennett, Jennifer Mullendore, Ian Allen, Kelli Buckner, Amy Davis, Patricia Wallin, Julien Bailey and Christa Lance.
- Family Justice Center Coordinator, Julie Klipp Nicholson was in attendance.
- County Attorney Brandon Freeman was in attendance.
- Skills Training and Employment Program Panel Kelli Buckner, Nathan Ramsey, Shelly White and Michael Carter were in attendance.

MEETING TO ORDER

- Susanne Swanger, Health and Human Services Board Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

- 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 July 28, 2017 Board Agenda. Chairperson Swanger asked to move the Energy Outreach Plan up on the agenda. Board member Stephanie Kiser moved that the agenda be approved as presented with the one change. Board member Ken Putnam seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in approval.
- The Board members reviewed the June 23, 2017 Board minutes. Board member Lucy Lawrence moved that June Board minutes be approved as presented. Board member Rachel Keener seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in approval.
- A copy of the July 28, 2017 Board agenda and June 23, 2017 Board minutes are attached and made a part of these minutes.

PROGRAM UPDATES

- Phillip Hardin reported on the on the Energy Outreach Plan (LIEAP) to the Board. This plan requires Board action. Several additional outreach contacts were suggested and added by Board members. Frank Castelblanco moved that the LIEAP Plan be approved as amended. Ken Putnam seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in approval.
- The panel presented the Skills Training and Employment Program (STEP) presentation. Buncombe County is partnering with AB Tech and MAWDB (Mountain Area Workforce Development Board), to put FNS (formerly Food Stamps) recipients in a better position to be able to earn a sustainable wage. Navigating the unemployed/underemployed world is difficult. AB Tech's Education Navigator will assess each volunteer and together will come up with a plan that will promote participant opportunities to gain skills, training or experience that will improve their employment prospects and reduce their reliance on FNS benefits.

Long term goals of STEP are to provide free education to our volunteers and to develop a regional model that will promote success across WNC. The PowerPoint is attached and made a part of these minutes.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- The NC General Assembly approved the State Budget; however, Maternal and Child Health funding for counties was reduced. Buncombe County’s reduction is approximately \$35,000. We will not decrease service levels.
- The Strength Opioid Misuse Prevention Act (STOP) was approved. The bill provides numerous initiatives to impact the Opioid addiction epidemic in North Carolina.
- State Law 41, House Bill 630 was approved to address the supervision and administration of Social Services in North Carolina. The bill seeks to improve state supervision of County DSS’s and provides the mechanism for the development of regional Social Services departments.

CHAIRS REPORT AND ADJOURNMENT

- Chairperson Swanger made the Board aware that next month elections will be held for Chair and Vice-Chair. Chairperson Swanger advised she would entertain a motion to adjourn. Board Ken Putnam moved that the meeting be adjourned at 1:30 p.m. Board member Jacquelyn Hallum seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous approval.

Minutes read and approved this ____ day of _____, 2017.

Susanne Swanger
Health and Human Services
Board Chairperson

Jim Holland
Executive Secretary to the Board