

**Wake County Human Services Board
Meeting Minutes
August 22, 2016**

Board Members Present:

Ronda Bean
Frank Eagles
Fiorella Horna-Guerra
Kent Jackson
John Myhre
Margaret Raynor
Dr. Rosine Sanders
Dr. Paul Scruggs
Dr. James Smith
Stephanie Treadway
Angie Welsh
Commissioner James West
Dr. Seth Wexler
McKinley Wooten, Jr.

Staff Members Present:

Regina Petteway
Antonia Pedroza
Dr. Sue Lynn Ledford
Crystal Farrow
Ginny Satterfield
Debra Baker
Lisa Cauley
Caroline Harper
Liz Scott
Cassandra Watford
Ken Murphy
Wilson Mize
Dr. Theresa Flynn
Michael Orbon
Evan Kane

Guests Present:

David Markwood
Septina Florimonte
Ed Buchan

Call to Order

Chairman Dr. James Smith called the meeting to order at 7:31 am.

Reflections

(Reflections given by Frank Eagles)

Mayor Eagles spoke about the lack of recognition and services for our female veterans. He spoke about the fact that since the revolutionary war there have been women fighting next to men, specifically during WWI and WWII and the Korea/Vietnam era. The women that are fighting alongside men today are not being recognized as the men are. Currently there are a large number of homeless female veterans and a majority of them have children. Women in the military work alongside men, in equal jobs with equal pay but when they leave the military it's hard to get an equal job to men and when you do you do not get the same pay. When you read about veterans rights we need to start thinking about women veterans, especially the homeless ones.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Smith asked for approval of the meeting minutes from the July 28, 2016 meeting. Mr. John Myhre asked for the wording to be changed on page 1, paragraph 3 "a motion was made and seconded by John Myhre". The Board approved the minutes with this change.

Next Board Meeting- September 22, 2016

Child Fatality Task Force Annual Report

(Presented by Dr. Theresa Flynn)

Dr. Flynn spoke to the Board about the shared responsibility for the wellbeing of children. Wake County has a team of committed citizens and community volunteers that gather each month to discuss the prevention of child deaths. This team consists of community non-profits, such as Strengthening the Black Family, the YMCA, law enforcement personnel, school workers, volunteers from hospitals, pediatricians, the Wake County Medical examiner, and many others. They gather to review in depth the situation that led to an individual child's death. This is to make the community safer for everyone's children. The efforts are paying off. Statewide since 1992 when the NC Child Fatality Task Force was established the child mortality rate has dropped by 46%. Wake County's local team generated many proposals adopted by the State of North Carolina, such as the graduated license program that has saved so many lives. The Wake County child death and infant mortality rate are both below the state average. The infant mortality rate is one of the indicators that led to Wake County being named the Healthiest County in North Carolina in both 2013 and 2014. The number of child deaths in Wake County dropped from 119 in 2012 to 96 in 2013 and 2014 despite a dramatic increase in the Wake County population during that time.

Dr. Flynn continued going over what is working to improve the child fatality numbers. We know that safe stable and nurturing relationships and environments protect children. Wake County has a strong system of Health and Human Services that protects all our citizens and gives particular benefit to our youngest and most vulnerable. The child fatality and child protection team are a wonderful example of how Wake County partners with citizens and organizations of Wake County to foster health and wellbeing in our community.

Mr. Myhre asked about a figure on Attachment 1 which Dr. Flynn confirmed was incorrect. The reports are produced by the State and Dr. Flynn stated that she would let them know the label on the data is incorrect.

Mr. Eagles asked about staffing challenges within Child Welfare and asked if there were an adequate number of positions to handle the caseloads. Ms. Flynn stated that there is approval for a substantial increase in supervisory positions in Child welfare. She stated there is high volume of staff turnover due to the heartbreaking work and the staff need a lot of support. Ms. Petteway stated that the increase is for positions as well as restructuring and looking at staffing patterns. Ms. Cauley stated that they are adequately staffed for the number of cases the Child Protective Services (CPS) workers should be assigned. No worker in Wake County had over the State standard number of cases. That said there may have been some months when they had more than the State standard so there is an opportunity to adjust for that. Our big difference will be to change the staff supervisors. We have supervisors that have had 6-7 people and the State standard is no more than 5. We have struggled to find, recruit and hire qualified candidates who are interested in CPS work and this is a challenge throughout the state. Dr. Flynn mentioned that they now have a domestic violence person that is now in Child Welfare. This increases the knowledge and expertise to the team and this is a big step.

Dr. Flynn mentioned that one area that they are losing in right now is the adolescent death rate for those 10 and up as well as the increase of suicides among young girls between 10-14 years old. Dr. Rosine Sanders asked about technology being a factor of the increase in suicides and self-abuse such as cutting and more serious things as there is easy access on the internet to these things. Dr. Flynn stated that there is documentation that shows children are learning how to do things through social media that they would not have gotten exposed to before, such as anorexia. Dr. Flynn also said there are positive things such as online suicide support and assessments that are easier for children to access that support children.

WCHS Agency 4th Quarter (Year-End) Data Report

(Presented by Caroline Harper)

Ms. Harper summarized a few important program activities based on indicators from the period of April 1, 2016 through June 30, 2016:

- During the reporting period the total number of adults in Wake County Adult Protective Service programs was 792. We are keeping an eye on the annual growth of the caseloads. This is for adults over 18 that are in the custody of Wake County.
- They were asked to provide more substantive data on child care subsidy. They now have access to data that relates financially so it gives a better picture of what people are dealing with day to day. The average cost of child care subsidy that was provided per child is \$625. The number of children served for FY16 was 5506. The total allocation for Wake County was spent. If you included the dollars it was \$35 million to provide the subsidy for 5506 children.
- Child Welfare, there is a decrease in the overall number of assessments but an increase in the overall number of children in Foster Care as well as the number of children serviced by CPS in their homes.
- The next report will be at the end of 2016 and will include all fiscal year data.

Review Board Operating Procedures [PH Accreditation Benchmarks 34.1 and 34.2]

(Presented by John Myhre)

Mr. Myhre started out by informing the Board that this is a benchmark and that the Board was reviewing the Board Operating Procedures as an annual Wake County Human Resources requirement as well. A change to the Operating Procedures was proposed that would add a Vice Chair position to both the Public Health and Social Services Committees.

Dr. Sanders pointed out a sentence that seems out of context on page 13, Appendix B: under the Public Comment section. "If you have come as a member of a group, you may wish to select a representative to present the points you feel are important." It was agreed by several members that this sentence should be revised or removed. Dr. Smith stated that he would read over the Board Operating procedures and the Board can revisit it at the next Board meeting in September.

Mr. Frank Eagles brought up the fact that the term of the Board Chair is not listed in the operating procedures. Dr. Smith and Ms. Petteway both stated that it should be added. Dr. Smith stated that he would not ask the Board for a vote of approval on this item but that he and Ms. Petteway would revise the document appropriately and that it would be reviewed and voted on for approval at the next Board meeting.

Annual Review of Rules of Appeal [Accreditation Benchmark 35.1]

(Presented by Ken Murphy)

Mr. Murphy stated that there are no staff changes to the Rules of Appeal and that he did not have any changes to add. Mr. Murphy then gave a few examples of what types of appeals the Board hears and what is heard by other entities. During the review Mr. Eagles pointed out that on page 3, number 11. It states that "A representative of the County Attorney's Office may be present". After a brief discussion it was decided that the word "shall" be used in place of the word "may" to change the sentence to "A representative of the County Attorney's office shall be present". The change of this word and review of the Rules of Appeal were motioned for approval by Commissioner West and seconded by Mr. Myhre.

Human Services Department Report

- Regina Petteway – Ms. Petteway stated that measles surveillance ceased on August 23rd and routine surveillance was resumed at that time. On September 13th the incubation period will end and after that the incident will be closed. She then thanked several of the Staff that assisted with the measles surveillance. Ms. Petteway then spoke about the issue of timeliness for Food and Nutrition services. She stated in January we were at 74.7% in timeliness and currently we are at 93%. We have met the standard of 95% a few weeks ago. Ms. Petteway gave appreciation to the staff of Food and Nutrition for bringing the number of completed applications in line. She then asked Ms. Antonia Pedroza to speak about the State time standards. Ms. Pedroza explained that for emergency situations the standard is 4 days, non-emergency standards are 25 days. This means that they have to have benefits in-hand within this time-frame. Ms. Petteway stated that staff has been very effective at looking into internal and external bottlenecks that are slowing down processing.
- Lisa Cauley, Child Welfare – Ms. Cauley spoke about changes in staff roles and responsibilities and an expansion request allowing them to hire additional supervisors. Last year there was such an increase in total foster care population there were only 61 adoptions. This year, thanks to changes in the internal process and the addition of a paralegal to the County attorney staff there have already been 132 children adopted this year. As of yesterday there are 707 children in the foster care pipeline.
- Cassandra Watford – WCHS Budget Expansion Request Update
Ms. Watford gave a brief update on expansion awards for this year and mentioned the process for the upcoming year. The budget kickoff will be in early September and the budget office will be defining the dates in September. One of the things that has changed is that we are going back to a more formal business plan. This requires each department to look at what they do, how they do it, what resources they commit to do it and what measures are we going to use to make sure performance is being met. As we develop our budget this is how we will come up with the expansion request for the next year. In advance of submitting our requests we will have the Board of Commission's goals so that we can align in the direction of those goals. The timeline has been pushed up, with required budget request submission by early January this year.

Environmental Services Director's Report

(Michael Orbon presented for Dr. Threadcraft)

Mr. Orbon explained the Water Quality Divisions to the Board and what each was responsible for. He spoke about retirements in their staff and new staff that were coming in to staff these openings. On a request from Commissioner West Mr. Orbon went on to explain the make-up and purpose of the Water Partnership for Wake County. Mr. Orbon explained who the members of this partnership are and the purpose of the group. The group Board positions are almost filled and once they are it will be presented to the Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Petteway asked about an article that she had seen reporting on uranium being found in some private wells. Mr. Orbon stated that this is why Wake County established the Groundwater Outreach program. This is to reach out to owners to let them know that they are responsible for testing their private well and knowing what needs to be done to fix any issues with their well. Mr. Orbon stated that one of the quotes in the Indy paper that they had stopped testing wells was incorrect and that they are still testing wells for issues.

Public Comments – None

Human Services Board Interviews for Engineer position

The Board interviewed Edward Buchan and David Markwood for the soon to be vacated Engineer position on the Wake County Human Services Board. At the end of the interviews Chair Smith asked members for comments and discussion of the two candidates and the Board members proceeded to discuss the pros and cons for each candidate. Mr. Myhre motioned for Edward Buchan to be recommended for the open Board position and it was seconded by Dr. Sanders. Dr. Smith asked for a motion for David Markwood to be invited to join the Public Health Committee, Ms. Raynor motioned and Dr. Sanders seconded the motion.

Action Items:

Items to be discussed at the next Board meeting:

- Ms. Petteway and Chair Smith - Board Operating procedures to be re-visited with additional changes.

Adjournment

Chair Smith asked for a motion to adjourn, a motion was made by Dr. Sanders and seconded by Mr. Eagles. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10am.

Board Chair's Signature: _____

Date: 9/22/16

Respectfully submitted by Debra Baker