

**Wake County Human Services Board
Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2017**

Board Members Present:

David Cottengim
Mayor Frank Eagles
Fiorella Horna
Kent Jackson
John Myhre
Dr. John Perry
Margaret Raynor
Dr. Rosine Sanders
Dr. James Smith, III
Angie Welsh
Commissioner James West

Guests Present:

None

Staff Members Present:

Lisa Cauley
David Ellis
Crystal Farrow
Linda Keely
Dr. Sue Lynn Ledford
Caroline Harper
Wilson Mize
Brenda Elliot
Ken Murphy
Kat Williams
Antonia Pedroza
Regina Petteway
Dr. Joseph Threadcraft
Cassandra Watford
Ginny Satterfield
Debra Baker
Britt Kenny
Wilson Mize

Call to Order

Chairman Dr. James Smith called the meeting to order at 7:40 am.

Reflections

Ms. Raynor spoke about a story of a man stuck in a bog and being rescued by a young stranger. The man wanted to pay the rescuer but the young man refused saying it was the right thing to do. As a thank you the man sent his rescuer to the best school and he ended up becoming a Dr. and inventing penicillin. Margaret went on to discuss the moral of the story as she interpreted it. It is clear that people want to help and they really want to do it without more government input. We should get people doing things so that we don't have to have government where government doesn't need to be. As a volunteer committee we need to look at how we can really partner in the community with those that really want to help.

Chairs Privilege

Dr. Smith welcomed visiting Western Region CAC representative, Sharon Peterson. He then asked for approval of the minutes.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Smith asked for approval of the meeting minutes from the January 26, 2017 meeting. Mr. David Cottengim motioned and Ms. Rosine Sanders seconded, the January Minutes were unanimously approved. Dr. Smith then asked for approval of the meeting minutes from the February 23, 2017 meeting. Dr. John Myhre asked for a revision to be made to the number of Libertarian registered voters on page 9. The minutes were unanimously approved with these changes, motioned by Ms. Margaret Raynor and seconded by Mayor Frank Eagles.

Next Board Meeting - April 27, 2017

Human Services Directors Report – Youth Risk Based Survey (YRBS)

(Presented by Ms. Regina Petteway and Ms. Brenda Elliott)

Ms. Petteway explained that the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in collaboration with representatives from state, local, and federal agencies. The first YRBS was conducted in 1991. The YRBS is:

- A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Survey for Middle and High School Students
- This is a paper and pencil survey
- This survey is given during a specific time period every two years
- This survey is given to middle and high school students in random 2nd period classes in public schools

The purpose of this survey is to measure the percentage of middle and high school youth who practice healthy and risky behaviors. Wake County data will be compared to state and national data and will provide Wake County the county-level data by oversampling. The benefits of over sampling are that Wake County and community partners can have county-level data for youth in Wake County. There is currently no source of a comprehensive comparable county data set for middle and high school youths. The data should be available by October or November of 2017. This data will assist in Human Services proposal requests and indicators that our programs are supposed to be impacting. Wake County Human Services is responsible for the over sample and the survey will be implemented before April 15, 2017.

Ms. Petteway then introduced Ms. Brenda Elliott to review information for the YRBS survey and answer any questions. Ms. Elliott talked about some of the questions that will be asked in the survey, a variety of questions from safety, bullying, suicide, physical activity, alcohol and drug use to hunger, grades and sleep. She also explained that Wake County participated in the 2012-2013 survey however we requested that the questions around sexual behavior be removed so there was no data in this area. Last year we asked that these questions be removed again and were told that we could not request specific questions to be removed as we could not be comparable to a State or the National population. This time it was decided that we would have these questions around sexual behavior included so this will be the first time we will have this data for middle and high school students and this data will be valuable for the types of programs that we offer. The surveys will be completed by the end of April. The last time that the State conducted the YRBS there were not enough middle schools across the state included to receive middle school information from the CDC. It is important that Wake County be involved so that this State information can be obtained.

Ms. Elliott explained that in the surveys there are two ways to get permission to do the survey, either by active consent or passive consent. Passive consent is when you notify the parents about the survey and the only students excluded are the ones whose parents responded that they did not want their children to participate. Wake County is required to ask for active consent before students can complete this survey.

Commissioner West asked what may be the most common reason for the parents to decline their child taking the survey and Ms. Elliott mentioned that the most likely reason would be because of the sexual behavior questions that would be included. Ms. Elliott also explained that whether or not the sexual activity questions were in there or not we would still need to have a permission slip of some type to gather data from the children.

Human Services & Environmental Services Departmental Budget Update

(Presented by Cassandra Watford and Dr. Joseph Threadcraft)

Human Services Departmental Budget Update:

Ms. Watford went over the challenges and opportunities that Human Services is facing. Understanding that County dollars for expansion are very limited, Human Services is requesting what is needed to meet statutory responsibilities, strengthen infrastructure, and resource Board of Commissioner directed goals. Ms. Watford then went over the trends impacting service delivery in ESS, Adult Protective Services, Child Welfare and Public Health. Mr. Eagles asked what the nurse to student ratio was in the school. Dr. Sue Lynn Ledford stated that the goal is to make sure that no nurse has more than 2-3 schools that they serve. She also stated that it was not likely that we would be able to have a nurse for each Wake County School. In regards to a comment by Mr. Frank Eagles about parents wanting more nurses in the schools Ms. Petteway suggested that the Board look in to this in the upcoming year to get a pulse on what the public wants as well as how it will be funded and if they will support what may have to happen to pay for the nurses. Dr. Ledford mentioned that the General Assembly is considering adding funds for school nurses but it is unknown if this would affect Wake County. Ms. Watford then pointed out the trends in Public Health and asked Dr. Ledford to speak about the effect that the uptick in STD's and Tuberculosis is having on the budget as well. Dr. Ledford stated that Wake County is a very diverse global community and the population is extremely diverse so we are seeing an increase in the TB cases directly related to the fact ha we are a global community. Each individual TB case must be monitored for 90 days which means there are 90 visits for each case of TB. Dr. Ledford also spoke about the upward trend in syphilis cases and Wake County being at a 20 year high which is also straining staff and funds. Currently the disease funds are outgrowing capacity.

Environmental Services Departmental Budget Update:

Dr. Joseph Threadcraft noted that the Environmental Services budget strongly, either directly or indirectly, supports all of the Human Services Boards goals as well as the Water Partnership, and the Growth, Land Use, and Environmental Committees. Dr. Threadcraft then spoke about documentation that supports their budget expansion requests such as letters of deficiencies from the State as well as impacts to service level delivery. They have included solutions that include expansion requests for full time employees (FTEs) and fee increase requests. Dr. Threadcraft then proceeded to talk about the number of required inspections of Environmental Health & Safety, just under 12,000, and the challenges of not having sufficient staff. He then showed a slide of the service level gap and then spoke about the FTEs that are being requested in this proposed budget. In addition to budget expansion there has been an evaluation of fees and there is a proposal to increase the plan review fee from \$200 to \$250 per inspection. This fee increase is in-line with the service level delivery and matches fees in surrounding counties. Dr. Threadcraft also spoke about several other service gaps including swimming pool inspections. He then explained a proposal that they have to create a Swimming Pool Team to handle service gaps by hiring retired inspectors to inspect pools. This would free up the full time employees to continue inspecting septic systems and other construction projects. Dr. Threadcraft then spoke about Animal Services and the desire to enhance the experience of pet ownership through several ways including adoption, enforcement and education. He spoke about only having 6 Animal Control Officers (ACOs) to cover Wake County which is 840 square miles and the need to increase this number by 2 per year over the next 3 years. The staffing model for Animal Services shows that they are also 4.5 FTEs short with the current schedule. Approval of the 4.5 FTEs will increase the ability to respond to items of concern such as weekend coverage and an opportunity to manage the increased intake of animals that will come in by having two ACO's on the street. If this is not approved the operating hours will stay the same but service level delivery will have to be scaled back. We have reached a threshold where the existing staff are experiencing fatigue

and will not be able to maintain the service level that they are currently providing. Mr. Kent Jackson asked if there was any other technology that they may need to assist with the study that Dr. Threadcraft had mentioned. Dr. Threadcraft explained that there is funding available and that an electronic program that will enable the community members to apply for permits electronically is being developed and will go live in June.

Chairman Dr. Smith then stated that the Board members had reviewed the proposed budget and asked the members for a motion to move these budgets to the Board of Commissioners for their review and approval. Mayor Frank Eagles motioned and Mr. Dave Cottengim seconded, the Board then voted unanimously to recommend these budgets move to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Wake County Human Services 2nd Quarter Data Report

(Presented by Ms. Caroline Harper)

Ms. Harper briefed the Board on the Fiscal Year 2017 2nd Quarter Report. She stated the quarterly report is given to update the Board of events that happen each quarter. Ms. Harper then pointed out a few highlights from this past quarter:

- In the month of October 2016 in addition to the regular FNS services Wake County approved 6,558 onetime benefit applications in response to a Disaster Food and Nutrition Services program following damage from Hurricane Mathew
- The information in Immunizations – Regional Centers (Clients) reflects the addition of the Millbrook Regional Center that began clinical services in FY17. There is an increase in the capacity for clients that live around the new Millbrook center and data shows that Millbrook administered about 10% of the total immunizations for all regional centers. The number of immunization clients served is up 15.3% from the same quarter in FY16.
- Ms. Harper pointed out a trend in Adult Protective Services. Year to date there have been 238 investigations. When we started tracking data there was a range of 48-67 investigations per quarter but the numbers have now grown. As of March 20th there have been 111 cases for the 3rd quarter. It is estimated that they will exceed 400 investigations by the end of the fiscal year. The volume has increased and this will require additional staff time and resources and will tap the capacity of Adult Protective Services.

Ms. Harper then asked for the Board to approve an addendum to the End of Year Caseload Count update. The previous report stated that Child Welfare's Foster Care caseload at the end of the fiscal year was 1,363. They received an update from the state that indicates that the number has been corrected to 991. Ms. Harper asked the board to accept the addendum showing this corrected number.

Chairman Dr. Smith asked the Board for a motion to approve this report and the addendum to the End of Year Caseload Count. Mr. Cottengim approved the motion and Ms. Angie Welsh seconded the motion to approve the corrected figure. The Board voted unanimously to accept the addendum with the corrected information.

Child Care Wait List Policy

(Presented by Antonia Pedroza)

Ms. Toni Pedroza introduced the Child Care Wait List Policy. The Child Care Policy states that we must have a policy for our priority groups. This Child Care Wait List Policy identifies Child Protective Services, Foster Care and Work First as the three priority groups. The definition of a priority group for purposes of child care subsidies is that they will not go on our wait list but will be serviced instead. This is an internal decision and a copy of this will be forwarded to the State. There is also money set aside for children that are homeless that comes from a Smart Start subsidy grant. In the budget for next year there is a request for an expansion of funds for children that are homeless

and funding for childcare. If the budget request is approved this policy will change slightly to identify that and it will come before the Board again for approval. As it stands the waitlist has three priorities and Ms. Pedroza requested that the Human Services Board approval the policy as written.

Chairman Dr. Smith asked the Board for a motion to approve and accept the Child Care Wait List Policy as presented. Ms. Angie Welsh motioned and Ms. Rosine Sanders seconded. The Board then voted unanimously to accept and approve the policy.

Groundwater Protection and Wells: Approach to Rules Review

(Presented by Wilson Mize)

Mr. Wilson Mize presented the Groundwater Protection and Wells: Approach to Rules Review. Mr. Mize then went over the Wake County Well Permitting program noting that rules were adopted by the Wake County Human Services Board and were last revised in 2003.

The current Well Program requirements are:

- Siting and construction of wells
- Grout inspections
- Bacteria and inorganic testing required
- VOC sampling - risk-based assessments
- Certificate of Occupancy
 - Bacteria and Inorganics
 - VOCs

The rule revision goals are to revise rules to ensure they correctly reference current State regulations, ensure consistency, evaluate compliance sampling requirements to further protect public health and ensure efficient permitting, and to consider other concerns raised by stakeholders. Mr. Mize then went over the Environmental Services suggested process for rule review and approval for certain rules in water quality. Mr. Mize spoke about a proposal to potentially create a subcommittee that would be comprised of two Water Partnership members along with various stakeholders that would hold meetings and draft a set of rules. The process would be for the Public Health Committee to appoint a subcommittee, the subcommittee would hold meetings and gather input from stakeholders then it would go back to the Public Health Committee for feedback and endorsement to go before the Human Services Board for further feedback and endorsement. Mr. Mize stated that the upcoming State regulations Session Law 2013-122 and Session Law 2013-413 have not been approved yet so they cannot set a solid timeline for revision to the Rules Review at this time.

Mr. Mize spoke about well sampling and what the recommendations are for testing periods and that there should be a more recent sampling other than every 10 years. If new wells are tested and the sample results show that there is a contaminate the results are sent as information for the owner, action is not necessarily required.

Board Committee Chairs' Reports

- Social Services Committee Chair Ms. Angie Welsh spoke about the Committee's deep look into the Foster Care situation in Wake County both from the prospective of the children and the foster parents. She spoke about Ms. Lisa Cauley and her staff providing educational information through multiple sessions in their monthly meetings. Ms. Welsh also spoke about the new members on the Social Services Committee as well.
- Public Health Committee Chair Mr. Myhre, spoke of the committee's work on getting their priorities in place and that they are closer to completing this.

Environmental Services Director's Report

(Presented by Dr. Joseph Threadcraft)

Dr. Threadcraft spoke about the kick-off to pool season and the literature that is being sent out to pool owners to recommend that they test their electrical equipment as well as educational posters to try to address testing and outbreaks of transmittable waterborne diseases.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

- Margaret Raynor spoke about attending a community partners meeting hosted at the Crossroads Baptist church, a meeting that has been held for the last seven years. This time the meeting was much broader and included tables for people that led or facilitated different topics such as homelessness, hunger, affordable housing, employment, mental health, former inmate reentry, youth ministries, etc. Margaret and Cynthia represented the table on hunger and represented the Summer Food Service Program Committee. This meeting was specifically for the area around the Cross roads Church. There was a lot of discussion about possibly doing this in other areas of Wake County. The main emphasis of this event was looking at partnerships between community members, faith based partners, government, etc.
- Dr. Ledford spoke about the Hepatitis C epidemic and the free testing that Public Health is offering. This will continue throughout the year. The highest incidence is in the baby boomer population, 2nd highest is substance abuse users and those in the community with repeat STD's. There is a link on the website with information and they are encouraging all to be tested.
- Opioid task force, Dr. James Smith and Dr. John Perry spoke about an Opioid educational summit that will have speakers discussing the opiate epidemic. Dr. Perry stated that he would forward the summit info to Ms. Debra Baker to send to the Board members once it is received.

ACTION ITEMS:

- In regards to a comment by Mr. Frank Eagles about parents wanting more nurses in the schools Ms. Petteway suggested that the Board look in to this in the upcoming year to get a pulse on what the public wants as well as how it will be funded and if they will support what may have to happen to pay for the nurses. Dr. Ledford mentioned that the General Assembly is considering adding funds for school nurses but it is unknown if this would affect Wake County.

Adjournment

Chair Dr. Smith asked for a motion to adjourn, a motion was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:41am.

Board Chair's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Respectfully submitted by Debra Baker