



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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023 – 6:00 PM

Call to Order / Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance

The Stanly County Consolidated Health and Human Services Board met on Thursday, November 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	Absent	
Tom Norwood	Board Member	Absent	
James Marshall	Board Member	Absent	
Georgette Edgerton	Board Member	Excused	
Larry Gibson	Board Member	Present	
Jann Lowder	Chairman	Present	
Laura Harbeson	Board Member	Absent	
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	

Chair Lowder called the meeting to order with Dolly Clayton providing the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda

With no changes to the agenda, Dr. Norwood made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Larry Gibson. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

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

Scheduled Agenda Items

1. Reviewing Water Fluoridation Policy

Mr. Harold Schmoecker presented on the dangers of industrial waste fluoride added to public drinking water for healthy teeth. Mr. Schmoecker states Union County is already having this discussion and since we share water sources, he felt compelled to share the message here as well. He explained the increase in aluminum production made it necessary to find somewhere to dump the industrial waste byproduct known as fluoride as it became illegal to dump in rivers, lakes and landfills, convincing the general public that we need to add fluoride to water for healthy teeth. He shared that fluoride is not a nutrient and 67 studies show fluoride exposure lowers IQ, and can cause neurotoxic effects along with other dangers it presents.

After the presentation, Mr. Schmoecker answered questions and comments from Board members including what his recommendation would be after this presentation. Mr. Schmoecker states he would like to see a policy to eliminate the fluoridation of drinking water in Stanly County. Mr. Schmoecker was thanked for his presentation.

2. Influenza, COVID and RSV update (Activity 38.1)

Doshia Swaringen used a powerpoint presentation to give an update on influenza, COVID and RSV. In her presentation, she touched on the differences between influenza and COVID-19 as well as explained prevention measures for both. She also reviewed RSV Symptoms and stressed infants and older adults are more at risk for severe symptoms. There is a RSV vaccine available for adults 60 and older and pregnant women between 32-36 weeks gestation, with a doctor's order. Also, the COVID-19 vaccine is available for everyone ages six months and older at most physician offices, pharmacies and Stanly County Health Department. The Health Department has COVID-19 vaccine for uninsured/underinsured children and adults, with vaccine for insured individuals available at a later date.

3. Treatment of a Minor Under S.L. 2023-106

Doshia Swaringen presented on Session Law 2023-106, Senate Bill 49, which was passed in mid August regarding Treatment of a Minor. She shared a handout of Session Law 2023-106 and directed Board members to page eleven, part 3, explaining this is where the bulk of the changes were made, which go into effect December 1st, 2023. She explained the Minor consent Law gives minors with decisional capacity the ability to consent to certain medical health services for the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of venereal diseases and other reportable diseases, pregnancy, abuse of control substances or alcohol and emotional disturbances. She explained the new part of part three, is mostly just verbatim, including additional definitions. She also shared handouts of G.S. 90-21.5 and a print out from the UNC School of Government Coates' Cannons NC Local Government Law. She explained that the changes will not affect the health department or change the way they care for minors. After a period of questions and comments, Mrs. Swaringen was thanked for her presentation.

D.S.S. Updates

A. DSS Board Report - September 2023

Mrs. Dolly Clayton reviewed the DSS Report of Services included in the Board packet, through September, 2023, highlighting program numbers. She recognized accomplishments by staff sharing they had reunification of one child with parents, working hard on filling vacancies, and this past month they have continued to periodically house children in their office. Medicaid expansion is set to begin December 1st and they continue to get ready for that. She shared they currently have 52 children in DSS custody, which is higher than their normal case load of 32-34. She says community members have reached out and expressed interest in helping staff these children that otherwise would be housed in their office, as they are exploring options and how they can ensure safety and confidentiality. They are currently working with facilities staff to potentially install a shower and sink so they will have some place for the children to shower. The staff did enjoy fall festivities which including dressing up for Halloween and snack day. Mrs. Clayton shared that some staff from DSS, Health and EMS were attending the SUN Project retreat, reminding Board members the SUN project is a collaborative effort with Cabarrus Health Alliance to help pregnant women with substance use disorder.

Mrs. Clayton shared that prior to the adoption of the state budget, there were six LME-MCO's, which are organizations that manage behavioral health care. This year's state budget included provisions to reduce the number to four or five, deemed necessary to bring them in compliance with minimum population requirement. On November 1st, Secretary Kinsley announced plans to streamline the LME-MCO, by reducing them to four. Stanly County is served by Partners Health Management and as a whole will not be affected. In closing, she states DSS staff have begun to work on employee performance evaluations and she shared handouts of the the annual DSS Report for fiscal year 2022-2023.

Health Department Updates

A. Budget Performance Report thru Sept. 2023

Doshia Swaringen, in the absence of Director David Jenkins, gave a brief highlight of the Health Department Budget Performance Report stating the Medicaid Settlement Funds are included in the report for both dental and general health. Time was allowed for any questions or comments.

B. Activities Summary Report thru Sept. 2023

Doshia Swaringen reviewed the Activities Report included in the Board packet, and pointed out that Chlamydia continues to rise in Stanly County, however she noted that the Epi team is re-convening with new plans in place to start analyzing this and other communicable diseases. Time was allowed for questions and comments.

Consolidated Human Services Updates

Doshia Swaringen shared an update regarding the recent accreditation process the Health Department went through. She stated that the Health Department passed 146 out of 147 activities, which means they passed accreditation with honors. The official vote and awards will be on November 17th. Once again, Mrs. Swaringen took a moment to recognize staff for their hard work to make this happen.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Ascitutto and seconded by Dr. Norwood, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

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

A. CHS meeting mins. 10-05-23**Public Comments**

Board member, Commissioner Asciutto took a moment to thank Jann Lowder for her service to the Human Services Board as her term expires November 6th and she did not consider re-appointment. He states at the Board of Commissioners meeting coming up Monday, November 6th, the commissioners will be filling seats for the Board and hopes that the members who have currently applied and are eligible for re-appointment will be voted back, as this Board just recently won the Consolidated Human Services Board of the year for North Carolina.

Adjournment

With no further items, Chair Lowder declared the meeting adjourned.