

**Buncombe County Department of Health**  
**Integrated Board Minutes**  
**January 28, 2011**

The Buncombe County Board of Health held its monthly meeting at the Chamber of Commerce, January 28, 2010.

**Integrated Board Members Present:** Board of Health Members Dr. Richard Oliver, Bill McElrath, Mike Goodson, L.C. Ray, Susanne Swanger, David McClain, LC Ray, Linda Morgan, Carol Peterson and DSS Board Member Travis Durham.

**Staff Present:** Nelle Gregory, Eddie Shook, Angie Pittman, Jim Holland, Lisa Eby, Tim Rhodes, Amy Harmon, Karan Smith, Julie Montanea, Rich Munger, Micky Corn, Patricia Wallin, Carole Edwards, Marty Phillips, Jennifer Chilton, Dawn Warren, Tammy Shook, Becky Kessel, Erin Henderlight, Christina McEntee, Phillip Hardin, DSS Director McDowell County, Fran Thigpen, Christa Lance & Terri Rogers.

Chair, Dr. Oliver called the Board of Health meeting to order at 12:00.

**MINUTES**

Dr. Oliver asked members if they reviewed the minutes from the December 2010 meeting and if there was a motion to accept. Ms. Peterson made a motion to accept, seconded by Mr. Ray. All were in favor, motion passed.

**PRESENTATION** Economic Forecast

A presentation was delivered by Tom Tevidt, Research Economist with SYNEVA Economics.

Mr. Tevidt shared a presentation titled the Buncombe County Economy Status Report. He discussed the Recession, Demographic Impact, Housing Impact and Where We Are Now with the current economy.

Discussed were the unemployment rates that have increased to record highs and the range of age/sex/career type of unemployed persons. The overall person that is unemployed are local construction workers which range in the late 20's to late 30's. The Health Services field is one particular industry that continues to increase in jobs. Current unemployment rates are at 7.9% or 9400 people. The expected rate of increase in jobs for 2011 should be close to 1,018 more jobs.

Home sales in our region are down. The home values are actually depreciating for Buncombe County compared to others in our region.

The overall poverty rate for Buncombe County is 16.2% or close to 13 thousand people.

**STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVE:**

Lisa Eby asked the group of members to share any benefits/opportunities and dangers/risks for input for Strategically Aligning Human Services in Response to the Economic Forecast just presented. Below is the list of what members shared.

- Given statistics about jobs lost and who is out of work need to ensure that AB Tech can meet the need of training and retraining workers to support viable jobs
- Short-term vs. long-term trends can change on a dime – we need to track both and be able to respond
- Need to address increasing demand with decreasing dollars
- There are risks in changing the current structure as we try and meet client need. But we must do it to go forward
- We need to focus our support on community agencies – and trust what they are doing but be smart in choosing agencies that are excited to do the work and have a similar mission
- We need to explore the schools and hospitals for partnerships understanding that they are education and resources as well
- Be smart about identifying available resources by bringing together partners and communicating
- As we focus on core services we need to bring the community to the table and work together – ensure open communication
- Community Health Assessment will provide accessible information
- Concern about our ability to maintain resources and structures to deal with a disaster/epidemic
- In community we must reach out and know each other better – work better together

- Understand and deal with the politics of the situation – trust each other with accountability
- Understand that Health and Human Services will be the engine for handling a lot of people who need help
- Need to connect with religious community and connect with their assets – people and resources
- Take advantage of spaces at church – community centers
- More contact with media, WLOS, Citizen-Times and communicate with citizens
- New jobs will require increasing technical complexity – education needs to support this
- Continued education of the Boards about programs and services within agencies and relevant community partners
- Potential Partners we should strengthen/build: Mission Hospital, Local Business, Faith-based churches/organizations, Center for Creative Retirement, Chamber of Commerce, AB Tech and local universities
- And Schools.

## **FINANCIALS**

Jim Holland shared that the budget for Health is right in line with projections in both revenue and expenditures.

## **SPACE**

Jim Holland gave an update on the Space issues and moves of departments.

The Human Services Leadership will be located at 200 College Street; this will have room for Integrated Board Meeting Space, Health/DSS Senior Leadership Teams, HSST and Vital Records.

The Timeline looks this way; Social Work Services will be at 35 Woodfin (Main and Second Floor) in March 2011. Medicaid will relocate at 40 Coxe Avenue (Second Floor) in August 2011. Public Health/Food Assistance/Operations will relocate in 40 Coxe Avenue (Main Floor/Ground Floor) in January 2012. Child Support will move to 35 Woodfin (Ground Floor) in April 2012.

## **BUNCOMBE COUNTY SERVICE FOUNDATION**

The purpose of organizing this service foundation is to increase and improve access to traditional human and support services, strengthen partnerships within the community that support core government services, provide alternative staffing solutions for county government when community capacity is limited and a vehicle for grantors and donors.

This foundation will have the following seven seats; County Manager, Assistant County Manager, County Attorney, County Finance Officer, an Integrated Human Services Cross Appointed Representative, Co-Chair of Advisory Board for Parks, Greenways and Recreation and a Library Board Representative. It also may include an employed person that may receive county benefits.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

Mandy Stone asked that Linda Morgan address the meeting with an announcement.

Ms. Morgan shared with those attending that a few weeks ago; she contacted the (NCALHD) North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors to nominate Gibbie Harris for the Health Director of the Year Award. This was done with the assistance of County Dept. of Health Leadership Staff and Community Partners by sharing the outstanding work done in Buncombe County by Gibbie Harris. We were informed last Tuesday that Gibbie Harris was chosen and on Wednesday she was awarded this honor at the conference she is attending in Raleigh.

The next meeting will be held in February 10, 2011. .

With no other discussions, Linda Morgan motioned to adjourn, seconded by Susan Swanger.

Chair, Richard Oliver adjourned the meeting at 1:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Gibbie Harris, Secretary

Adopted:

Richard Oliver, Chair