

**Wake County Human Services Board
Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2018**

Board Members Present:

Angie Welsh
Dr. Betsy Van Benthuisen
Fiorella Horna
Mayor Frank Eagles
Dr. James Smith, III
Commissioner James West
John Myhre
Dr. John Perry
Margaret Raynor
McKinley Wooten
Stephanie Treadway
Dr. Randy Marsh

Staff Members Present:

Alicia Arnold
Antonia Pedroza
Regina Petteway
Dr. Sue Lynn Ledford
Ginny Satterfield
Ken Murphy
Dr. Joseph Threadcraft
Elizabeth Harmantzis
Dena Hansley
Josephine Rutledge
Evan Kane
Delores Long
Dr. Edie Alfano-Sobsey
Rebecca Pezzoni
Annemarie Maiorano
Emily Fischbein
Anita Davis

Guests Present:

Alicia Lutz
Bage Shade
Kevin Campbell
Lisa Walker
Yvette Holmes
Rachel Zeitler
Vanessa Dunn
Zack Moore

Call to Order

Chair Dr. James Smith called the meeting to order at 7:34am.

Reflections

Mayor Frank Eagles spoke about attending the celebration for the 10th Anniversary of the Northern Regional Center. Mayor Eagles then spoke about the members of the Human Services Board being the most dedicated group of individuals that he had seen in quite some time. He then thanked all for serving on the Board.

Chairs Privilege

Chair Dr. Smith reminded the group that the annual Board retreat will take place on February 22, 2018.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Dr. Smith asked for a motion to approve the November 16, 2017 meeting minutes. Mr. John Myhre motioned and it was seconded by Ms. Margaret Raynor. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Next Board Meeting – February 22, 2018 is the annual Board Retreat

Human Services Board New Member Oath of Office

(Presented by Ken Murphy)

Mr. Ken Murphy administered the Oath of Office to oncoming member Dr. Randy Marsh. Dr. Marsh will fill the psychologist slot on the Human Services Board.

Rebranding – Wake county transportation (Tracs) to GoWake Access

(Presented by Ms. Alicia Arnold and Ms. Anita Davis)

Ms. Alicia Arnold gave a brief overview of the rebranding of Tracs and noted the change to GoWake to fit into the overall transportation system with GoRaleigh, GoDurham and the general GO branding. She also spoke about the shift behind the scenes to coordinate their public image as well to provide better customer service and quality of service. Next steps are sharing the design, discussing with partners to seek approval and guidance to fit in with the rest of the region, working with communications staff to develop a robust marketing plan to include news releases, and in March the rollout of the actual vehicles with the new wrapping on the vehicles. There will also be educational materials and possible robo-calls to the clients to let them know about the changes so that they recognize the vehicles. Ms. Horna asked about the type of service provided and who the clients were. Ms. Arnold stated that services are provided to people on Medicaid as well as transportation services for elderly and disabled individuals that are going to employment and appointments and to the rural population that are not serviced by bus routes. Ms. Horna asked for clarification and Ms. Davis explained how the service is scheduled and that the client does not need to be a part of the Wake employment services to obtain transportation to their job or job training program. Ms. Treadway asked about the call center and wanted to know if it had been upgraded. Ms. Arnold stated that it had been upgraded and that they have added some temporary staffing to increase the staff levels to almost double the amount of staff and they have implemented new training as well.

Chair Dr. Smith thanked Ms. Arnold and Ms. Davis for the presentation.

Annual Housing Action Plan – Public Hearing for Wake County FY 2018 Action Plan for Affordable Housing

(Presented by Ms. Emily Fischbein)

Ms. Fischbein presented materials to the Board for the FY 2018-2019 Affordable Housing Action Plan. The FY 2018-2019 Affordable Housing Action Plan is a one-year plan to address the housing and community development needs of low-income families in Wake County. The Action Plan is implemented by the Housing and Community Revitalization (HCR) program using a combination of federal and local funds. It is the fourth annual plan of the FY 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan approved by the Board of Commissioners in May 2015, which defines the housing and community revitalization needs of low-income families in Wake County for five years.

The 2018 Action Plan describes the way HCR will use its grant funds to address these needs in the next year from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. The next steps are to take this plan to the Board of Commissioners within the next few weeks to hold the second public hearing. Once this has been completed the draft will be posted for public comments for 30 days. Following this process, the Action Plan will be returned to the Human Services Board for endorsement in April, and then to the Board of Commissioners for approval in May 2018. It must be sent to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by May 15, 2018.

The Action Plan is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in order for Wake County to receive the federal grants listed below:

Grant	Expected FY 2018-19 Funding	Projected Program Income*	Excess Program Income	Prior Year Funds**	Total
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	\$1,655,276	\$330,000	\$242,060	\$32,388	\$2,259,724
HOME Investments Partnership Act	\$611,616	\$270,000	\$114,904	\$0	\$996,520
Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA)	\$619,024	\$6,730	\$254	\$0	\$626,008
Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)	\$141,423	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$141,423
Wake County CIP	\$1,000,000	\$270,000	\$848	\$0	\$1,270,848
Total	\$4,027,339	\$876,730	\$358,066	\$32,388	\$5,294,523

*Program Income is the income from payments from loans made in previous years.

**Prior year CDBG funds are funds from public facility projects that were under budget.

The following population groups were identified as top priorities in the 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan for funding over the next five years. These groups were chosen because they have the greatest housing need:

High Priority:

1. Renters earning at or below 40% Area Median Income (AMI) per year;
2. Homeless individuals and families;
3. Non-homeless individuals and families with special needs.

Medium Priority:

1. Renters 41-50% AMI
2. Homeowners 41-50% AMI

Low Priority:

1. Renters 51-80% AMI
2. Homeowners 51-80% AMI

HCR uses five strategies to implement its program:

1. Preserve existing housing;
2. Develop additional housing;
3. Provide rental assistance and job training;
4. Fund public facilities improvements in low-income neighborhoods;
5. Provide homeless assistance services.

Dr. Randy Marsh asked about the use of funds on the CDBG Block grant that state administrative costs are included in the \$1.5 million listed for single and multi-family rehabilitation, including emergency repairs and retrofits to help elderly households to remain in their home. He asked the difference of this and the listed Grant administrative costs for salaries and operations. Ms. Fischbein stated that the portion of the \$1.5 used for administrative costs are for legal fees and operating costs associated with all of the transactions.

At the end of Ms. Fischbein's presentation Dr. Smith opened the floor for Public Comments. There were five speakers that gave Public Comments:

Public Comments

1. Ms. Alice Lutz, CEO of Triangle Family Services. Ms. Lutz spoke about the need for affordable housing and stated that in order to pay for rent a single mother would have to work about 100 hours at minimum wage to make enough money. She spoke about these people being your neighbors who are working in minimum wage jobs such as those in fast food restaurants. She challenged everyone to think about the people that are handing you your cup of coffee or cleaning the table in your favorite restaurant and realizing it is these families that are struggling.

2. Ms. Bage Shade thanked the Board members for their support that they have given to the community. She spoke about the Boards full support being vital to the community and making it stronger.
3. Mr. Kevin Campbell, the CEO of Habitat for Humanity in Wake County thanked the board for their support over the years and commended the staff as great partners as well. He spoke about serving on the Wake County affordable housing task force along with Commissioner Homes and how pleased he was with the work that had been accomplished. He spoke about the provision of affordable housing as providing improvement of other needs that families may have as well. He spoke about Habitat's niche of home ownership for the lower income and what was unknown was that some of the families served were from 25% up to 60% of medium income.
4. Ms. Lisa Walker, a Board member with Families Together, thanked the Board for the work that they do. She then reviewed what services were provided by their organization. She spoke about the difficulty of low income families to find affordable housing. She spoke of the wait list of 4-6 years for families to get a housing voucher slot. She also referred to a study that showed that housing subsidies are the best option to keep these family housed. She explained the tenant based rental voucher that helps these families provide more for their families and gives them a break on their monthly housing costs.
5. Ms. Yvette Holmes, the Vice President of Research Develop at DHIC thanked the Board for the support they give to Wake County. Ms. Holmes then reviewed what DHIC does for the community. DHIC is the largest nonprofit developer of affordable housing in the region with over 37 communities. They have over 2,200 units and are still growing. Of the properties, there are about ten family communities in Wake County that the County helps to support, about 621 units. They have seven Senior housing communities that total 516 units as well as two supportive housing communities.

At this time Dr. Smith closed Public Comments and asked Board members for any input. Several Board members discussed the comments that they had just heard as well as the information from Ms. Fischbein's report. Mayor Eagles stated that in his experience elected officials and community members are reluctant to have affordable housing in their areas. Mayor Eagles stated that there needs to be a lot of education for the public to change this impression.

Review of Changes to Department of Social Services Records Retention Schedule

(Presented by Ms. Rebecca Pezzoni and Ms. Dena Hansley)

Ms. Rebecca Pezzoni introduced herself and Ms. Hansley and explained the purpose of the records retention schedule and the action that the Board needs to take:

- North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) periodically updates the local government common and program-specific Retention Schedules
- The County Social Services Agencies Schedule was updated in January 2016 (previous version 2006)

Public Health Report – Chronic Disease [PH Accreditation Benchmark #2.4]

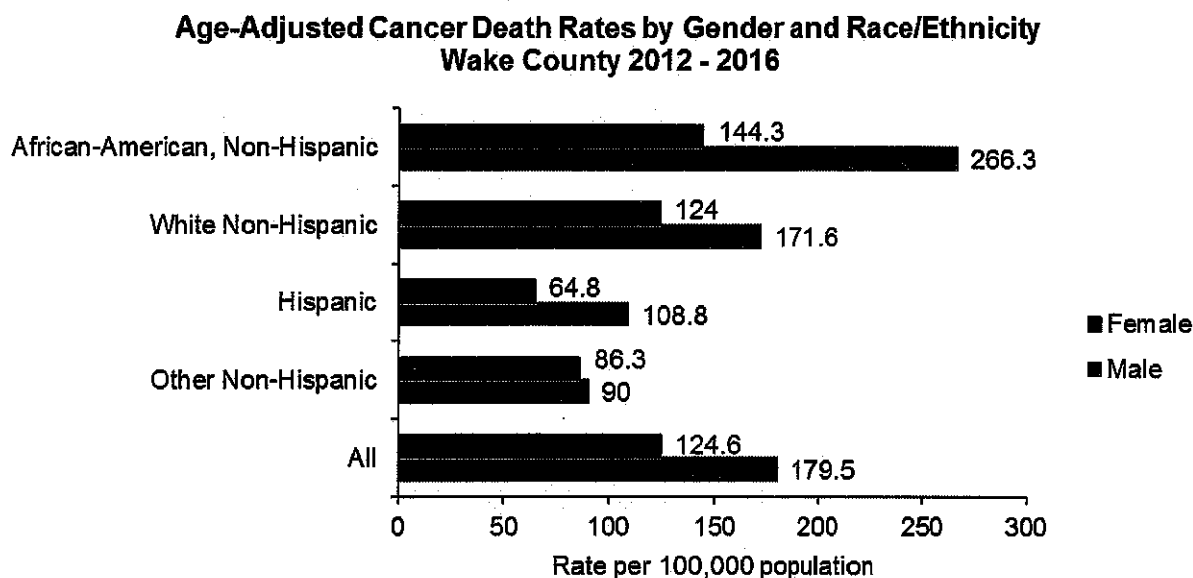
(Presented by Dr. Edie Alfano-Sobsey)

Dr. Alfano-Sobsey started the presentation by pointing out the top three leading causes of death in Wake County:

1. Cancer
2. Diseases of the heart
3. Cerebrovascular disease

She also noted that of the top 10 leading causes of death seven of these are chronic diseases.

Dr. Alfano-Sobsey noted that Gender and racial disparities in cancer death rates persist in Wake County. In 2012-2016, men died at higher rates than women, and African-American Non-Hispanic males died at higher rates than individuals of both genders in other racial and ethnic groups:



She went on to highlight the drop in cervical cancer, specifically the significant drop in the African American cervical cancer death rate. This could be related to the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine that is a proven measure in reducing the incidence of cervical cancer. The number of clients vaccinated increased over 15% and the number of clients ages 13-18 receiving vaccines increased 33.5% from FY 2016 to FY 2017. Dr. Ledford noted that one thing that is often missed is that males also need to have the vaccine against HVP.

Dr. Alfano-Sobsey briefly reviewed several other chronic diseases on the top ten list then discussed the emerging issue of chronic liver disease and cirrhosis. Both North Carolina and Wake County have seen overall chronic liver disease and cirrhosis death rate increases in the last five years. Figures show that in Wake County, chronic liver disease and cirrhosis mortality increased 26.8% for white males over the last five years. White males are also the population predominantly affected by opioid deaths and overdoses. The previous WCHS public health report on injuries detailed the synergy between hepatitis C and the opioid epidemic in Wake

County and North Carolina. An increase in chronic liver disease and cirrhosis mortality may be yet another facet of the opioid epidemic. There was also discussion on the increased use among youth of e-cigarettes. Commissioner West asked about a news report that he had seen that implied that compared to cigarettes the e-cigarettes were better for you. This was discussed and was stated as erroneous as some of the liquid used in e-cigarettes contain nicotine as well as other hazardous and cancer-causing chemicals.

Chair Dr. Smith asked for a motion to accept the Chronic Disease Report. There was a motion and it was accepted.

Human Services Directors Report

(Presented by Ms. Petteway)

Ms. Petteway gave a brief overview of the draft expansion budget. Ms. Petteway reviewed the trends driving the expansion request; population growth, case load growth, changes in the work force such as increased staff retirement and a competitive job market. She then discussed the need for systems and infrastructure support. As services grow, the need for support resources increases for staff training and development, quality assurance and control, data analytics and operational oversight. Ms. Petteway stated that the WCHS Executive Team is refining requests and the next steps in the process would be review by the County Manager's office. The County Manager's office vets the requests from all departments and develops a County Manager recommended budget that is presented to the County Commissioners. There will be a public hearing on the recommended budget and then the commissioners will adopt a county budget.

Environmental Services Director's Report

(Presented by Dr. Joseph Threadcraft)

Dr. Threadcraft briefly spoke about the Environmental Services Budget. The meeting with the County Managers is Feb 9th. There are three categories of requests; corrective action plan/legal mandates, service level delivery, and funds and expansion requests to support a groundwater study. Dr. Threadcraft then thanked the Board members for their work. He spoke about an abstract that he has submitted to the National Association of the Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) titled Public Health 3.0 - Building Healthier Communities in Core Environmental Areas. Dr. Threadcraft stated that he has also listed Dr. Smith and Mr. Myhre as co-presenters in the abstract. He spoke about the sub-committee work that the board members have been involved in and the direct relevance the Board has had in the Commissioners initiatives and objectives. This would be an opportunity to further enhance the Human Services Boards involvement in the community.

Margaret Raynor took a moment to discuss the Advocacy Event that took place in January. She spoke about the talking points handout being very well written and she then suggested that this document be sent to the legislative members that could not attend. Dr. Smith agreed and stated that he would speak with Ms. Debra Baker to have this done.

Commissioner West informed the group about a meet and greet that is being scheduled for the final candidates of the County Managers position and invited all to attend this public meeting. Dr. Smith spoke of the importance of the Boards relationship with the County Manager and that it is important for the Board members to be involved in this.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Debra Baker to send information on final County Manager candidates meet and greet to Board members.
- Debra Baker to send dates of the Board of Commissioners public budget hearings to Board members.
- Debra Baker to send talking points document to elected officials and post on Human Services Board website.

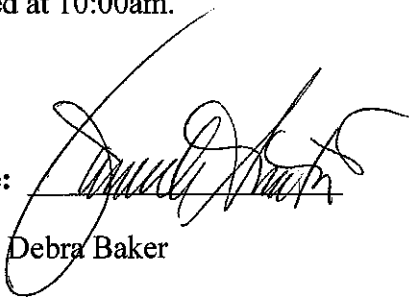
Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am.

Board Chair's Signature:



Date:

3/20/18

Respectfully submitted by Debra Baker