

SCHD Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Monday, September 20th 2021

Attendance

Board Members- Jeffrey Bell, Robert Butler, Dr. Elizabeth Bryan, Dr. Cynthia Davis, Cassie Faircloth, Yire Hernandez, Jacqueline Howard, Commissioner Lethia Lee, Linda Peterson.

Health Department and Administration Staff- Wanda Robinson, Cherish Allen, Tamra Jones, Kory Hair, Kelly Parrish, Edwin Cauey, and Joel Starling.

- I. **Call to Order**- Dr. Jeffrey Bell

- II. **Invocation**-Jacqueline Howard

- III. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - a) May 17, 2021 SCHD Advisory Committee Minutes- Motion to approve made by Robert Butler; 2nd by Dr. Elizabeth Bryan.
 - b) June 14, 2021 Dangerous Dog Appeal Hearing Minutes- Motion to approve made by Linda Peterson; 2nd by Robert Butler.
 - c) July 19, 2021 SCHD Advisory Committee Minutes- Motion to approve made by Jacqueline Howard; 2nd by Yire Hernandez.
 - d) July 22, 2021 SCHD Advisory Committee Special Call Meeting- Motioned to approve made by Jacqueline Howard; 2nd by Robert Butler.

- IV. **Covid-19 Update**- See attached report given by Kelly Parrish Report contained Key Points, Current Statistics, Testing information and Vaccinations information. Kelly also gave information on the new 3rd dose and booster recommendation, which is also included in attached report. Yire Hernandez asked if you have to get the same 3rd/Booster that you received previously. Kelly responded, "They recommend you keep the vaccines the same; in some situations they would allow a different brand."
 - Wanda reviewed the Vaccine Dosage Report (handed to all members). She emphasized that on each page there was comparisons such as County vs. State, age, gender, race, non-vaccinated vs vaccinated, etc. See attached report for more details.
 - **Legal Update: Control Measures in Schools: Isolation, Quarantine and Exclusion:** Wanda Robinson stated that the Schools have been extremely challenging. She informed members that Union County decided they were not going to mask or take part in contact tracing. Fortunately the State stepped in and did not allow this due to communicable disease laws (explained in the underlined handout above). Wanda Robinson stated there was more concern with the K-8 students due to them only have a mask as a protection; therefore she was pleased when our schools decided to require a mask. Wanda Robinson stated that the larger challenge currently is that some parents do not want to keep their children home for the 7, 10 or 14 days. Currently in the County there is a ball team that has proposed to not isolate or quarantine the contacts that were involve with positive cases due to the State Championship coming up. They

would prefer the athletes to wear a mask; Kelly Parrish stated that this is a concern due to performing physical activity with a mask on. She stated that they are still waiting to hear back from the State on what they should do about this situation. Wanda Robinson reminded the members that these control measures are laws. CDC has shortened the quarantine for asymptomatic people to 10 days and there is an option for a 7 days quarantine as well. Wanda Robinson stated that the 7 days quarantine is not likely due to the turnaround time between testing and results. See attached handout for specific details. Wanda emphasized that the Health Department is the only organization that can quarantine individuals/students, not the schools. Joel Starling stated that Union County Board of Education did reverse their decision today because that State was going to sue them. Wanda Robinson questioned exemption for vaccinations in the schools. Joel Starling stated that there absolutely is a Rule 7 exemption for Vaccinations. Edwin Causey asked if Daycares fall into the Control Measures. Wanda Robinson stated yes they were included. She explained that if the Daycares can follow the rules and stay open, she feels that the schools should be able to do the same. Yire Hernandez asked if these rules apply to the Community College. Wanda Robinson stated that yes it does, although they have not had any problems or heard anything from the Community College. Robert Butler asked if there were any issues with any systems not following the rules. Wanda Robinson stated that there have been issues as such. He asked what the next step is when this happens. Wanda Robinson stated that someone is sent to the place where the problem is to investigate. Jacqueline Howard commented that she is amazed that people will have a positive case in the home, but still send their children to school. Kelly stated that the school nurses are so overwhelmed with Covid currently. The problem is that several family members live together but their address is not correct on file, therefore they are unable to pull all contacts out. Yire Hernandez asked what happens in the situation where all household members test positive. Kelly Parrish stated that all situations are different and can be handled differently. She stated that it can get really confusing especially when you have positive cases on vaccinated people vs not or depending on if they are in the 3 month window of previously having Covid. Cassie Faircloth asked if there was specific guidance for the schools on what do to for individual cases. Kelly Parrish stated that there is a complete tool kit for the schools. Cassie Faircloth also stated that on the side of acute care it would be helpful to have specific guidelines. Kelly Parrish stated that it is called the Strong Schools Toolkit. It lists specific scenarios with guidelines. Wanda Robinson stated that the toolkit can be conflicting and they are working to get some additional guidelines.

- V. **SOTCH**- Kelly Parrish reviewed the 2020 report for Sampson County. She stated that most of the effort has been put towards Covid. Some things did not happen as she had hoped due to the amount of effort it took to handle the pandemic. Since last assessment Cancer, Heart Disease and accidental injuries have remained the least cause of death for the County. March 16, 2020 was the date of our first positive Covid case. See report for statistics about positive cases/deaths. Since last assessment Medicaid Transformation, Covid Pandemic and Opioid substance abuse continued to be emerging issues. She stated that substance abuse has increased since the start of the Pandemic. The Pandemic has caused a ripple effect as some

people are facing housing eviction due to financial problems; DSS is been a link in providing assistance especially where children are involved. Education was effected with virtual learning and many students not having face to face instruction, as it presented learning barriers especially with internet issues and lack of social interaction. Diabetes self-management classes were not has high due to having to pull that nurse for mass vaccination events. See attached 2020 SOTCH report for more details. Kelly Parrish stated that she hopes we can soon put our efforts back to other Community needs by the next assessment.

VI. Child Fatality Task Force Survey: Kelly Parrish stated that in 2020, 5 child deaths were reviewed. There were 3 system problems identified. See attached Child Fatality Task Force Survey for more details to include problems and recommendations. Kelly Parrish stated that the summary was sent to the State. Cynthia Davis asked if there was a car seat install place in the County. Members mentioned the Fire Department and Partnership for Children will assist parents. S

VII. Environmental Health Update: Kory Hair gave report on Environment Health. He stated that there is currently 1 authorized inspector, 2 interns and 1 part time employee. They have been working hard on getting the 2 interns authorized. Their paperwork will be submitted in approximately 2 weeks. Once authorized, they will be able to go out and do inspections on their own. Kory stated that there is a new employee starting on 09/22/2021. She is already authorized in food and lodging and will be able to start work within days of being on the job. He reported that in April there were 111 applications for septic and well permits; May=67, June=80, July=85 and August=74. As of now, there are 69 applications that have been turned in that have not been started. 40 of those 69 are from the month of September. Kory Hair stated that are working hard to get these caught up. He explained that Onsite side of Environmental Health is wells and septic permits to include migrant housing. Kory Hair added that Sampson County has the most migrant housing than any other County. Kory Hair explained that the Food and Lodging side inspections of restaurants, hotels, motels, hospitals, pools, nursing homes, etc. Kory Hair stated this also includes lead levels in children. He stated that the blood lead level has been lowered by the state. Kory Hair has just completed the required training to become authorized and be the lead agent for the County. When a child has a high lead level in their blood, he will work closely with the state consultant and parents to find out where the exposure is coming from. Kory Hair stated that there is still one vacant position on the Onsite side. Edwin Causey asked if the new employee was Onsite or Food and Lodging. Kory Hair stated she was Food and Lodging. Edwin Causey verified that Jason moved to Food and Lodging and the department was now missing the lead for Onsite. Kory Hair confirmed this information to be correct. Wanda Robinson praised Kory Hair on his hard work since becoming Environmental Health Supervisor. Kory Hair explained that even though they are working hard to get caught up but it can be frustrating because Sampson is so large. Wanda Robinson agrees that the growth in the County is unbelievable.

VIII. Financial

a) Financial Update- Tamra Jones stated that activities remained steady even with Covid going on. She stated that the number of Covid vaccines has been broken down;

July=977, August=1679. She stated that our revenues have shown consistency with no sign of any lapse during Covid, rather an increase in revenues. Wanda Robinson stated that the top three programs were STD's, Maternal Health and Family Planning. Unfortunately many people do not allow us to bill insurance for STD visits, which decreases the amount of revenue. She stated that Medicaid increased reimbursement rates on office visit codes, which helps. Tamra Jones stated that the Medicaid revenue looks slim due to the fact that she is still working on the payments for Medicaid Transformation. With the new transformation she is now getting 6 separate checks. She is working on getting this caught up and figured out. She stated that there are some issues with denials and she is working to get those worked out as well. Tamra Jones stated that she will have the updated June revenue at next meeting. See attached report for specific programs and numbers, to include graphs.

- b) Fee Schedule Update- TSH CPT 84443 Current Price is \$94, LabCorp has it as \$8.73. CMP CPT 80053 Current Price is \$15, LabCorp has it as \$15.75. She stated that she is unsure how the prices became incorrect. She is asking that the Board approve the change. Kelly Parrish introduced the Booster codes for Moderna and Pfizer. Although she does not have a price, she is requesting approval and will bring the price to the next meeting. Tamra Jones stated that the administrative code for Hepatitis B needs to be changed to G0010 with a price of \$25. Per Medicare they only accept G codes. Robert Butler questions if the Board should wait to vote due to missing three pieces of information. He questioned the large difference between the TSH current price and new price. Tamra Jones explained that these numbers go through several people, it could have been a mistake or it could have simply been that LabCorp lowered their price. She explained that we do not bill for the test, but the price does have to be on the report when reported to the State. Dr. Jeffrey Bell asked for a motion to approve the new LabCorp Fees and CPT updates; Motion to approve made by Jacqueline Howard; 2nd by Robert Butler.
- c) AA 361 ELC Reopening Schools SH Liaison- \$115,000-Per Wanda Robinson this position will be a contract nurse that will work with the schools with anything Covid related. Motion to approve made by Linda Peterson; 2nd by Yire Hernandez.
- d) AA 466 Advancing Equity- \$39,000- Per Wanda Robinson this is also a contract position for a Health Educator to work with the schools. Motion to approve made by Commissioner Lethia Lee; 2nd by Dr. Elizabeth Bryan.

IX. Health Director's Report: Wanda Robinson asked everyone to look at the NC DHHS Newsletter for Local Farmworker Vaccination Teams that was handed out about Farmworker Vaccinations. She stated that we have done really well vaccinating our farmworkers and have had several buses come to get vaccinations. She explains that the Health Department has been very busy providing Covid vaccine on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Covid testing on Tuesday and Thursday. Along with still providing services in house. See attached Newsletter from June 2021 and August 2021 for details.

At this time Joel Starling gave an update on the Opioid Litigation. He stated that the settlement for \$26 billion has been announced. Johnson & Johnson, AmerisourceBergen, McKesson, Cardinal have announced that enough states signed on to that for them to proceed to the next level which is local government approval. This could ultimately result in \$850 million coming to NC. He stated that they have now entered into an allocation agreement that the Board of Commissioners approved with the State. He stated that we could receive around \$5.2/\$5.3 million of the settlement money that will be marked for Opioid remediation activities. Still no shredding per Joel Starling. He stated that even if they settle out, they still have the pharmacy to do, so no shredding.


Dr. Jeffrey Bell asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn made by Robert Butler; 2nd by Linda Peterson.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting November 15, 2021.

 11-15-2021

Dr. Jeffrey Bell Date
Advisory Committee Chair

 11/15/21

Wanda Robinson Date
Secretary

