



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

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021 – 6:00 PM

Call to Order / Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance

The Stanly County Consolidated Health and Human Services Board met on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 6:00 PM in the Health and Human Services Auditorium.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Scott Efird	Commissioner	Absent	
Nancy Smoak	Board Member	Present	
Joan Eudy	Board Member	Present	
Ric Cain	Vice Chairman	Present	
Beth Thomas	Board Member	Absent	
Tom Norwood	Board Member	Present	
James Marshall	Board Member	Present	
Shirley D Lowder	Board Member	Present	
Amy Jordan	Board Member	Present	
Georgette Edgerton	Board Member	Present	
Larry Gibson	Board Member	Present	
Tommy Jordan	Vice Chairman	Present	
Jann Lowder	Chairman	Present	
Elizabeth Teal	Board Member	Present	
Laura Harbeson	Board Member	Absent	
Kristi Small	Board Member	Present	
Wendell Drye		Present	
Eric Johnsen	Board Member	Absent	
Diane Robinson	Board Member	Present	

Chair Jann Lowder called the meeting to order with Diane Robinson leading the invocation and pledge of allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda

Chair Jann Lowder noted an amendment to the agenda by adding under item #2, following (A) Strategic Plan Annual Review/Update, (B) COVID-19 Update, and (C) House Bill #61 and #558. Dr. Tom Norwood moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Larry Gibson and carried by unanimous vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Tom Norwood, Board Member
SECONDER:	Larry Gibson, Board Member
AYES:	Smoak, Eudy, Cain, Norwood, Marshall, Lowder, Jordan, Edgerton, Gibson, Jordan, Lowder, Teal, Small, Drye, Robinson
ABSENT:	Efird, Thomas, Harbeson, Johnsen

Scheduled Agenda Items

1. Community Health - Addressing Overdoses in the Community (Activity #38.1)

Health Educator, Wendy Growcock, provided a presentation and gave a community health report on Substance Use in the county. As one of her duties, she is the coordinator for the Project Lazarus Coalition, and while COVID-19 has been at the center, work concerning the substance use issues in the county have still been going on. She highlighted some of the partner organizations efforts and reviewed how the metrics have changed at the state level. Her presentation included graphs which show Opioid deaths and ED visits and where Stanly County had a sharp increase in 2018 but after interventions were put in place, the county has seen a sharp decline; however she pointed out that during the summer of 2020, when COVID-19 was rampant and quarantines were stricter, there was an increase in overdoses which were probably isolation and anxiety related. She pointed out that since last summer, the overdose numbers have leveled off. Also, Mrs. Growcock reviewed the North Carolina Opioid Action Plan which include programs for Prevention, Reducing Harm and Connecting to Care, while highlighting the programs here locally sharing that Stanly County has the top-notch Post Overdose Team in the state. She also wanted to spotlight a success stating the Uwharrie Harm Reduction Initiative began in March 2020, and are partially funded by Community Linkages to Care grant from NC Department of Health and Human Services and work in partnership with Stanly County Community Paramedics, Stanly County Health Department, Monarch, Cardinal Innovations and local churches. Their goals are to reduce HIV and Hep C transmission, reduce overdose and death rates, and link individuals to care. She shared the successful outcomes of 1,082 interactions with participants, 60,480 safe syringes distributed, 590 naloxone kits distributed and from that, 172 overdose reversals reported. In closing, Mrs. Growcock shared that all of the information was available on the NC Department of Health and Human Services - Injury and Violence Prevention Branch website as she also entertained questions and comments.

2. Strategic Plan Review/Annual Update *Action Required* (Activity 15.1)

Jennifer Layton, Human Services Program Specialist, provided an annual update/review on the Stanly County Health & Human Services Strategic Plan. She shared that the strategic plan had been impacted significantly due to the pandemic explaining that some of the strategies had been modified or delayed. A handout was provided to Board members prior to the meeting listing priorities for 2020-21, achievements and changes to strategies. She shared Action Items, which include: 1. Evaluate deadlines for strategies of the 2018-22 Strategic Plan as needed due to COVID-19 pandemic response; 2. SCHD initiate Medicaid Transformation in clinic; 3. Evaluate need to modify office hours to accommodate clients/patients; 4. Develop adult dental health referral program. Time was allowed for comments and questions. A motion was made to approve the Strategic Plan Update by Dr. Tom Norwood, seconded by Larry Gibson and approved by a unanimous vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Tom Norwood, Board Member
SECONDER:	Larry Gibson, Board Member
AYES:	Smoak, Eudy, Cain, Norwood, Marshall, Lowder, Jordan, Edgerton, Gibson, Jordan, Lowder, Teal, Small, Drye, Robinson
ABSENT:	Efird, Thomas, Harbeson, Johnsen

3. COVID-19 Update

Jennifer Layton provided a quick update on the COVID-19 pandemic stating the daily COVID-19 cases are starting to level off while hospitalizations are trending down as well. Testing will continue by OptumServe, which has relocated from the Stanly County Senior Center to the tent area in the parking lot, while vaccinations have moved indoors in the Stanly County Commons. She shared that quarantine and isolation orders continue to be conditional, depending on different circumstances including consideration of vaccinated individuals. Also, the demand for COVID-19 vaccinations on site have decreased significantly prompting the organization of vaccination outreach, where health department employees will assemble teams to go out and offer vaccines on site at businesses, including construction sites, who have expressed interest due to long work days for their employees. Board member Dr. Amy Jordan expressed interest in hosting a vaccination event at her veterinary clinic. Ms. Layton thanked her for that interest and states she will be in touch with her to discuss that possibility.

In closing, Ms. Layton shared that in the coming weeks, Pfizer may be approved to offer vaccine to 12 - 15 year old youth and as of today, 21.7% of Stanly County residents are fully vaccinated, with 25% having the first dose. Also, a vaccination campaign has been started with local residents being featured on posters and will be featured on social media.

4. House Bill 61 & 558

The Board members received two pieces of legislation, House Bill (HB) 61 and 558, that are being proposed in the NC House prior to the meeting. Jennifer Layton explained HB 61 pertains to local communicable disease programs and funds as she explained that funding for public health has been reduced significantly over the years, yet communicable disease has increased over 200%. HB 61 proposes an increase in the amount of funds being invested in public health communicable disease programs. Ms. Layton also reviewed a letter to Representative Wayne Sasser drafted by Director Dave Jenkins which was included for review, in support of HB 61 while including highlights of where the funding would be best utilized locally. She asked for approval to submit the letter on Mr. Jenkins behalf. Dr. Norwood moved to approve the letter in support of HB 61, addressed to Representative Wayne Sasser, seconded by Dr. James Marshall.

The other HB 558, titled Prohibit Mandatory CV19 Vaccinations, is presented to the Board for informational purposes. Ms. Layton explained Director Jenkins wanted them to be aware of it explaining that the title suggests prohibiting CV19 Vaccines, however once you read it, the concern is further on in pages two or three which suggests removal of mandates that schools and daycares can require students to be vaccinated with specific vaccines, which is worrisome at a public health level. Board member Diane Robinson states that it is her understanding that this HB was replaced with HB 572 and wanted the other Board members to be aware.

5. FY21-22 Social Services Budget Proposal - Action Required

Mrs. Dolly Clayton presented the budget for D.S.S., FY2021-22 which the Board received prior to the meeting, including the updated version that includes the county manager's recommendations. She reviewed the department's mission statement and each page of the proposed budget, explaining the target budget, requested budget and the final County Manager recommended budget of \$8,852,525.00. She explained she had requested three new positions but states zero new positions were recommended due to uncertainty of revenues in FY2021-22. She reviewed the Enhancement Budget for Capital Improvement, what was requested and County Manager recommended. Mrs. Clayton explained the department operates with two budget funds, admin funds and operational funds, and explained slides ten through fourteen, which show totals of various amounts requested along with the County Manager's recommendations. In closing, she highlighted slide 22 which notes the financial impact to Stanly County with the total budgetary amount of \$108,212,314.00 that D.S.S. is bringing into the county because of the work that the staff performs. This includes Food and Nutrition Services and Medicaid services which exemplifies the hard work of her staff who work extremely hard to make sure children and adults in our county are safe and able to access services.

After time was allowed for discussion and questions, Larry Gibson moved for approval of the D.S.S. budget proposal with a second by Shirley Lowder. The motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Larry Gibson, Board Member
SECONDER:	Shirley D Lowder, Board Member
AYES:	Smoak, Eudy, Cain, Norwood, Marshall, Lowder, Jordan, Edgerton, Gibson, Jordan, Lowder, Teal, Small, Drye, Robinson
ABSENT:	Efird, Thomas, Harbeson, Johnsen

6. FY21-22 Health Department Budget Proposal & Fee Schedule - *Action Required*
(Accreditation Activity 33.2, 39.3) (Fee Schedule Activity 33.5)

With the absence of Director Dave Jenkins, Melissa Efird, Accountant/Deputy Finance Director, presented the Health Department FY21-22 proposed Budget and Fee Schedule. The proposed budget was provided to Board members in their packet prior to the meeting. Mrs. Efird shared that the Health Department budget is roughly \$5.5 million with \$3,400,000.00 in state funding and around \$2.2 million in county dollars. She explained the proposed budget was basically the same as last year with a few more enhancements, with the County Manager approving all enhancements except for a re-class position. They have recommended new flooring, with WIC getting their new floors this budget year while the rest of the department will be done next budget year. She reviewed other enhancements that were requested, including enhancements from Dental and Environmental Health. Mrs. Efird also explained the only increase in the Fee Schedule was in dental, where the rates were raised to coincide with the Medicaid reimbursement rate increase.

After questions and comments, a motion was made by Dr. Tom Norwood, seconded by Nancy Smoak, to approve the Health Department's proposed FY21-22 budget, along with the FY21-22 Health Department Fee Schedule. The Motion passed by unanimous vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Tom Norwood, Board Member
SECONDER:	Nancy Smoak, Board Member
AYES:	Smoak, Eudy, Cain, Norwood, Marshall, Lowder, Jordan, Edgerton, Gibson, Jordan, Lowder, Teal, Small, Drye, Robinson
ABSENT:	Efird, Thomas, Harbeson, Johnsen

D.S.S. Updates

A. DSS Report of Services - March 2021

Mrs. Dolly Clayton shared that revenue is at 53% and expenditures at 70% through March, 2021. Mrs. Clayton reviewed the program performance report for March and discussed each program, making note that nursing assessment issues for CAP/DA cases due to the closure of Stanly County Home Health, have been resolved and they are making great progress. Mrs. Clayton shared that several audits are going on and coming back very favorable, including the Medicaid audit, sharing that they just got the closing report for the month of April showing 100% accuracy, indicating a great job by staff. Mrs. Clayton explained the Medicaid audit, Recipient Eligibility Determination Audit (REDA), will continue for the next 10 months. She shared they are in the process of filling the three vacant positions in Child Protective Services and have a vacancy in Food and Nutrition Services after filling the supervisor position from a promotion within.

Mrs. Clayton provided an update on a piece of legislation she had previously mentioned requiring Social Services Board members to attend some overview training regarding their role as D.S.S. Board members, stating that the UNC School of Government is offering an "Essentials for Social Services Governing Boards" webinar on August 5th and 6th, which she is planning to attend. She continued if any member is interested in attending to please let her know, but she will bring back information to share. Also, she shared a handout of the D.S.S. 2019-2020 Annual Report, which shows a lot of numbers relating to services provided in each program and highlights how busy the staff has been throughout the year.

In closing, Mrs. Clayton informed the Board that an article in the April 17th-18th edition of the Stanly News & Press, there was an article on the Butterfly House which featured comment from D.S.S. and Mrs. Clayton. Also, Mrs. Clayton shared that next weekend she will be graduating from UNC Chapel Hill with her Masters in Public Health Administration (MPA) and has already signed up for a 12 week leadership course with the National Association of Counties (NACO). Board members congratulated Mrs. Clayton with a round of applause.

Health Department Updates

A. Expense/Revenue thru Mar. 2021 *Action Required*

Mrs. Dolly Clayton, with the absence of Director Jenkins, reviewed the Health Department Expense/Revenue report stating revenue is at 45% with expenses at 57% through March 2021. She states if the Board has any questions or concerns to contact Director Jenkins. A motion was made by Shirley Lowder to accept the Budget Summary Report as presented, seconded by Larry Gibson, and approved by unanimous vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Shirley D Lowder, Board Member
SECONDER:	Larry Gibson, Board Member
AYES:	Smoak, Eudy, Cain, Norwood, Marshall, Lowder, Jordan, Edgerton, Gibson, Jordan, Lowder, Teal, Small, Drye, Robinson
ABSENT:	Efird, Thomas, Harbeson, Johnsen

B. Activities Summary Report - Mar. 2021

Mrs. Clayton referenced the Activities Summary Report included in the Board packet sharing that with the decrease in demand in COVID-19 vaccination, the clinic will have more availability to see more patients so the clinic numbers should continue to increase over the coming months. Also as a reminder, she informed Board members there is plenty of opportunity for the general public to come get the COVID-19 vaccination.

Consolidated Human Services Updates

Mrs. Clayton mentioned that public health week was earlier in April and was unaware if it was mentioned but did want to take the opportunity to acknowledge all the hard work that the public health staff did throughout this pandemic, by rallying to work through the COVID pandemic. She made note that today was nurse's day and took a moment to thank the nursing staff for their hard work through this difficult pandemic. Also, today is Childhood Mental Health Awareness day and National Day of Prayer as well.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Dr. Tom Norwood to approve the Consent Agenda, with a second by Shirley Lowder. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [14 TO 0]
MOVER:	Tom Norwood, Board Member
SECONDER:	Shirley D Lowder, Board Member
AYES:	Smoak, Eudy, Cain, Norwood, Marshall, Lowder, Jordan, Edgerton, Gibson, Jordan, Lowder, Teal, Small, Drye
ABSENT:	Efird, Thomas, Harbeson, Johnsen
AWAY:	Robinson

A. Meeting Minutes 4/01/21

B. Meeting Minutes - 3/04/21

Public Comments

No public comments were made.

Adjournment

In closing, Chair Lowder thanked Board member Diane Robinson for the information regarding HB 572 and congratulated Mrs. Clayton on her new degree. She also offered thanks on behalf of the Board to the public health nurses for all their hard work, stepping up to go above and beyond during this pandemic.

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A motion was made by Dr. Tom Norwood, seconded by Larry Gibson to adjourn. The motion was carried unanimously.