

Wake County Human Services Board
Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2017

Board Members Present:

Ronda Bean
Edward Buchan
David Cottengim
Fiorella Horna
John Myhre
Dr. John Perry
Margaret Raynor
Dr. Rosine Sanders
Dr. James Smith, III
Angie Welsh
Commissioner James West
Seth Wexler

Staff Members Present:

Lisa Cauley
David Ellis
Crystal Farrow
Dr. Sue Lynn Ledford
Annemarie Maiorano
Ken Murphy
Antonia Pedroza
Dr. Joseph Threadcraft
Cassandra Watford
Ginny Satterfield
Verna Best

Guests Present:

Yvonne Gilyard

Call to Order

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

Reflections

Ms. Rosine Sanders asked the members to reflect on renewal, rejuvenation and rebirth to clean house in a metaphorical and literal way. She then led the group through a brief meditation reading.

Chairs Privilege

Dr. Smith waived the Chairs privilege in order to move on to the business of interviewing a new Board candidate for the Dentist slot.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Smith asked for approval of the meeting minutes from the March 23, 2017 meeting. Mr. John Myhre inquired about the meaning of the last sentence of the second paragraph on page three. Dr. Sue Lynn Ledford explained the meaning of the sentence that stated that the disease funds were outgrowing capacity.

Dr. Smith called for a motion to approve the March minutes with the noted correction. A motioned was made by Mr. David Cottengim and seconded by Dr. John Perry. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Next Board Meeting - April 27, 2017

Human Services Board Interview

(Presented by Dr. James Smith)

The Board members asked questions of the new candidate, Ms. Betsy Van Benthuyzen, and then discussed her qualifications. After the interview several of the Board members mentioned to the Chair that the interview questions being used are dated and need to be revised. Dr. Smith stated that he would set up a time to go over these with Ms. Regina Petteway so that they can revise them together.

Dr. Smith then asked the Board for a motion to recommend that the Board of Commissioners appoint Ms. Betsy Van Benthuyzen to the Wake County Human Services Board. The motion was made by Ms. Bean and seconded by Ms. Raynor. The Board voted unanimously to recommend Ms. Betsy Van Benthuyzen to be appointed to the Board.

Organizational Assessment Update

(Presented by Ms. Crystal Farrow)

Ms. Farrow spoke about the history of Wake County Human Services as far as culture and staff morale. She then went on to explain the staff survey that was completed last fall and the results reported as well as the action plan to work on the issues that came up in the survey. Ms. Horna stated that the action planning activities were a great way to bring everyone together but she is concerned about the results in the priority areas, a lot are collectively representing worker support and work site environment. Ms. Horna shared her concern that these may not be the highest priority. Ms. Farrow stated that most of these are connected with front line supervisors and that is something that will be focused on as well. Mr. David Ellis asked when the survey will go out again and Ms. Farrow responded that it will go out in July of 2018. Mr. Myhre asked about the possibility of Board members having access to the level of communications that Staff have. For example if the Committee members were on the staff email distribution list they could then receive the same operational information that is sent to employees and would be more in the know on events and types of communications sent out. Ms. Farrow stated that this may be possible and suggested that the Executive Team should discuss this request further. Mr. Smith stated that he would have the executive team look in to this.

Advocacy Letter to Senator Burr

(Presented by Dr. Sue Lynn Ledford)

Ms. Ledford discussed the letter that was drafted up to be sent to Senator Richard Burr concerning the existing funds that were moved into the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF) when it was created. The letter discusses the concern that if the ACA is repealed the funds that were moved to the PPHF will be lost. The letter then asks for Senator Burrs support by raising awareness of this issue and assuring that the essential public health funding that comes to North Carolina through the PPHF will be available regardless of the future of the ACA.

Dr. Smith then asked Mr. Ken Murphy to discuss the Board's ability to vote via email as this letter had initially been drafted a few weeks ago but could not be sent out due to the need for a Board vote. Mr. Murphy then went on to explain that he had advised the participants that an email vote would actually be a violation of the North Carolina Open Meetings law and that things of this nature need to be taken in front of the Board at a physical meeting that gives an opportunity for the public to attend. An electronic or telephone discussion and vote would not give the public any option to participate. This could also possibly be construed as a secret vote as it would not give the public any opportunity to hear the discussion or make any comments on the Board sending the letter. The statute allows any person to file a lawsuit to attempt to have the court stop any action started by a body that violates the open meetings law, they can file suit to invalidate any action taken.

Ms. Raynor then asked why this letter is only going to Senator Burr and not to all of the Legislators. Ms. Treadway then made a motion that this letter be sent not only to Senator Burr but to all other elected officials that have any kind of input or vote.

Mr. Seth Wexler asked for clarification on what type of actions need to go through the Board of Commissioners for approval and what type of action the Board could take on its own. Mr. Murphy then explained the types of actions that would require Commissioner level approval and what actions the Board could take on their own.

Dr. Smith asked for a motion to approve that this letter be sent to Senator Burr on the behalf of the Board with the amendment that the letter also be sent to all of our elected officials that could impact this topic as well. Ms. Stephanie Treadway motioned and Ms. Margaret Raynor seconded. This was approved unanimously by the Board.

Board Committee Chairs' Reports

- Social Services Committee – Co-Chair Ms. Ronda Bean spoke about the Committees focus on obtaining information on Foster Care with the objective to increase the Board and public's awareness of the need for foster and adoptive parents. She spoke about the presentations they have seen over the last few months and briefly reviewed what the committee had learned so far
- Public Health Committee - Chair Mr. Myhre spoke about the Committees work on trying to narrow down their priorities for their work plan. Mr. Myhre also asked Dr.

Threadcraft to give an update on the three newly created Public Health/Environmental Services sub-committees

Human Services Directors Report

- **Budget Expansion Request [Accreditation Benchmark #39.1 and 39.2]**

(Presented by Ms. Annemarie Maiorano)

Ms. Maiorano briefed the Board members on Fiscal Year 18 expansion requests. During her presentation Ms. Maiorano reviewed the trends that are impacting service delivery and went over the FY 2018 expansion requests related to some of these trends. This information has been passed on and will be presented at the Board of Commissioners meeting in May. Ms. Maiorano asked Mr. David Ellis to speak about the process once the budget expansion requests arrive at the County manager level. Mr. Ellis spoke about the County Manager's office reviewing this information and that each department has met with the County Managers office to review the information. The County Managers office is looking at what should be the outcome for each of the FY 2018 expansions if they are approved. He stated that over several weeks the County Manager's office will review this information and then the County Manager will bring the budget to the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Commissioners will have the opportunity to make changes as well.

Dr. James Smith stated that the Human Services budget expansion request had been reviewed, and discussed. The Board members voted to unanimously recommend that the Wake County Human Services Director be the designee for presenting these recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for approval. Ms. Ronda Bean motioned and Ms. Stephanie Treadway seconded the motion.

- Dr. Smith spoke about a communication received from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services that states significant efforts are underway to improve the health of North Carolinians as the North Carolina Medicaid and NC Health Choice programs transform from fee-for-service to managed care. At this point during the transformation process, the NC Department of Health and Human Services is requesting public input by answering questions on specific topics. This information will be used by the Department as it considers whether modifications are needed to the currently proposed and submitted 1115 waiver. While comments will be accepted on any area relevant to this effort, the Department is particularly interested in feedback on:

1. Physical and Behavioral Health Service Delivery
2. Supporting Provider Transformation
3. Care Management and Population Health
4. Addressing Social Determinants of Health
5. Improving Quality of Care
6. Paying for Value
7. Increasing Access to Care and Treating Substance Use Disorder

Dr. Smith stated that the Board needs to support this and be involved in this as much as possible and that their participation in submitting comments will also meet an Accreditation Benchmark. Dr. Smith stated that he would be participating by attending and giving comments at the meeting scheduled in Raleigh on May 16th. He asked again that all Board members participate in the request for comments and stated that this was an important opportunity for all Board members to represent Wake County as well as the citizens of the State. The act of Board members responding to this request will fulfill **Accreditation Benchmark #39.4.**

Environmental Services Director's Report

(Presented by Dr. Joseph Threadcraft)

Dr. Threadcraft spoke about the successes of Public Health/Environmental Services sub-committees and two recent items of success that have come from past sub-committees:

1. Recreational waters issued a yellow warning yesterday as a result of the heavy rainfall.
2. The dangerous dog ordinance change that is advancing to its final stages

Dr. Threadcraft then took the opportunity to discuss the three Environmental Services sub-committees that were recently created:

- Integrated Mosquito Management for Wake County – Dr. Caroline Loop is the staff lead and the Board and Committee participants are Ann Rollins, John Myhre, John Perry and Anne McLaurin. There will also be stakeholders such as the State epidemiologist and a professor from NC State University.
- Wake County Septic System Offsite Easement rules update Committee – Michael Orbon will be the staff lead and Board and Committee participants are Dr. James Smith, Dr. Sharon Foster, Mr. Myhre, stakeholders that will include at least 2 members from the water partnership, members of the development community and design professionals.
- Wake County Well ordinance update committee - Mr. Michael Orbon is the staff lead and Mr. Wilson Mize will be working closely with Mr. Orbon. Board and Committee participants are David Markwood and Barbara Hughes and stakeholders will be well drillers, members of the development community and at least 2 members from the water partnership.

Community Activity

- Dr. James Smith reported that he represented the action team that works for prostate cancer awareness in attending Representative Prices 4th annual 4th District Health Fare. He reported there was a reasonable turnout but that it was a weekend when there were a number of other activities and they did not see the turnout as they had in the past three years
- Mr. John Myhre spoke about the lack of Board members attending the Advocates for Health in Action screening of their new movie. He spoke about the film that discussed issues that need to be kept in mind at all times. Dr. Smith then reported that the County Commissioners have purchased the rights to this film and that there will be other

showings. Dr. Smith stated that he would see that the Board had the opportunity to view this movie as well

- Ms. Ronda Bean reported that Cynthia Ball is having a town hall meeting May 2nd that is focused on Medicaid expansion and health insurance. She is an advocate and someone who is a leader for the freshman caucus and definitely an interesting person that want to support the work of the Board and the community.
- Mr. Seth Wexler asked Mr. Ken Murphy what his role was as far as advocating in his neighborhood, for example speaking on a Neighborhood post concerning animal control and his neighbor's posts and comments that their needs are not being met. Mr. Murphy suggested the guiding principal is to keep in mind that individual members cannot make any statements that could be construed that he is representing the Board when speaking as an individual but that by virtue of being a member of the Board you do not give up your rights as a citizen. This could be a gray area and Mr. Murphy suggested that he errors on the side of caution when being involved
- Ms. Stephanie Treadway spoke about her being the Vice Chair on the Capital Area Reentry Council that assists individuals that have some sort of justice involved issues that are a barrier to being able to find housing or employment. They have just been granted funding through the Family Resource Center, their intermediary agency. They are being finance through NC Department of Public Safety. There are funds available now so they are asking anyone that has any kind of justice involvement that may be keeping them back to attend their resource fair at NC Works. Also asking for faith based and civic organizations to assist in finding this population housing and jobs that may be available.
- Dr. John Perry reminded the members about the registration for the Wake County Opioid Coalition meeting on May 2nd. It is a provider focused event that would benefit the Board members. He encouraged all to register and attend.
- Ms. Fiorella Horna spoke about an article in a local Latino newspaper that spoke about the Latino population reporting that undocumented women are cancelling doctor appointments and other Public Health and Social Services appointments due to their fear of being deported. The paper reports that it is not just undocumented women but also women that have permanent residency and are waiting to become citizens that are also concerned and are dropping their appointments as well. Ms. Horna mentioned that she believes that Wake County needs to be aware that this perception is out there that will impact service delivery. Dr. Smith spoke about a meeting of the Maternal Child Health staff recently and that they spoke about this topic extensively among the staff to try to encourage and get the word out that Wake County Public Health is not doing this. Ms. Maiorano stated that they are working on some administrative things they are putting together that will help people to continue to access the public health department and what the staff can and cannot do. Currently there are welcome signs being created for all buildings to communicate in many different languages that everyone is welcome.

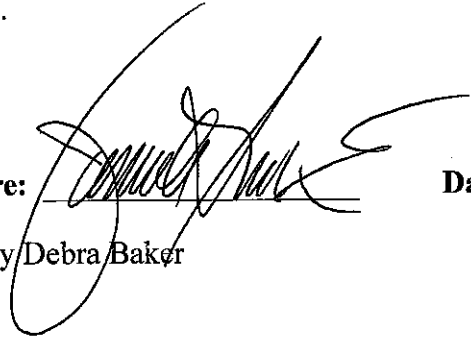
ACTION ITEMS:

- **Dr. Smith will meet with Regina Petteway to review the questions used for Board candidate interviews. The current questions are outdated and need to be revised**
- **Dr. Smith/Ms. Debra Baker will look in to obtaining the new AHA movie for the Board to view**
- **Ms. Debra Baker to coordinate with Dr. Kim McDonald in sending the letter that was drafted for Senator Burr to other elected officials as discussed**

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:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Debra Baker', written over a horizontal line.

Date:

5/25/17

Respectfully submitted by Debra Baker

