

**Wake County Human Services Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2015**

Board Members Present

**Frank Eagles
Pablo Escobar
Leila Goodwin
Kent Jackson
John Myhre
Dr. Rosine Sanders
Dr. Paul Scruggs
Dr. James Smith
Stephanie Treadway
Angie Welsh
Commissioners James West**

Staff Members Present

**David Ellis
Ken Murphy
Regina Petteway
Dr. Joseph Threadcraft
Amina Shah
Alicia Arnold
Vielka Maria-Gabriel
Liz Scott
Felicia Downing
Janny Flynt
Dr. Edie Alfano-Sobsey
Dr. Jennifer Federico**

Guests Present

Septina Florimonte

Call to Order

Dr. Jim Smith called the meeting to order at 7:35 am. He thanked everyone for being present at the meeting.

Reflections

Ms. Leila Goodwin shared reflections about spiritual insights for daily living that she learned from her Yoga teacher.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Frank Eagles made motion to approve May 28 meeting minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Stephanie Treadway and approved unanimously by the Board.

Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held on July 23, 2015 from 7:30-10:00 am at Northern Regional Center in Wake Forest.

Human Services Board Input into Human Services Director's Performance Evaluation [PH Accreditation Benchmark # 37.5]

Dr. Smith outlined the following process for the Human Services (HS) Director's Performance Evaluation procedure:

1. Chair announces process at a Board meeting.
2. Email sent out to Board to solicit feedback on Chair's questions about HS Director's performance.
3. Compiled responses from Board members were sent to Dr. Jim Smith.
4. Chair will set a time to meet with the Executive Committee by phone.
 - a. Executive Committee members: Dr. Jim Smith, John Myhre, Margaret Raynor, Angie Welsh, Dr. Sharon Foster.
5. Executive Committee will prepare a response to the feedback and develop a written or verbal report to submit to County Manager's office.
6. Chair will discuss the report with the Director.
7. Chair will submit report to County Manager's office and discuss with County Manager and Deputy County Manager.
8. At the July meeting, Chair will announce the process is complete

Dr. Smith said that some members have expressed concern that evaluating Ms. Regina Petteway on her performance is premature and unfair, because she has not been in the HS Director's role long enough. However, meeting the Accreditation Benchmark is paramount, so the Board has to do the process at this time. He has assured everyone who voiced this concern that the responses about her performance are good and favorable.

Dr. Smith mentioned that he was somewhat discouraged by the low response rate (about 50%) of the Board. He encouraged Board members to submit their comments to Ms. Amina Shah if they have not already done that.

Public Health Quarterly Report: Communicable Diseases [PH Accreditation Benchmark # 2.4]

Dr. Edie Alfano-Sobsey presented the Public Health Quarterly Report on Communicable Diseases.

The Report tracks 80 diseases/conditions grouped into the following categories:

- Vaccine preventable diseases
- Foodborne diseases
- Sexually transmitted diseases

- Tuberculosis
- Vector-borne diseases
- Animals and public health
- Ebola

1. Vaccine Preventable Diseases

- Concentrated in children
- Hepatitis B is concentrated in women, African-Americans, and Asians
- The 2014-2015 flu season was particularly severe
- Changes in NC Immunization Laws
 - Changes to school entry requirements to include a booster dose of polio vaccine on or after the 4th birthday and a requirement for a 2nd dose of varicella vaccine
 - New requirement for children born on or after July 1, 2015 to receive pneumococcal conjugate vaccine
 - Requirement that rising 7th grade students have a dose of Tdap vaccine if they have not already had one
 - New requirement for 7th grade students to receive a dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine

2. Foodborne Diseases

- Communicable Diseases staff works closely with Environmental Services staff to track foodborne diseases
- Norovirus caused the most illnesses—it is the leading cause of foodborne deaths
- Salmonella is the most common in Wake County, but rates are decreasing

3. Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)

- Most commonly reported STDs in Wake County in 2014 were chlamydia and gonorrhea. However, the rates per 100,000 population for both diseases have declined since 2011. Wake County's rate for both diseases are lower, compared to other Counties.
- Syphilis outbreak is a serious concern. It is a nationwide problem, because social media has made it easier to find sex partners.

4. Tuberculosis (TB)

- The case rate has decreased from 4.1 per 100,000 population in 2010 to 2.7 in 2013.
- From 2014-2015, the highest number of cases were reported in 25-44 year age group
- The proportion of foreign born TB patients compared to US born TB patients has shifted significantly from 2010 to 2014.

5. Vector-borne Diseases

- Vector-borne diseases are caused by microbes that are spread to people by arthropods like ticks and mosquitoes that feed on human blood.
- The vector-borne diseases that occur most often in Wake County are transmitted by ticks.
- Chikungunya was added to the list of reportable diseases in 2014. It is transmitted to people by mosquitoes. 1 case has been reported in Wake County since surveillance began.
- Active prevention efforts are underway

6. Animals and Public Health

- 460 cases of animal bites to humans in 2014
- Bite victims are encouraged to receive rabies immune globulin and rabies vaccine
- The highest risk animals for rabies are foxes, raccoons, and bats

7. Ebola Outbreak

- There were 80-90 Persons under Investigation (PUI) for Ebola in Wake County in the last 10 months—no one was infected.
- Persons traveling to and from Liberia are no longer being monitored.

Discussion was held about the growing rate of syphilis. An increasing significant risk factor is that syphilis patients are meeting their sexual partners on the internet and through mobile apps.

Additionally, Board and staff members asked and discussed the following specific questions about Communicable Diseases:

- Is there data available about how many people had not been vaccinated out of the 200 people who died from Influenza?
- What is omitted on page 9 of the Report where it says “Pushcarts (carts that sell only”?
- Has the testing for Lyme disease improved over time?
- Can a person get Lyme disease again if he/she has already had it before?
- What are the rates for Syphilis in the Eastern part of Wake County as compared to the rest of the County?
- What are the specific outreach efforts for Syphilis in Eastern Wake County and how will success be measured?
- What are the outreach efforts to address Chlamydia?

Ms. Petteway asked Ms. Shah to develop a list of questions asked during this Report’s presentation and Dr. Alfano-Sobsey to have responses for the questions before the next Board meeting.

*Report included in June agenda.

Energy Programs Outreach Plan

Ms. Janny Flynt presented the 2015-2016 Energy Programs Outreach Plan.

Contextual information about the 2 Energy Programs: Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) and Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP).

- These 2 energy assistance programs are funded from external programs and provide help to low-income families with paying their utilities bills.
- Over the last year, these 2 programs did not have the capacity to expend all dollars available to spend due to lack of outreach to low-income families and the staff capacity to perform the internal work needed to provide services. Therefore, the SS Committee tasked staff to develop an Outreach Plan. She commended staff for doing a great job with being proactive in developing the Outreach Plan.

The Plan included a list of agencies or groups that will be contacted to encourage their participation on an interagency committee for CIP and LIEAP.

The Plan also included a list of newspapers, radio stations, TV stations, towns and associations that will be contacted to request that they publicize the energy programs.

Additionally, staff is doing the following things:

- Working with the County's Communications Office on a number of other outreach activities including the use of social media for discussing energy topics including conservation.
- Working with an IT consultant to see how to structure LIEAP in a way that expands capacity to maximize productivity.
- Working on a customer tracking system
- Looking into feasibility of different kinds of mailings

LIEAP spent \$1.5 million this year and CIP spending was about \$1.7 million. Total spending for all Energy programs was \$3,809,999.72.

Mayor Eagles made motion to accept the Energy Programs Outreach Plan as presented, which was seconded by Mr. Pablo Escobar, and approved unanimously by the Board.

*Plan included in June agenda.

Environmental Services Rabies Update

Dr. Jennifer Federico presented the Rabies Update. The Report was presented for informational only to the Human Services (HS) Board after presentation to the Public Health Committee. The Rabies Report highlighted Rabies Clinics, quarantine requirements, recent animal exposure cases, and prevention and control review.

NC GS 130A-187 advises that the local health director shall organize or assist other county departments in organizing at least one countywide rabies vaccination clinic per year for

vaccinating animals required to be vaccinated. Wake County is exceeding this standard, as there were 5 clinics in Spring 2015.

Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control (2011) is a guiding document for rabies law, which is currently under review. Laws will not change unless the Compendium is updated.

A recent article published in JAVMA (January, 2015) compared anamnestic responses to rabies vaccination in dogs and cats with current and out-of-date vaccination status. The results indicated that dogs with out-of-date vaccination status were not inferior in their antibody response following booster rabies vaccination, compared with dogs with current vaccination status.

A study performed by Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Lab about titers showed that although the presence of antibodies after vaccination is important, a specific level above 0.5 IU/ml does not complete assurance of protection against the disease in every individual, because there are other immunological factors involved in the protection from rabies infection.

Other important information:

- 10 Day Quarantine is required if a dog, cat, or ferret bites a human
- Local governments have distinct jurisdictional boundaries

Important conclusion:

- Veterinarians need to make rabies vaccination easy and accessible

NC Rabies Control Manual is a good resource available online at <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/lhds/manuals/rabies/toc.html>.

There was discussion about bats removal. Dr. Federico stated that Wake County Animal Control only removes bats from livable space. It does not remove bats out of the attic in someone's residence.

*Presentation included in June agenda.

2015 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Launch [PH Accreditation Benchmark # 9.1]

Ms. Vielka Maria-Gabriel talked about the launch of the 2015 SFSP. There will be a Jump Start Event held on Thursday, July 16th from 10:30 am to 12 pm. Guest speakers will be Commissioner James West and Ms. Regina Petteway. There will be a special presentation by Everette Brown, Washington Redskins MVP.

She also presented a list of 9 open sites in 2015 in the 2 pilot zip codes, 27601 and 27610.

She highlighted different communication efforts that are underway for promoting the free meal sites including:

- Posting information on Wake County's website
- Posting information through social media including Facebook and Twitter

- Passing out flyers at different churches and key County locations such as libraries

Ms. Maria-Gabriel said that information should have also been sent out by Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) before schools closed for the summer. Since that information was not sent, Wake County Human Services (WCHS) is filling the communication gap. The goal for next year is to have the School System more involved to make the Program more successful. For example, the summer meals programs in Mecklenburg and Durham Counties are supported by their respective schools systems, which is the reason why they are performing better than Wake County in providing free meals to children.

Commissioner West said this is a great program and asked if there is any interface with Interfaith Food Shuttle. Ms. Maria-Gabriel replied that they are trying to build a partnership with them for next year, so they can also be a sponsor.

Commissioner West also recommended to work with neighborhood Community Advisory Committees (CACs), Mr. Dwayne Patterson, and Dr. Marvin Connelly to promote this program.

Mayor Eagles recommended that this initiative should expand outside of Raleigh and involve the Food Truck.

Ms. Petteway recommended that the Public Health (PH) Committee should look at the suggestions and results moving forward for next year.

Ms. Septina Florimonte said that the Wake County Commission for Women (WCCW) supports the SFSP—they have advertised it on their website and have received tremendous support from the community.

Board Committee Chairs Reports

Dr. Smith gave an update on the Public Health Committee on behalf of Dr. Sharon Foster. He stated that the budget request for prenatal care expansion was approved by the Wake County Board of Commissioners (BOC) for fiscal year 2015-2016.

Ms. Angie Welsh gave an update on the Social Services Committee. She said the Committee continues to work Human Capital Development (HCD) and building partnerships. The next meeting will be jointly held with the Public Health Committee.

Environmental Services Director's Report

Dr. Joseph Threadcraft presented on the following items:

- Clean Water Rule
- National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards

Clean Water Rule

The Clean Water Act passed in 1972 made it unlawful to discharge pollutants into navigable waters.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S Army Corps of Engineers lists the following action items for the Clean Water Rule:

1. Clearly defines and protects tributaries that might impact the health of downstream waters
2. Provides certainty on how far safeguards extend to nearby waters
3. Protects the nation's regional water treasures
4. Focuses on streams, not ditches
5. Maintains the status of waters within Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems
6. Reduces the use of case specific analysis of waters

The Rule protects clean water without getting in the way of farming, ranching, and forestry

Implementation - the law will be final 60 days after publication in the Federal Register

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has raised concerns for its members with the following responsibilities:

1. Maintenance of roads and ditches
2. Maintenance of storm water measures
3. Operation of mosquito spray programs

Mecklenburg County, NC responded during the public comment period to omit storm water measures and ephemeral streams (streams that flow only after rainfall).

Applicability - a permit is needed only if waters are going to be polluted or destroyed

Wake County's Perspective:

1. No anticipated cost increase
2. No projected construction impacts
3. No road or ditch construction/maintenance responsibilities

National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards

The Environmental Services Department received recognition for 4 NACo Achievement Awards:

1. Administration Division

NACo granted Wake County a 2015 Achievement Award for its program titled "Business Intelligence Solution" in the category of Financial Management.

2. Animal Services Division

NACo granted Wake County a 2015 Achievement Award for its program titled "'Foster-On-Deck'" in the category of County Administration & Management.

3. Animal Services Division

NACo granted Wake County a 2015 Achievement Award for its program titled “Shelter Rounds - Key Personnel Discussion for At-Risk Animals” in the category of County Administration & Management.

4. *Water Quality Division*

NACo granted Wake County a 2015 Achievement Award for its program titled “Wake County Environmental Services; Water Quality Kaizen Team” in the category of County Administration & Management.

Human Services Director’s Report

Ms. Petteway reported that USDA put NC DHHS on notice for untimely process of applications. NC DHHS would have to develop a corrective action plan, which will affect all counties and push them to work faster on processing applications.

She reported on the progress of NC FAST for Wake County. A pilot project that used out of county workers to process applications was done in Wake County to use out of county workers to process applications. This pilot project was replicated from the model used by Durham County. It was successful, as results showed a precipitous drop in untimely applications.

She said FY 14-15 was a successful budget expansion year. Out of the 5 Board’s advocacy priorities, 4 were successfully addressed. These include:

- Priority # 1: Prenatal Care Services
- Priority # 3: Human Services Facilities Master Plan (includes assessment of service need in Western Wake region)
- Priority # 4: Administrative Support for Energy Assistance Programs
- Priority # 5: Funding for Wake County SmartStart

Ms. Petteway thanked Commissioner West and the other County Commissioners for approving these aforementioned budget items.

She mentioned that Commissioner Matt Calabria and Ms. Moni Singh (with STEM for kids) received the Triangle Business Journal’s 40 Under 40 Award.

Human Services Board Chair’s Report

In response to Ms. Petteway’s update on budget expansion, Dr. Smith stated that he is still concerned about child care subsidy, which is Advocacy Priority # 2 of HS Board. The County maintained some level of funding for child care subsidy for this fiscal year. He said the Department has support from the County Manager’s Office, so he hoped that it would be addressed in the next budget cycle. The Board will also advocate more for services in the Western region in the next budget cycle.

Dr. Smith discussed changing the HS Board meeting start time to from 7:30 am to 8 am, while still ending at 10 am. There was discussion among Board members about this change. Ms. Goodwin discussed the possibility of still starting the meeting at 7:30 am when public comments are expected. The Board decided to make motion and take vote on this matter at the next meeting.

Dr. Smith asked to see a list of day camps that provide scholarships for next year, so the Board can support that. Ms. Petteway asked Ms. Maria-Gabriel to develop a resource sheet that lists day camps.

Mayor Eagles asked Ms. Petteway to check with General Services Administration (GSA) to get better wireless phone signal in the Swinburne building.

Participation in Community Events

Mr. John Myhre said he talked to CEO of Wake Medical Center about the hospital's goals for the community.

Ms. Stephanie Treadway said she has been part of several advocacy groups including Wake Reentry Counsel. They have been working to develop community partnerships to help people released from prison to transition back into Wake County. Additionally, she is working with a group to that is working to help the homeless population. They are developing a plan to get the homeless registered to vote and to have their IDs.

Mr. Pablo Escobar said he attended a conference on Primary Care in Wilmington. The conference was organized by NC Community Health Centers Association. A major point of discussion in the conference was integrating mental and physical health.

Dr. Jim Smith mentioned that his organization, NC Minority Prostate Cancer Action Team is doing good work to promote awareness for Prostate Cancer for minority communities. There will be a new Psychiatric hospital opening on Brier Creek in January, 2018.

Public Comments

There were not any individuals present for the public comments period.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.

Action Items

- Ms. Petteway asked Ms. Shah to develop a list of questions asked during this Report's presentation and Dr. Alfano-Sobsey to have responses for the questions before the next Board meeting.

- Ms. Petteway asked Ms. Maria-Gabriel to develop a resource sheet that lists day camps that the HS Board can potentially support.
- Mayor Eagles asked Ms. Petteway to check with General Services Administration (GSA) to get better wireless phone signal in the Swinburne building.

Board Chair's Signature:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat abstract, with a large loop on the left side.

Date:

A handwritten date "9/3/11" in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The numbers are written in a simple, slightly slanted style.