

**Wake County Human Services Board
Meeting Minutes
December 20, 2018**

Board Members Present:

Angie Welsh
Betsy Van Benthuyssen
Deborah Lawson
Edward Buchan
Dr. James Smith III
Commissioner James West
John Myhre
Dr. John Perry
Margaret Raynor
McKinley Wooten, Jr.
Dr. Randy Marsh
Stephanie Treadway

Guests Present:

Mayor Frank Eagles
Leigh Ann King
Anna Johnson

Staff Members Present:

Annemarie Maiorano
Antonia Pedroza
Dr. Joseph Threadcraft
Ken Murphy
Liz Scott
Paige Rosemond
Andrew Sawyer
Caroline Harper
Paige Bennett
Heather Schaffer
Dr. Patricia Coleman
Debra Baker
Dr. Jennifer Federico
Dr. Edie Alfano-Sobsey
Yvonne Torres
Kamilah Kelly
Sharon Peterson

Call to Order

Chair Dr. James Smith called the meeting to order at 7:35am.

Reflections

Mr. Edward Buchan spoke about the time of year and what people do for the holidays and that there are more donations this time of year. He announced that the City of Raleigh will be adding a donation option to utility bills so that customers can donate for those that have a hard time paying their utilities bill. He then spoke about the mental health side of the holidays and that no one really talks about that. He related a scenario of a seven-year-old that spoke about not wanting to be here anymore. The child's teacher reached out to find resources and to notify the parents of the seriousness of the issue. He then asked that we all take a moment to reflect on the mental health issues during the holidays.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Dr. Smith asked for a motion to approve the November 15, 2018 meeting minutes. Dr. Marsh motioned and was seconded by Mr. Myhre. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Next Board Meeting – January 24, 2019

Human Services Board Discussion on: Committee Structure, Advocacy Event, Board Retreat

(Presented Dr. James Smith)

Dr. Smith started by thanking the Board Executive Committee and spoke about their discussions of the Committees and the Board goals as well as the Committee structure. Dr. Smith then asked Ms. Welsh to speak about what they have been discussing. Ms. Welsh gave a brief overview of the discussions and planning that have taken place thus far. She spoke about the joint meeting that is being planned in January and that it will be an important time for all to get together to discuss and choose priorities that they will take to the January 27, 2019 advocacy event. Dr. Smith then reviewed the six priorities that had been identified.

Wake County Animal Control – Rabies Ordinance Revisions [Accreditation Benchmark # 34.4]

(Presented by Dr. Jennifer Federico)

Dr. Federico spoke about the reasons for the review of this ordinance and then reviewed the key proposed changes. She then thanked the Board members that had participated on the committee to review the ordinance over this past year. Dr. Federico briefly reviewed the sections that were updated and then noted the key changes being:

- Expansion of Post-Exposure Management
- Changed “Destruction” to “Euthanasia”
- Added “Ferret”

She then went on to discuss each of these changes. During the discussion on post-exposure management Dr. Perry asked about the wording and the lower risk of contracting rabies after being vaccinated even if the vaccine is expired. Dr. Perry was concerned about the wording making it sound like they don't need to re-vaccinate. There was some discussion on the rabies vaccine and the animals that have more recent expired vaccinations are less likely to acquire rabies. The length of time may play a factor but the unvaccinated animals, mostly wild running animals, have a higher chance of acquiring rabies.

Dr. Federico then spoke about the change to the adoption policy for animals that bite. Previously there was no adoption available for animals that bite. There has been a Bite Waiver Policy put in place at the county animal shelter that can be used to consider if the animal is adoptable. This was put in place to take in to consideration that younger animals naturally bite during play and not necessarily in a vicious manner.

Dr. Smith asked for additional comments and there were none. He asked Dr. Federico if this will be published on the county site and she confirmed that once approved it will be uploaded to the site.

Mr. McKinley motioned to accept the report and recommend it to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Myhre Seconded the motion and the Board members voted unanimously to recommend these revisions to the Board of Commissioners.

PlanWake

(Presented by Ms. Sharon Peterson)

Ms. Peterson provided an overview of PLANWake by reviewing the planning process and explained that PLANWake will consider the long-term and focus on achievable actions for the next ten years. In reviewing the process plan she noted that they are currently in Phase 2, identifying community priorities. Currently they are gathering data from the community by using online polling, stakeholder interviews and activities at local special events and meetings. PLANWake is an opportunity to renew the vision for Wake County and will include resident responses to critical community questions that will be the foundation built on recent planning efforts and focus on potential areas of change. Ms. Peterson spoke about some of the engagement intersections of the members on the advisory committee by reviewing some of the members and their affiliations with other groups such as the CHNA and public outreach groups. She then briefly discussed the plan topic areas and reviewed some of the questions on the public survey that the community members are responding to. In closing Ms. Peterson reviewed the next steps:

1. Reflect on Wake – ends in early 2019: Local public outreach events, stakeholder groups, public engagement survey #1.
2. Envision Wake – Community choices and tradeoffs: Local public outreach events, stakeholder groups, public engagement survey #2.

Chair Dr. Smith thanked Ms. Peterson for the information that she had presented.

Wake County Human Services First Quarter Data Report

(Presented by Dr. Patricia Coleman and Ms. Caroline Harper)

Dr. Coleman reviewed the new quarterly report format and took some time to explain the new features. She then proceeded to review the data and explained the new process of validating data on some of these items and that there are a few new items that are more outcome oriented that will continue to be developed as time passes. Dr. Smith asked that Dr. Coleman return to a future Board meeting to discuss the Child Welfare line item CW8 on page 2, the percent of children/youth who achieved permanency within 12 months of entering out-of-home placement (rolling 12-month entry cohort for one year prior to end of quarter). She briefly discussed the data for this line item that shows a -23% change prior to the current year/quarter. She explained that the data is collected by the state and that data will need to be collected for 12 months before we see the numbers. She noted that with the way that the data is collected it will take quite some time to show results and therefore the county provides several other data lines to show more up to date data. In closing Dr. Coleman noted that unlike previous reports this new format will also include data from the Health Clinics.

Dr. Smith thanked Dr. Coleman and Ms. Harper for their presentation. Chair Dr. Smith stated that the report has been reviewed and received. The Board voted unanimously to accept this report.

Youth STD Update [Accreditation Benchmark #2.4]

(Presented by Dr. Edie Alfano-Sobsey, Ms. Heather Schaffer, and Ms. Yvonne Torres)

Dr. Alfano-Sobsey began by explaining what sexually transmitted diseases (STD's) are and their causes. She then spoke about the rising number of youths that are being diagnosed with STD's and that it is a nationwide issue, not just in Wake County. She spoke about the rise in Chlamydia and Gonorrhea cases as well as the emerging issues of antimicrobial resistance and the increase in congenital syphilis. There is a growing concern about gonorrhea becoming resistant to antibiotics. Dr. Alfano-Sobsey went over some of the possible reasons why young people are at higher risk of acquiring STD's:

- Insufficient screening for STDs: Many don't receive CDC recommended screening for STDs
- Confidentiality concerns: Reluctance to disclose risk factors to health care providers, caregivers
- Biology: Young women's bodies are biologically more susceptible to STDs
- Lack of access to healthcare: Youth often lack insurance or transportation to access needed prevention and treatment services
- High Risk Behaviors: Multiple sex partners, substance use, and adolescent brain development (risk perception)

Dr. Alfano-Sobsey then introduced Ms. Schaffer and Ms. Torres and asked them to discuss what Wake County is doing to try to stem the rise of STD's in Wake County. They discussed the continuum of services and populations, the target populations and the Wake County Human Services Programs involved. They also reviewed the evidence-based programs for youth and young adults:

YOUTH:

- Making Proud Choices
 - LINKS – Foster care
 - Group Home youth
 - 4-H Juntos – Latinx
 - Faith Communities
- SHARP (SHIFT NC)
 - 4-H Spaces
- Total number of youth served FY17-18: 681
- Total number of locations where services were provided FY17-18: 20

YOUNG ADULT:

- Peer Educators
 - Universities
- Parents Matters
 - English and Spanish
- Latino Health Promoters
- Structural Interventions – Condom Distribution Sites
- Making Proud Choices
 - Links- Foster Care

- Duke- Juvenile Youth Homes
- Total Numbers (FY17-18):
 - Persons Served: 6,464 (*age 13 – 29 yrs old*)
 - Locations Served: 50
 - Condoms Sites: 43
 - Condoms Distributed: 62,173

Mr. Buchan asked if there were any outreach in the school system. Ms. Schaeffer explained that they are involved only if the school system/principal requests it. She also stated that this would involve parental permission for all students attending.

Ms. Schaeffer and Ms. Torres also reviewed the targeted strategies:

- Location-based strategies
- Youth Develop Centers
- Faith Based Organizations*
- Municipalities
- Schools*
- Population-based strategies
- Juvenile court involved youth*
- Out of home youth (foster care and kinship care)
- Funding
- SHIFT NC
- Expansion requests

**denotes strategy that is currently being used*

In closing the following advocacy was recommended to the Board:

- Understand the need for early education and intervention.
- Advocate for age-appropriate sexual health education.
- Advocate for increased access to youth participation in sexual health education in in-school and out-of-school settings.

Chair Dr. Smith asked for a motion to accept the report. Mr. Myhre motioned, and Dr. Marsh seconded. The Board voted unanimously to accept the report.

Human Services Directors Report

(Presented by Ms. Annemarie Maiorano)

Ms. Maiorano spoke about Oak City and the services that will be provided by our partners as well those provided by Human Services. There will be a temporary nurse at this location assisting the on-site provider. Catholic Charities is the operating partner and Wake County owns the building. Catholic Charities will be moving their Moore Square food distribution location to the Oak City location in March and should open for business in early April. There are many service partners and Human Services will also be receiving Medicaid/FSN applications on site as well as providing medical and Public Health services. The Catholic Charities will be taking over a majority of the funding needed for this location.

Ms. Maiorano then asked Ms. Antonia Pedroza to update the Board on the issues with permanency with our foster children. Ms. Pedroza spoke about both the State not meeting Federal goals and Wake county not making the State goals. She spoke about a lot of this being an issue with the backlog of cases in the judicial system as well as an increase in substance abuse over the last several years. She then spoke about the Child Welfare LEAN project and the process involved and briefly discussed the members and a few of the outcomes. She informed the group that the results of the LEAN project will begin to be implemented and over time these changes should help. Ms. Rosemond also spoke about the new Fatherhood Initiative as well as the new family extended visits home that will assist in safely improving the unification rate.

Ms. Pedroza invited the Board members to an event scheduled for January 17th to discuss results of the Child Welfare LEAN project that took place earlier this year. This process has included many people including foster parents, Guardian ad litem members and several county staff members.

Environmental Services Director's Report

(Presented by Dr. Joseph Threadcraft)

Dr. Threadcraft reported that there will be a request put before the Board of Commissioners at their meeting on January 7, 2019 that is related to the Comprehensive Groundwater Study. The request is to authorize the County Manager to enter into a long-term contract with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The USGS will cost share so the \$1.6 million contract portion for the county will be just under \$1 million dollars. Municipal provided such as Raleigh are required by law to have a 50-year water supply plan. This will put Wake County on the forefront of ensuring water quality and quantity for the residents.

Dr. Threadcraft then briefly spoke about radial nuclei's and noted that they are in the process of increasing the sampling contract to evaluate the increase and increased requests for sampling. An expansion request will also be included in the budget to support this. One challenge is that Registered Environmental Health Specialists are resigning in larger numbers due to non-competitive wages. Most of these specialists are brought on with no certifications as interns at a lower salary and once they have been trained they have valuable skills and are in higher demand from other competitive counties. All other counties are competing for this specialty and Wake County is not able to pay the wage to keep these people in these positions. There has been some research and a consultant has been hired to look at this issue across the board to make possible adjustments.

Dr. Threadcraft then informed the group that Environmental Services business plan was presented to the County Manager last month and then spoke about some expansion requests that he requested the Board members advocate for.

Treasurers Report

Ms. Annemarie Maiorano asked for a donation of \$1000 from the Board fund to provide recognition to the community partners that have donated gifts for children in foster care in Wake county. Treasurer Ms. Margaret Raynor reported that the current balance of the Board fund is \$3,930.92.

Ms. Raynor then announced that there is \$25.13 in petty cash available that the Board members have not used in several years. It was suggested that this fund be held on to for future use.

Dr. Smith asked for a motion and Ms. Margaret Raynor motioned to donate the requested \$1000 for recognition of these community partners. Mr. McKinley Wooten seconded the motion. Chair Dr. Smith asked for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

Participation in Community Events:

- Dr. Smith informed the group that he had taped a Tarheel Talk Show episode on seasonal affective disorder, the winter blues and how to combat the winter blues. This episode will air after the first of the year
- Ms. Welsh represented the Human Services Board at an annual Community Service Awards day hosted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Apex, Ms. Fiorella Horna's congregation. Local and countywide leaders attended, and Ms. Welsh had the opportunity to speak on what the Human Services board does with other community leaders.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Ms. Debra Baker was authorized to proceed with writing a \$1000 check from the Human Services Board fund to pay for a small recognition event for community partners that donated Christmas gifts for the children in foster care.
- Dr. Smith asked that Dr. Coleman return to a future Board meeting to discuss the Child Welfare line item CW8 on page 2, the percent of children/youth who achieved permanency within 12 months of entering out-of-home placement (rolling 12-month entry cohort for one year prior to end of quarter).

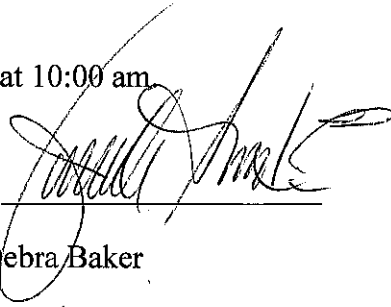
Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am

Board Chair's Signature:



Date:

1/24/19

Respectfully submitted by Debra Baker