

The Buncombe County Health and Human Services Board met on November 17, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. at 200 College Street. In attendance were:

- Health and Human Services Board Members: Susanne Swanger, Chairperson; Frank Castelblanco, Vice-Chair, Johnnie Grant, Candrice Thul, Richard Oliver, Yvette Jives, Lucy Lawrence, Jacquelyn Hallum, Jim Pitts, and Jennifer Partlow.
- Health and Human Services staff: Jim Holland, HHS Director, Jan Shepard, Phillip Hardin, Amy Davis, Jessica Silvers, Sarah Bennett, Ellis Vaughn, Jennifer Chilton, Jennifer Mullendore, Christina McEntee, Katie Swanson, Christa Lance, and Chiloh Campbell.
- Family Justice Center Coordinator: Julie Klipp Nicholson was in attendance.
- County Attorney Brandon Freeman was in attendance.
- Six Social Work students from Warren Wilson were in attendance.

MEETING TO ORDER

- Susanne Swanger, Health and Human Services Board Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

- The Chairperson asked if any Board member had any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matter coming before the Board and none were stated.
- A quorum was not present so no action was taken.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Jim shared an update that the Energy Assistance Program will now be in NC FAST. Eblen Charities, in partnership with Buncombe County Health and Human Services, will offer Emergency Energy Assistance for families in financial crisis due to a heating related crisis. The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) will provide a one-time payment to the primary heat source vendor to help eligible low income families pay their heating bills starting in January. Eblen Charities and ABCCM will delivering these benefits to citizens in Buncombe County.
- Buncombe County Commissioners Mike Fryar and Ellen Frost will host a town hall this month to discuss the opioid epidemic. The town halls are in Black Mountain, Weaverville and Fairview. County Commissioners last month voted to hire Baron and Budd, a national law firm that is known for representing municipalities in lawsuits against wholesale opioid distributors. The lawsuit seeks damages from the manufacturers and distributors of opioid medications due to the role in fostering the opioid epidemic. The town halls focus on defining the epidemic, showing the impact, and ways to access services. MAHEC is partnering with the County by providing a medical provider to present information. The town hall also has a peer support specialist who is in recovery to offer hope to individuals and families struggling through addiction.
- The incident of an individual brandishing a gun at Veterans Services has presented an opportunity for us to evaluate our systems and processes for serving our citizens in a safe environment. Proper precautions are in place while balancing a safe and welcoming environment.

PROGRAM UPDATES – WIC

- Jan Shepard introduced Sarah Bennett, WIC Program Manager, who presented a PowerPoint to the Board discussing the history and current state of the WIC Program, in addition to challenges and

successes. WIC stands for Women, Infants and Children. It is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, commonly referred to as the WIC Program.

- The four pillars of WIC are Individualized Nutrition Education, Healthy foods, Healthcare and Community resource referrals, and Breastfeeding support.
- WIC Productivity in Buncombe County-FY18 to date
 - **1535 service counts per month**
 - **178 breastfeeding contacts per month**
 - **\$2,953,613.97** WIC foods purchased in Buncombe County last year
- Sarah asked Board members to help promote the program and to help refer people to the program. The presentation is attached and made a part of these minutes.

FY17-18 FINANCIAL UPDATE

- Jennifer Chilton reviewed the FY 17-18 financials with the Board. The financials and the PAR are attached and made a part of these minutes.

CHAIRS REPORT AND ADJOURNMENT

- Chairperson Swanger reminded Board members that next month's meeting is December 15.
- Chairperson Swanger adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Minutes read and approved this ____ day of _____, 2017.

Susanne Swanger
Health and Human Services
Board Chairperson

Jim Holland
Executive Secretary to the Board