



**CONSOLIDATED HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023 – 6:00 PM

Call to Order / Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance

The Stanly County Consolidated Health and Human Services Board met on Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the Health and Human Services Auditorium.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Joan Eudy	Board Member	Excused	
Ric Cain	Vice Chairman	Present	
Beth Thomas	Board Member	Excused	
Tom Norwood	Board Member	Present	
James Marshall	Board Member	Present	
Amy Jordan	Board Member	Excused	
Georgette Edgerton	Board Member	Present	
Larry Gibson	Board Member	Present	
Jann Lowder	Chairman	Present	
Laura Harbeson	Board Member	Excused	
Kristi Small	Board Member	Excused	
Peter Asciutto	Commissioner	Present	
Wendell Drye	Board Member	Present	
Diane Robinson	Board Member	Present	
Jenny Hinson	Board Member	Present	
Sherry Poplin	Board Member	Excused	
Amy Furr	Board Member	Excused	
Teresa Lanier	Board Member	Excused	
Patty Crump	Commissioner	Present	
Kenneth Chambers	Board Member	Present	

Chair Jann Lowder called the meeting to order with Larry Gibson providing the invocation and leading the pledge of allegiance.

Swearing In Ceremony - Oath of Office, Kenneth Chambers

Teri Bowers, Notary Public and administrative assistant for the Health & Human Services Director, administered the oath of office to new member Mr. Kenneth Chambers.

Adoption of Agenda

Chair Lowder asked for an amendment to the agenda by adding item number 4, Medicaid Expansion Resolution, under section number IV, adjusting the numbered items that follow. A motion was made by

Dr. Tom Norwood, seconded by Larry Gibson, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
AYES:	Cain, Norwood, Marshall, Edgerton, Gibson, Lowder, Asciutto, Drye, Robinson, Hinson, Crump, Chambers
EXCUSED:	Eudy, Thomas, Jordan, Harbeson, Small, Poplin, Furr, Lanier

Scheduled Agenda Items

1. Opioid Settlement Funds Update

Wendy Growcock gave a brief update on the opioid settlement funds, stating that last November and December, \$21 billion in national settlement funds was received, with the funds from the second wave expected to arrive here in the second half of this year. A printout was included in the Board packet which highlights the funds Stanly County anticipates to receive with wave 1 and 2 of the payout of settlement funds, which will be spread over a 15 to 18 year period. The printout also included updated 2022 overdose data. Mrs. Growcock shared that more information regarding the opioid settlement funds is available at www.morepowerfulnc.org.

2. Tobacco 21 Resolution

Valerian Growcock, prevention specialist with the Center of Prevention Services, was introduced and gave a summary of the Tobacco 21 Resolution. Ms. Growcock shared that in December, 2019 the federal minimum legal age for tobacco purchases was increased from 18 to 21 years of age. Forty-one states have updated their state minimum legal age of sell to reflect these changes, with North Carolina being one of nine (9) states who have not done so. The Tobacco 21 Resolution is an expression of support for the NC general assembly to pass legislation raising that state minimum age of tobacco purchase from 18 to 21. Ms. Growcock reviewed data and shared a hand out to support the resolution, and shared information from the latest Stanly County youth drug survey from 2022. Time was allowed for questions and Ms. Growcock was thanked for her presentation. After discussion by the Board, a motion to approve the Tobacco 21 Resolution was made by Dr. Tom Norwood, seconded by Diane Robinson. The motion was approved by a vote of 11 - 1 vote. (Wendell Drye voting against.)

RESULT:	APPROVED [11 TO 1]
MOVER:	Tom Norwood, Board Member
SECONDER:	Diane Robinson, Board Member
AYES:	Cain, Norwood, Marshall, Edgerton, Gibson, Lowder, Asciutto, Robinson, Hinson, Crump, Chambers
NAYS:	Drye
EXCUSED:	Eudy, Thomas, Jordan, Harbeson, Small, Poplin, Furr, Lanier

3. House Bill 98

Commissioner Patty Crump explained that at the next Board of Commissioners meeting, a resolution in support of NC House Bill 98, the Medical Freedom Act, will likely be presented and passed. Commissioner Crump states she had been in contact with NC House Representative Wayne Sasser and he feels sure HB98 will pass. She explained since the commissioners will be voting on this resolution, she felt the Health & Human Services Board should be made aware and given an opportunity to support the resolution as well. Discussion took place as some Board members voiced their opinion for the resolution as others shared opinions against it. After discussion, Commissioner Crump made a motion for the

Health & Human Services Board to vote to support the Resolution of Medical Freedom Act, with a second from Kenneth Chambers. The motion failed by a vote of 8 - 4. (Asciutto, Cain, Norwood, Lowder, Marshall, Edgerton, Gibson, Hinson voting against.)

RESULT:	DEFEATED [4 TO 8]
AYES:	Drye, Robinson, Crump, Chambers
NAYS:	Cain, Norwood, Marshall, Edgerton, Gibson, Lowder, Asciutto, Hinson
EXCUSED:	Eudy, Thomas, Jordan, Harbeson, Small, Poplin, Furr, Lanier

4. Medicaid Expansion

Commissioner Asciutto passed out copies of a Resolution to Oppose Medicaid Expansion and Reduce Government Dependency which Commissioner Barbee plans to present at the next commissioner's meeting. This resolution is to oppose the expansion of Medicaid as this would significantly increase the number of North Carolinians dependent upon government for their health care coverage. After discussion and questions, Commissioner Asciutto made a motion to support the Resolution to Oppose Medicaid Expansion and Reduce Government Dependency, seconded by Wendell Drye. The motion was defeated by a 9 - 3 vote. (Asciutto, Robinson, Cain, Norwood, Lowder, Marshall, Edgerton, Gibson, Hinson voted against.)

RESULT:	DEFEATED [3 TO 9]
MOVER:	Peter Asciutto, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Wendell Drye, Board Member
AYES:	Drye, Crump, Chambers
NAYS:	Cain, Norwood, Marshall, Edgerton, Gibson, Lowder, Asciutto, Robinson, Hinson
EXCUSED:	Eudy, Thomas, Jordan, Harbeson, Small, Poplin, Furr, Lanier

5. Board Orientation - New members & Annual Training (Activity 36.2, 36.3)

Mrs. Dolly Clayton referenced the Board Orientation and Annual Training included in the packet, for new and existing members. This information is a general overview of information for both DSS and the Health Department shared as ongoing, annual training. Mrs. Clayton had no comments regarding the health department information, but did touch on some highlights regarding DSS, such as the department is quite large with 95 full time positions and three (3) part-time positions. Their budget is just over \$9.6 million, with DSS being the second largest department in the county and overall financial impact in the county being well over \$112 million. Mrs. Clayton shared that Mr. Jenkins is out of town at the Substance Use Network (SUN) project training and when he returns they would reach out to schedule in-person Board training for new members.

D.S.S. Updates

A. DSS Report of Services - January 2023

Mrs. Clayton reviewed the DSS Report of Services included in the Board packet, stating revenues are at 41% with expenses at 51% through January 2023, noting that Medicaid and FNS recipients are up from the month before as well. She shared that staff have been working very hard and involved with the unwinding of Medicaid and changes in the maximization of food stamp benefits, which is ending this month. Medicaid and FNS application timeliness are doing good, as staff have worked hard to meet the standard that's set on application processing timeliness. Also, they were able to hire a couple temporary workers to help in Child Protective Services (CPS). She reminded Board members they were struggling with vacancies in CPS, while Medicaid and FNS units and are trying to fill vacancies as well.

MARCH 2, 2023

Mrs. Clayton shared a handout with Board members announcing the house and senate have reached an agreement on Medicaid expansion. Explaining the possible impacts this will have on Stanly County, based on estimates from last fall, an additional 3,582 people will become eligible for Medicaid, resulting in a projected 20-21% increase in the counties Medicaid case load. Based on estimates, DSS could need four (4) additional eligibility staff and a supervisor, however, she reminded Board members the federal government does pay a portion of the cost of these positions. She mentioned the state may do some automation to help reduce the workload burden to staff, however she has concerns regarding eligibility errors as they are only allowed a 3% error rate and must pay back money to the state for errors. Also, as mentioned earlier, they are all involved with the unwinding of Medicaid as some Medicaid benefits were extended due to the pandemic, with these changes to begin April 1st.

Mrs. Clayton shared that March is Social Work month, with the theme this year being "Social Work Breaks Barriers". She shared some pens she had made for the social workers on staff and wanted to recognize all the social workers for their hard work. She also shared new information from this week, stating that Medicaid tailored plans was suppose to start April 1st but that date has been pushed back to October 1st, to make sure the tailored plans have made connection with all providers these individuals could potentially need for care.

Health Department Updates

A. Activities Summary Report - Jan. 2023

In the absence of Mr. Jenkins, Doshia Swaringen presented Health Department updates, stating the activity report was through January, 2023 with no significant highlights to make.

B. Exp/Rev Report - Jan. 2023 (Acc. Act. 33.6)

Mrs. Swaringen reviewed the Budget Summary Report included in the packet stating with revenue at 63%, we are slightly above the projected revenue amount, while expenses are on track at 50%. Time was allowed for questions.

Consolidated Human Services Updates

Doshia Swaringen reminded Board members of the Golden shoe event coming up March 11th - 24th, with an event at City Lake Park on March 25th from 10:00 - 12:00 for prize claims. She updated Board members on the Tobacco Free Zone here at the commons and states signage will be going up soon. Also, the county is conducting a salary study for county employees, thus, all employees were required to complete a position description questionnaire (PDQ) which will be submitted to the county manager's office for the MAPS Group, who is conducting this study for the county. Mrs. Swaringen shared that Mr. Jenkins and Wendy Growcock participated in a Town Hall event in New London this week, providing opioid strategy updates as required through the MOA for settlement funds. In closing, she reminded the Board that Mr. Jenkins was in Asheville at the SUN project training and would hopefully bring back a lot of information from that.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Ascitutto to approve the consent agenda as presented, with a second by Dr. Marshall. The motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Peter Asciutto, Commissioner
SECONDER:	James Marshall, Board Member
AYES:	Cain, Norwood, Marshall, Edgerton, Gibson, Lowder, Asciutto, Drye, Robinson, Hinson, Crump, Chambers
EXCUSED:	Eudy, Thomas, Jordan, Harbeson, Small, Poplin, Furr, Lanier

A. 2-02-23 Meeting Mins.

Public Comments

No public comments were made.

Adjournment

With no further business or discussion, Chair Lowder declared the meeting adjourned.