



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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 – 6:00 PM

Call to Order / Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance

The Stanly County Consolidated Health and Human Services Board met on Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the Health and Human Services Auditorium.

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

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

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Dr. Tom Norwood, seconded by Larry Gibson to accept the agenda as presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

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

Scheduled Agenda Items

1. The SUN Project

Director Dave Jenkins introduced Dr. Russell Suda with the SUN Project who, along with his team, used a slide presentation to review the Substance Use Network (SUN) Project. The project goal is to develop collaborative, compassionate system of care for pregnant mothers with a substance use disorder, their infants and families. He highlighted the SUN Clinic at the Cabarrus Health Alliance, stating women receive prenatal care by OB/GYN with specialized training in addictions along with numerous other services. Dr. Suda explained the SUN Clinic would like to expand into Stanly County to provide obstetrical services, creating a network with the resources available here, so they can continue to serve substance using pregnant women to recover and have healthy babies. Victoria Manning was introduced and will be working as the liaison for Stanly County. She introduced Dr. Robert Levy, MD, Family Medicine Specialist, who joined remotely and spoke about his training with patients with opioid use disorder. Dr. Levy now trains other primary care providers in Stanly, Cabarrus and Rowan counties to care for patients with substance use disorder in their practices and welcomes any referrals from interested providers. After time was given for questions, Mr. Jenkins thanked Dr. Suda and his team for their presentation and states they look forward to bringing these services to Stanly County.

2. Minority Health Council

Mikayla Williams, Health Educator and Coordinator for the Minority Health Council, opened the presentation and thanked the Board for the opportunity to come and speak tonight. Using a slide presentation, Gary Lewis, Minority Health Council Chairman, explained the Minority Health Council as a group of volunteers who live in Stanly County concerned with health disparities and the effect on the county. The Minority Health Council was initiated in 2014 for wider community support to address health disparities and inequities particularly among under served communities. Other volunteers with the Minority Health Council in attendance were Rita Love, Wendy Growcock, Linda Lewis, Donna Harris and Gus . They all participated in reviewing the presentation explaining the social determinants of health, health disparities, and health equity while also reviewing graphs on health disparities in infant mortality rate, communicable diseases, cancer, heart and Diabetes disease. Council members discussed what is being done which includes community events, serves as focus group for the Community Health Assessment (CHA), and shared the community partners they collaborate with. They encouraged Board members to follow their facebook page where they promote community events, and shared their contact information. The Minority Health Council meets on the first Monday night of each month at the Stanly County Health Department and they are always in need of volunteers. The Minority Health Council allowed time for questions and were thanked for their presentation.

3. Gateway of Hope - Funding Request *Action*

Mr. Jenkins shared that the Gateway of Hope (GOH) funding request agenda item was originally an action item, however it was put back on the Board of Commissioner's agenda for action at their Tuesday, September 5th meeting and was approved. Mr. Jenkins states it was left on this agenda for any necessary discussion regarding GOH that this Board may have. Chair Lowder shared that the request

from GOH was for \$63,600.00, and asked Commissioner Crump to share the discussion from the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Crump states after discussions with Andy Lucas, County Manager, and Mr. Jenkins, in relation to the Opioid Settlement Funding, there were questions regarding funds going to homes or organizations that do or don't provide services to clients who use Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). Commissioner Crump states it's her understanding that there could be no discrimination against entities that provide or do not provide MAT services when considering approval of funding requests. Additionally, Commissioner Crump states Mr. Lucas provided her with a document from the NC Department of Justice that she offered to share, making that clear when considering funding request. Commissioner Asciutto shared that the funding request for GOH was originally on the August 7th agenda for the Commissioners and was put on hold as Commissioner Asciutto wanted the Health Department to review the request for recommendation. He noted that after discussion with some Health Department staff, there were concerns in recommending the approval of the request from GOH, however Commissioner Hatley asked that the GOH funding request be added to the September 7th Board of Commissioner's agenda, which went on to be approved by a vote of six (6) to one (1). Commissioner Asciutto expressed concerns that the previous Director, Larry Wilkins, left abruptly leaving no records of previous residents, programming, or financial management, after giving them opioid settlement funding last year for \$63,000.00. Mr. Jenkins shared that because of HRSA funding and grants, the Health Department helped to build GOH and want to see them succeed, but at the same time there is a reporting side of it that the state will be looking at and they have had concerns and conversations with them regarding meeting criteria and fulfilling obligations for funding.

RESULT:	WITHDRAWN
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4. Opioid Settlement Funding Process *Action*

Mr. Jenkins discussed the need for a third party evaluator, someone who can facilitate and come up with a multi disciplinary team made up of community members, to help with the funding request process. Dr. Shanta Dube is a consultant with Union County, and the director of the MPH program at Wingate University, and is going to put together proposals for services to hopefully find a better, unbiased, and transparent means of recommending funding. Chair Lowder shared that she sent a letter to all commissioners inviting them to the meeting tonight for this discussion. Commissioner Brandon King was in the audience and spoke briefly on the decision of the Board to fund the request by Gateway of Hope. After discussion, Commissioner Asciutto made a motion to recommend contracting a Third Party Evaluator for Opioid Funding, seconded by Diane Robinson. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

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

5. Communicable Disease Report (Activity 2.4)

Patricia Hancock, Director of Nursing at the Health Department, reviewed the 2022 Communicable Disease Report and provided handouts with disease statistics to Board members. Mrs. Hancock explained there are over 90 communicable diseases required to be reported to the Health Department which are reported by physician offices, labs, and hospitals. The report included the 2022 fiscal year

along with reports from years 2018 through 2022 for comparison. Mrs. Hancock pointed out an error on the total reported Syphilis cases for 2018, which should be corrected to the number 28. Also, she mentioned the rise in gonorrhea and syphilis numbers. She allowed time for comments and questions from Board members and was thanked for the presentation.

D.S.S. Updates

A. DSS Board Report - July 2023

Mrs. Dolly Clayton reviewed the DSS Report of Services included in the Board packet, which is through July 2023. She highlighted the program numbers pointing out that the numbers in foster care are creeping up, which is concerning. She states Medicaid numbers are down from June along with FNS numbers, which is due to COVID waivers expiring. Some accomplishments from staff she shared is FNS vacancies filled, new Family and Children's Medicaid Supervisor position filled by an internal candidate and an Adult Long Term Care position filled, however, they still have ongoing vacancies in income maintenance, CPS and APS Services positions. She shared Medicaid expansion has been delayed at least until December 1st and they are still trying to fill the new positions that were approved for the expansion and get them trained for when Medicaid expansion starts. She shared that the child welfare staff have been working very hard to help families that are struggling to provide safe and secure environments for their children.

Mrs. Clayton wanted to make Board members aware of Senate Bill 20, Care for Women, Children and Families Act, which passed on May 15, 2023, will have a financial impact on DSS. She explained that the bill passed after the DSS budget was passed and the Bill has a provision in it for kinship care and payment rates, to become effective November 16, 2023. This means that any children that are in DSS custody, but placed in a kinship provider home, they would be entitled to a board payment. She explained with any foster care funding projection, it's based on their current foster care census, which can change based on the number of foster children in care at any given time. Based on this information, they estimate the kinship cost for current kids in foster care, who are placed with kinship providers, from November to June, 2024, to be \$34,672.00. She explained there would be a fifty percent reimbursement from the state, but this is still an unknown costs for them at this time. They have also increased the rates for state foster care and adoption assistance, which started with no delay, which puts DSS over there budget in the amount of \$92,201.00 (foster care) and \$11,237.14 (adoption assistance), based on current census. She also shared with the Board information regarding a Community Partners webinar on ePass, which is the online system that people use to apply for benefits, which will be held the next two Tuesdays, September 12th at 10:30 a.m. and 19th at 5:00 p.m., if interested, let her know and she will share the link with you. In closing, she shared that DSS is currently housing an elementary age child in their office until appropriate placement can be found, which began today.

Health Department Updates

A. Expense/Revenue Report - July 2023 *Act. 33.2*

Mr. Jenkins states being we are only one month in to the new fiscal year, he doesn't have any updates or comments at this time.

B. Activity Summary Report - July 2023

Again, Mr. Jenkins states no comments regarding the activities report.

Consolidated Human Services Updates

Mr. Jenkins discussed the upcoming expiring terms of Board members, Beth Thoms, Jann Lowder, Sherry Poplin, Georgette Edgerton, Kristi Small and Larry Gibson. Due to staggering terms with the implementation of the Consolidated Human Services Board, all these Board members are eligible to serve another four year term as statues state members can serve two consecutive four year terms. He reminded Board members if they would like to serve again, they will need to go to the county website and fill out a volunteer application to be considered. This Board was nominated and won an award for Outstanding Board of Health and will receive that award with lunch provided on September 20th, at the Orange County West Campus Office Building, Margaret Lane, Hillsborough, NC during the Association of NC Boards of Health meeting. Mr. Jenkins states he can invite up to five Board members to attend and transportation will be provided and suggest to reach out to him or Teri Bowers if you're interested in going.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Dr. Tom Norwood to approve the consent agenda as presented, with a second by Mr. Larry Gibson. The motion passed unanimously.

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

A. 8-03-23 CHS Board Meeting Minutes

B. Stanly County Child Fatality Team Activity - 2022

C. 2022 Stanly County Community Child Protection Team Activity

Public Comments

Adjournment

With no other business to discuss, Chair Lowder declared the meeting adjourned.

Jann Lowder, Chair / Date

Teri Bowers, Clerk / Date