

Health and Human Services Board Annual Update

Lucy Lawrence, MSW, PhD
HHS Board Chair



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



About Us

Members

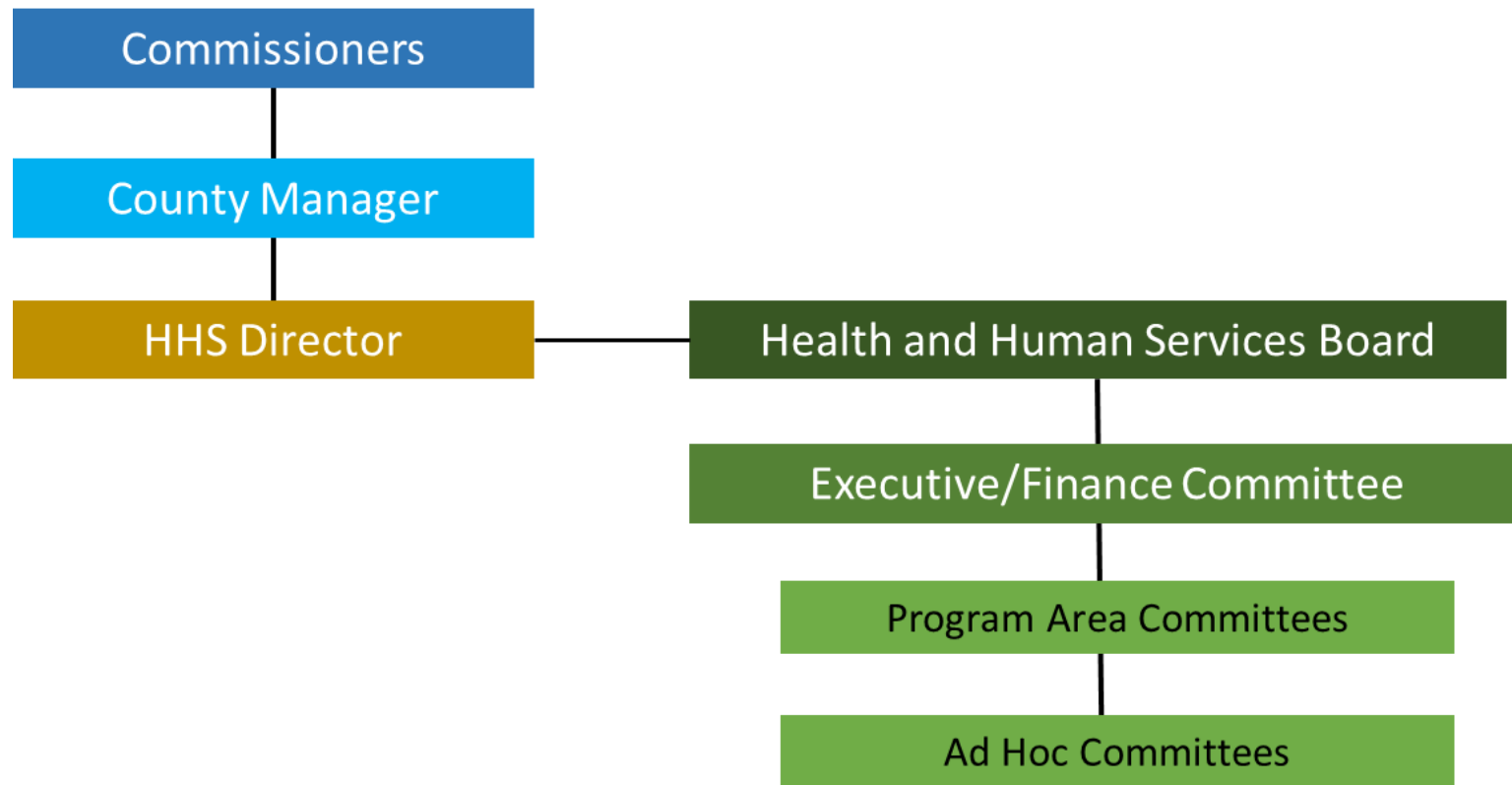
Name	Title	Name	Title
Jasmine Beach-Ferrara	County Commissioner	LeeAnne Tucker	Public/Consumer Advocate
Amy Lenell	Pharmacist	Johnnie Grant	Public/Consumer Advocate
Lucy Lawrence, Chair	Social Worker	Jacquelyn Hallum	Public/Consumer Advocate
Steve Valeika	Veterinarian	Yvette Jives	Public/Consumer Advocate
Elizabeth Lima	Psychologist	Richard Needleman	Public/Consumer Advocate
Greg Narron	Psychiatrist	David Thompson	Public/Consumer Advocate
Dan Frayne, Vice-Chair	Physician	Martha Salyers	Public/Consumer Advocate
Linda Weldon	Registered Nurse	Betsie Stockslager	Public/Consumer Advocate
Savannah Lamb	Optometrist		
Mark Brooks	Engineer		
Kasee Metcalf	Dentist		

Purpose

A consolidated health and human services board created pursuant to [NCGS §153A-77\(b\)](#) shall have the responsibility and authority to carry out the programs established in this Chapter in conformity with the rules and regulations of the Social Work Services Commission and under the supervision of the Department of Health & Human Services in the same manner as a county Social Work Services board.



Buncombe County Health and Human Services Board



Community Committees

Safety Committee

Focused primarily on Child and Adult Protective Services and the issues that affect overall community safety, such as gun and community violence, youth suicide prevention, and systemic racism.

Economic Benefits Committee:

Focused on public assistance programs as well as other community resources that impact the wellbeing of residents of Buncombe County, such as food assistance, Medicaid, childcare, energy assistance, child support and housing to ensure that these programs are available and promoted to all residents in the county.

Health Committee:

Focused on the Public Health of the community and promoting and protecting the public's health including access to care, chronic disease and injury, maternal and child health, communicable disease, and environmental public health.



Advocacy/Accomplishments

August 2022

- Advocacy regarding Energy Payment increase
 - § 108A-25.4 - CIP payments increased from a maximum amount of \$600 to \$1000

April 2023

- Condemnation of Dobb's decision

• April 2024

- Piloting the Harm Reduction Equitable Access Pilot



Challenges

March 2020- Present

- Pandemic

March 2023

- House Bill 76, Access to Healthcare Options

December 2023

- Medicaid Expansion enrollment opens
- Conversion of Energy Program from contract to in-house

July 2024

- Lack of foster care placement options

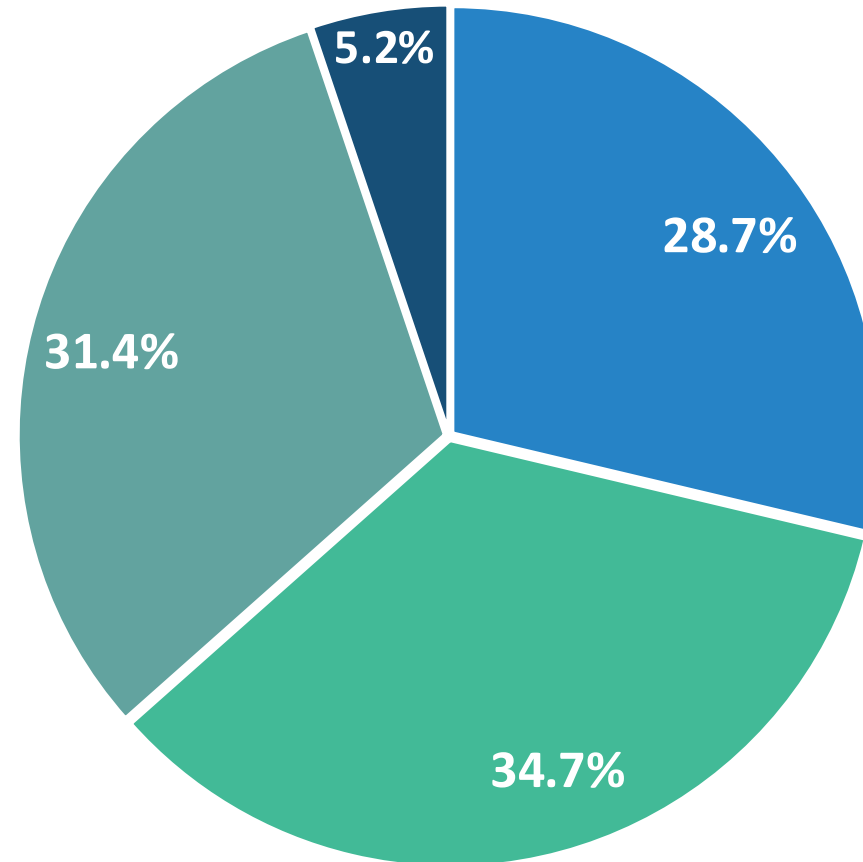


FY 24 EXPENSES

\$93,134,682

\$48.6 Million
County Funds

\$44.5 Million
Non-County Funds



■ Public Health

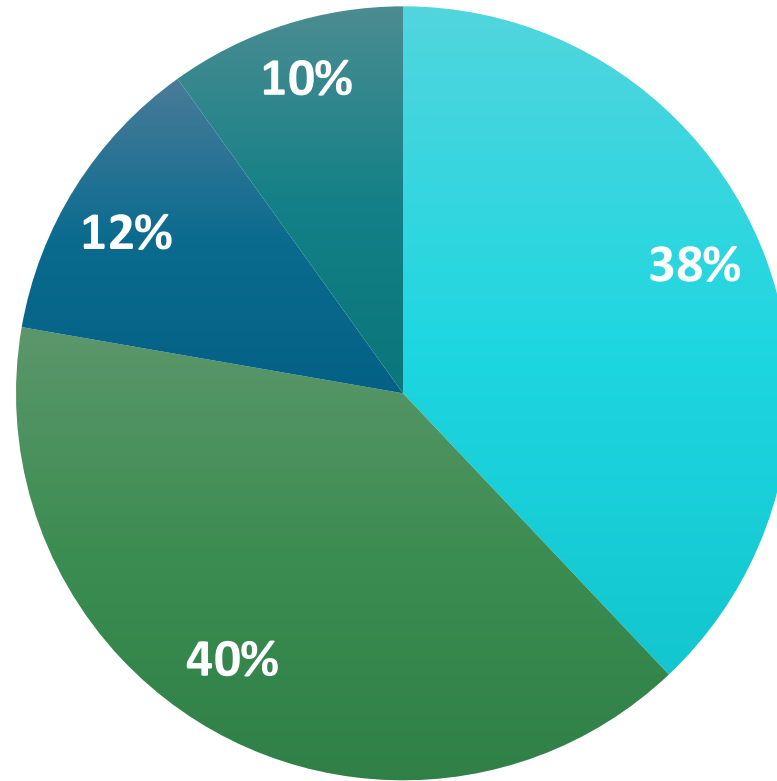
■ Social Work

■ Economic Services

■ Administration



County Funds



Public Health Social Work Economic Services Admin



HHS Board Priorities from the Department's Business Plan

- **Public Health** - Identify communities with a high social vulnerabilities index and increase outreach events by 5% in all areas identified by December 2027
- **Public Health** - Decrease black/white infant mortality disparity ratio by 10% by December 2027
- **Social Work** - Increase retention of social work staff by 25% by December 2027
- **Economic Services** - Collaborate with other departments and community partners to increase opportunities for "no wrong door" events where ES staff are available to complete applications for Public Assistance programs



Other HHS Board Priorities

- Land and Labor acknowledgement
- Seamless Transitions
 - New HHS Director
 - New Board Chair



Thank you!

