

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD



Board Members

Mr. John Blalock
Ms. Pamela Corbett, MA
Mr. John Davenport, Jr., PE
Dr. James Doub, OD
Dr. Palmer Edwards, MD
Dr. Calvert Jeffers, DVM
Dr. Charles Massler, DDS
Dr. Linda Petrou, PhD.
Ms. Sharon D. Pettiford, RN
Ms. Sharon A. Rimm, LCSW
Dr. Peter Robie, MD
Mr. J. Phil Seats, R.Ph., MBA
Dr. Ricky Sides, DC
Ms. Claudette Weston
Ms. Gloria Whisenhunt, County Commissioner

Chair

Ms. Heather Parker

Vice Chair

Mr. Fleming El-Amin, County Commissioner

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MINUTES December 7, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT – IN-PERSON

Ms. Heather Parker, Chair
Mr. Fleming El-Amin, Vice Chair
Mr. John Davenport
Dr. James Doub
Dr. Calvert Jeffers
Dr. Charles Massler
Dr. Linda Petrou
Ms. Sharon Pettiford
Ms. Gloria Whisenhunt

MEMBERS PRESENT – VIRTUAL

Mr. John Blalock
Dr. Palmer Edwards
Ms. Sharon Rimm
Mr. J. Phil Seats
Dr. Ricky Sides
Ms. Claudette Weston

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Peter Robie

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Shontell Robinson
Ms. Christine Dowdell
Ms. Denise Price
Mr. Joshua Swift
Ms. Lorrie Christie
Ms. Tanya Donnell
Ms. Marissa Adams
Ms. Amber Humber
Ms. Kamilah Pleasants
Ms. Nicole Priddy
Ms. Marie Stephens
Ms. Sherita Sutton
Ms. Christa Smith
Ms. Elizabeth White

Call to Order:

On Wednesday, December 7, 2022, the Forsyth County Health and Human Services (HHS) Board held its regularly scheduled bi-monthly meeting. Ms. Heather Parker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Moment of Silence:

A moment of silence was observed by all.

Consideration of Minutes:

The minutes of the October 5, 2022, HHS Board were reviewed. Dr. Calvert Jeffers made a motion to approve and Mr. Fleming El-Amin seconded. A roll call was done and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Deputy County Manager's Comments: Ms. Shontell Robinson gave the following updates (see handouts on file in the Administrative Binder):

Cure Violence – Ms. Robinson stated that as she had informed them the last time they met, a community-based organization was selected to implement the program. Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods is the organization selected. The Department of Public Health is overseeing this program and Assistant Health Director, Ms. Sherita Sutton, has dug in deep, along with Mr. Joshua Swift, Health Director, to help provide the program direction and overseeing Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods. We are currently in the process of trying to work with Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods to hire the program manager position. They are also in the process of Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods being trained by Cure Violence global staff, out of Chicago. Ms. Robinson stated that once the program manager is hired we can begin hiring the violence interrupters and outreach workers. She added, realistically the program manager will probably not be on board until January and the violence interrupters and outreach workers will follow in February. Ms. Robinson stated this is a priority for us so we will make sure we do our due diligence and ensure that it is implemented with fidelity. Our staff as well as Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods is working closely together to ensure proper implementation and training. She hopes to have our boots on the ground soon.

Panel Presentations – Ms. Robinson reported that she was supposed to be in a panel presentation, today, in Pinehurst on a topic entitled “Ensuring Seamless Statewide Care for Foster Children, the NC Child and Family Improvement Initiatives”. She thought this was more of a Department of Social Services (DSS) discussion. Ms. Robinson stated this has been due to the advocacy that the Commissioners and County Manager’s Office has been doing about the Statewide Foster Care Plan so was asked to be on the panel with the LME/MCO’s, Mecklenburg County, and other CEO’s from foster care agencies. The meeting was cancelled because of the power outage in Moore County – it will be rescheduled. Ms. Robinson will also be presenting next week at Leadership Winston-Salem on a panel entitled “Innovative Approaches to the Top Challenges Facing Local Government Today”.

Compensation Study – Ms. Robinson told Board Members they will probably hear from staff, about recruitment and retention challenges. We are in the process of conducting a classification and compensation study on the county. County Commissioners are committed to ensuring competitive salaries for all county positions. The study was delayed due to staffing challenges the consultant experienced. The original implementation was supposed to be in the fall. We are hoping to provide recommendations to the Commissioners by early January.

County Premium Pay - The County Commissioners approved premium pay for eligible full-time and part-time county employees with benefits. On December 16th full-time employees will receive a \$1000 payment and part-time eligible employees will receive a \$200 payment. A second payment will take place in June in the amount of \$700 for full-time employees and \$200 for part-time employees. We are continuing to work hard to address the recruitment and retention challenges, not just with pay but also with work environment.

Department of Social Services (DSS) Director's Comments: Ms. Christine Dowdell, gave the following updates (see handouts on file in the Administrative Binder):

- *Staffing Challenges:* Ms. Dowdell, stated that they, too, have staffing vacancies, like other counties and also across the states. Our agency continues to experience staff vacancies due to current work shortage. Currently we have an 18% vacancy rate in the agency. However, some departments may have a higher vacancy rate. We are competing with local counties of all sizes, which include, larger and more moderate counties, our sister counties and the federal government. Recently we have seen an increased number of people obtain employment with the Veteran's Administration (VA) and also the school system. Ms. Dowdell stated they continue to actively recruit and plan to have another job fair January 2023 and will continue to work closely with the County Human Resources – they have been a tremendous help with the hiring process. Ms. Dowdell reiterated what Ms. Robinson said about trying to focus on other things, other than just pay, which includes having different events within the department to help build morale.
- *Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP):* Ms. Dowdell reported that with the Low Income Energy Assistance Program, the county received over \$1.5 million from the state and federal government to assist households including people 60 years or older or individuals receiving disability benefits through the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services. Beginning December 1st until December 31st these individuals will have the opportunity to apply first. Beginning January 1st, anyone who does not fit in that category, can apply until March 31st and/or until all the funds are exhausted. If a county does not utilize all of their funds, the NCDHHS may provide additional funds to other counties who exhausted their funds.
- *Medicaid Expansion:* Ms. Dowdell reminded Board members that she discussed Medicaid Expansion at the last meeting. There is a possibility that Medicaid Expansion will take place. We have the potential to add approximately 45,000 beneficiaries to our current enrollment of over 111,000. Ms. Dowdell stated that not only will DSS be affected, but also the providers, Health Department and Adult Services. The more people who are eligible for Medicaid may also be eligible for long-term care, if they are approved. Ms. Dowdell anticipates a large number of applicants applying, and most likely they will apply for food stamps, as well. Ms. Dowdell stated that other counties as well as Forsyth County has some concerns about the estimates provided by the State, because of the methodology of how the numbers were achieved. At her director's meeting earlier in the day, they discussed Medicaid Expansion and what that will look like, and they are trying to put numbers together to see approximately how many people will be affected and the staffing needs. Ms. Dowdell said to meet the needs of the clients we will need to hire more Medicaid workers and this will also affect other areas within the agency, resulting in the need of additional staff. Ms. Dowdell also added, we

are outgrowing our building so we are looking at more innovative ways to house those people if Medicaid Expansion happens.

- *Food and Nutrition Services:* Ms. Dowdell reported that due to increased numbers, we are utilizing the funds received from the State to increase our timeliness. All counties received additional funding and we are currently contracting with Vanguard Professional Services. They are a temporary agency that NC hires county workers because you have to be in a merit based system in order for us to contract with them, this is a State requirement.
- Ms. Dowell stated the Cost of Living (COLA) may impact all programs resulting in reduction of termination of benefits, however, to her knowledge they are trying to make some adjustments so people will not lose their benefits. Ms. Dowdell said they will continue to look at this as they proceed.

Ms. Dowdell extended an invitation to Board members to join DSS on December 14th (11:00am – 2:00pm) for their holiday party and asked that they please let her know if they would like to attend before the meeting ended.

Ms. Dowdell announced that Ms. Elizabeth White (Liz) is retiring at the end of this month and they had the opportunity to celebrate her retirement yesterday. Ms. White's last day is December 16th. Ms. Dowdell thanked Ms. White and said she has been very instrumental in training her as well as the other Deputy, Ms. Christa Smith. Ms. Dowdell expressed appreciation for Ms. White and also thanked Ms. Robinson for allowing them to have Ms. White there and cross train Ms. Smith as well, because it is a big shift. Ms. White commented she has enjoyed all of her years at DSS and she will continue to think about them as she is travelling! Everyone thanked Ms. White and gave her a round of applause.

Ms. Parker asked Ms. Dowdell, in regard to Medicaid Expansion, if it is our experience that when they do things like this, they also provide funding for those new employees or is that going to fall back on the county. Ms. Dowdell responded that the county receives 75% reimbursement for our Medicaid workers but there has been some changes, and that the county will fund it 25% of the position. Ms. Marissa Adams, Department Head for Medicaid, added there will be some funding but as we know, it is never enough. There will be an ask of the county, if Medicaid Expansion does occur. She said we are trying to plan as efficiently and accordingly to address those needs. Ms. Dowdell said her only concern is if it becomes effective this fiscal year, we may have to supplement the difference because we are in the middle of a fiscal year.

Dr. Linda Petrou stated she does not feel that the Medicaid Expansion is anywhere close to the top of the list at the State Legislature - it is on the list but I do not think it is real high. Ms. Dowdell commented across numbers for the entire state some counties will have a higher number than we will.

Department of Public Health (PH) Director's Comments: Mr. Joshua Swift gave the following updates (see complete/detailed handouts on file in the Administrative Binder):

Mr. Swift started his updates by introducing his Assistant Health Directors:

- Ms. Marie Stephens – Internal Health Services (away sick);
- Ms. Sherita Sutton – Preventive and Health Education Outreach

- Ms. Kamilah Pleasants – Personal Health Services (over Clinics, Communicable Disease and Jail Health)
- Ms. Nicole Priddy – Community Health (over School Health, Environmental Health, Laboratory and WIC)

COVID-19 Update as of December 8, 2022

- Last 14 days – cases decreased 10%
- COVID Hospitalizations - 15 Forsyth County residents
- Last 7 days – 0 deaths
- Percent Positive –started to tick up for lab confirmed cases
- Hospitals are dealing with COVID, Flu and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV); 3 flu deaths reported, so far
- Ms. Robinson added a disclaimer that the numbers were updated today – the numbers given in Mr. Swift’s report were from last Thursday
- Shared a chart showing viruses in wastewater reported cases in the sewer shed for Winston-Salem. The report is sent out every week from the State. He explained they are able to test for Coronavirus in the wastewater.
- The department is taking COVID-19 vaccine walk-ins (Monday-Wednesday 9-4:30pm; Thursdays 9-7:30pm; Fridays 9-12:30pm). We have support from the State with their temporary agency and hired county temps – the support from the State will be going away in March. Making plans for what that might look like in March. The goal is to assimilate this into our Immunization Clinic
- Forsyth County community level is low
- Talk with your healthcare provider about wearing a mask and taking other precautions if you are at a high risk for severe illness
- Stay up-to-date with vaccines (compared to 17% in the State, 18% of Forsyth County residents received updated boosters)
- Get tested, if you have symptoms (at-home tests available at the health department, libraries and at the Government Center)
- Hanes CME Church are administering COVID testing on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-5pm

Mr. Swift shared that a lot of our areas are starting to get back to our pre-pandemic levels – not all the way yet, especially in our clinics because of the high vacancy rates.

Internal Health Services:

- Dental Hygienists screened 3,334 students in October; referred 509 students for dental treatment. Dental Clinic will start seeing new patients in January 2023. Currently hiring for a part-time hygienist and full-time dentist.

Dr. Charles Massler asked Mr. Swift if he knows where the children who need dental care are being referred to. Mr. Swift responded, to the Dental Clinic – we have a full-time Dentist, Ms. Kathleen Stanton and a second position that is vacant and we are hopeful for that position. Dr. Stanton is very public health minded and has a heart for the community

- Vital Records processed 616 birth certificates and 491 death certificates in October

Community Health Services:

- On-Site Wastewater (3 vacancies – 21% vacancy rate)
- Maintains a 3.5 week backlog for new Source Site Evaluations (SSE) and a 3-day turnaround time. Anticipating customer wait times to rise due to recent vacancies
- School Nurses – schools are in full swing – back almost to pre-pandemic levels

Personal Health Services:

- Family Planning is fully staffed. RFA was completed and accepted and has been recommended for funding by the State – expected funding from the State. Has seen 2,458 patients from January 2022 through November 18, 2022
- The Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) has seen 109 patients from January 2022 through November 18, 2022
- STD Clinic – provider vacancies have been filled; 2 RN vacancies remain; has seen 2,628 patients from January 2022 through November 18, 2022; Refugee clinic has seen 74 patients from January 2022 through November 18, 2022

Preventive Health Services:

- Care Management Programs (NFP, CMARC, CMHRP) – combined caseload 841
- Minority Diabetes Program headed by Ms. Sharon Roberts, who retired after 22 years had 5 active groups, 44 persons enrolled
- October was SID/Safe Sleep Awareness Month. Social media campaign featured Safe Sleep Sammi and Safe Sleep Sasha – was highlighted in the national Cribs for Kids Newsletter. Parenting Path, Salem Pregnancy, Imprints Cares and WIC all hosted safe sleep educational displays during the month.

Public Health Events:

- December 1st - World Aids Day and the day after, celebrating Compare Foods on Peters Creek Parkway
- November 21st – Public Health thank you day
- December 17th – Christmas for the City
- December 8th – 21st – Variety of staff holiday activities

Behavioral Health Director’s Comments: Ms. Denise Price reported the following (see complete/detailed handouts on file in the Administrative Binder):

- *Stepping Up:* Ms. Amber Humble will be giving a full report. Currently, we are fully staffed and beginning in January, we will be expanding WRAP at the Detention Center
- *Pharmacy:* We are fully staffed in the Pharmacy. Our hours have been extended on Thursday evenings to be consistent with the clinic hours.
- *FROST:* We have a Wake Forest University student intern who will be working with FROST through August, 2023 or for 900 hours, whichever comes first. There is continued media coverage about the naloxone vending machines – they are very popular and are refilled at least once per month. FROST coordinated a statewide Harm Reduction Training for Peer Support Specialists scheduled for December 9th.
- *Peer Support:* There will be a hunger and homelessness panel presentation on November 16th. The Peer Support Specialist is engaging in outreach to all of the library branches.
- *Upcoming Events:* ID Drive at Sin Fronteras and Christmas for the City

Highland Avenue Center: The design phase has begun – we are prioritizing the Facility Based Crisis Center while working on other spaces (e.g., pharmacy and 2nd floor buildout). The subleases are in process to accommodate temporary reshuffling of the center space use to assure that our services remain during construction. All tenant partners are actively engaged in the building design.

Behavioral Health Agreements: The Board subcommittee is working on a revised FY24 application and a survey to gather feedback regarding the perceived needs/gaps that will inform recommended funding priorities.

Opioid Settlement Overview: As a result of ongoing settlements, Forsyth County will receive \$20.4 million through 2038, with potential for an additional \$12 million. The City of Winston-Salem will receive \$3 million+ during that same time period. How that funding can be used, is outlined in a Memorandum of Agreement between the State and Forsyth County. Option B strategies have been recommended, which is the broadest array of strategies available.

Opioid Settlement – Feedback Groups and Deliverables: Feedback to inform the report was received through the Settlement Stakeholder Committee, a community survey, a public County and Municipal Leadership Input Session and through conversations. The Settlement Stakeholder Committee explored service gaps, existing services, root causes, shared vision, opportunities to build on related planning and key indicators to measure progress towards the shared vision.

Opioid Settlement – Feedback Themes: These include addressing root causes; prioritizing strategies focusing equally on prevention and treatment; directing more funds to fewer initiatives, not few funds to a lot of initiatives so that funding levels are sufficient for impact. It is also realized that some recommendations may be able to be implemented within existing infrastructure, without additional funding (e.g., education, dashboards); and/or may be currently funded with non-settlement dollars (e.g., Recovery to Work grant, media campaign grant, and training – county funded).

Opioid Settlement – Shared Vision for Positive Community Change: The Opioid Settlement Committee envisions communities where the needs of every person are met holistically and timely, free of stigma and judgment, and rich with hope and acceptance. Communities where the supports to achieve goals and dreams, whatever those goals and dreams are, are accessible to all. A place where we are knowledgeable and equipped to make informed decisions and where individuals, children, and families receive long-term healing supports. A community skilled and equipped with resources to recognize trauma, and navigate from trauma to healing.

The four recommended strategies are: treatment, support, harm reduction and prevention.

Next Steps: Issue a Request for Proposal to identify providers for the approved strategies; continued touchpoints of the Committee to assure strategies remain relevant to community need; annual County and Municipal leadership input session; routine monitoring of measures to track the impact of implemented strategies; and strategy recommendations to Board of County Commissioners every four years, or more often, if new strategy needs are recommended.

New Business:

HHS Board Recommendation: Ms. Parker spoke about the opening on the Health and Human Services Board for a Psychologist. She shared that they received one application and everyone should have received the applicant's questionnaire and resume. Ms. Parker explained the Board could make a recommendation on the one application and send it to the Board of Commissioners or they could wait for another name to be nominated. Dr. Massler made a motion to approve Dr. Brooke Griffith, who applied for the Psychologist position and Mr. El-Amin seconded. A roll call was taken and Ms. Parker announced the Board passed the motion to approve the nomination for Psychologist (Dr. Brooke Griffith). Ms. Robinson stated, the motion will go to the Board of Commissioners at their next meeting.

Educational Opportunity – Stepping Up and Mental Health Court – Ms. Amber Humble, introduced herself as the Stepping Up Supervisor – she started in December of 2016. Ms. Humble gave a presentation on the Stepping Up Program, which has two programs underneath it - the SUPER Program is the Stepping Up Process to End Recidivism and the Forsyth County Mental Health Court. Ms. Humble shared that in the SUPER Program, they focus on helping those individuals that have mental health and substance abuse issues and may or may not have criminal justice involvement – their primary focus is with those who have criminal justice involvement. With COVID, Ms. Humble said they had to shift to also include those people in the community who may not have any criminal justice involvement. Primarily they get a referral, go to the jail and do a mental health and substance use screen on the individuals who are referred. They use those screens and their scores as an objective way to say they are eligible for the program.

Once individuals are deemed eligible, a case manager will go to the jail with the individual and work on a recovery plan – very equivalent to what providers in the community do in a treatment plan. Ms. Humble explained they are looking at what are the things that you need in order when you get back out in the community in order not to go back in jail. They start with the basics (i.e., ID, Social Security card, birth certificate) – if you do not have those three things, sometimes you can not get a job, go and see a treatment provider to start your treatment. After those three things, Ms. Humble said they look at things such as do you have housing, do you need disability benefits, do you need food stamps, Medicaid, or any kind of social requirements for employment like helping people get vehicles, etc.

Ms. Humble said that for a year to a year and a half, the work in the community with the individuals trying to get them linked to everything that was identified on the recovery plan. They review every three months to see if anything has changed, if the individual met a goal or if anything needs to be added.

Ms. Humble reported that she has two peer support specialists on staff, Mr. Alphonso Thomas and Ms. Pamela Goodine and stated “they are awesome people”. Ms. Humble spoke very highly of Mr. Thomas and Ms. Goodine saying they have experience that she personally can not share with the participants. They are able to walk hand in hand with the participants through their recovery and share what strategies they used along the way – the participants have a support group and are expected to attend the support group two times a month (Thursdays at 10:00am). Ms. Humble said the case managers work with the participants on everything else.

According to Ms. Humble, in order to be eligible, you have to be at least 18 years old. They will work with 16 and 17 year olds because to her knowledge they still put those in jail until the laws changed over in North Carolina. However, their Guardian would have to agree. The participants must be Forsyth County residents (the program is funded by the Forsyth County Commissioners) and they have to have mental health or substance abuse disorder.

Ms. Humble stated that the program is voluntary, unless the individual is court ordered by either jail diversion or it is a delegated authority. She added they are not allowed to work with people who are on the sex offender registry. Participants are expected to check in with the program weekly, attend support groups and attend their mental health and substance abuse treatment because that is the big push for the program. Ms. Humble stated that participants are expected to not get any new charges, because that is the recidivism part, and refraining from any illegal drug use or at least be practicing some harm reduction efforts – that is SUPER in a nutshell.

Ms. Gloria Whisenhunt, asked Ms. Humble to speak about the graduation. Ms. Humble responded we have a graduation and since our theme is SUPER, you have SUPER men, you have SUPER women graduating. They put on capes and walk down the aisle to their graduation. We are expected to have another graduation in February of next year. Ms. Whisenhunt urged everyone to come to the graduation. She spoke about the first time she attended one, and how awesome and emotional it was see the graduates walk down the aisle. Dr. Edwards mentioned seeing the graduation covered on the news. Ms. Humble said the sheriff attended so they got a lot of coverage and she felt that a lot of the news story actually focused on the participants that were graduating.

Ms. Sharon Rimm asked if kids who are a part of the foster care system can participate in the program. Ms. Humble responded if they are 16 or 17, they will try but they primarily work with adults. She added, the service array for children are much different than adults and most of their expertise is in adult services.

Dr. Massler asked Ms. Humble if they work with alcohol and drugs and Ms. Humble responded yes, any substance.

Ms. Humble spoke about Mental Health Court, saying it has been in the community since 2012. She explained that the Mental Health Court is a pre-plea court for people who have severe mental illness – they are working with individuals that have schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, or schizoaffective disorder.

Individuals with pending criminal charges are move into this court. They are expected to be in behavioral health treatment. Individuals attend court twice a month (2nd and 4th Wednesdays), in which they get a report from their providers prior to every court date, telling how they are doing. At that time, Ms. Rebecca Riddell, Stepping Up, puts the report together and sends it to the treatment team with the Mental Health Court. The treatment team consists of the judge, public defender, DA's office, Ms. Humble and her staff. Mr. Andy Hagler, Mental Health Association and Ms. Louise Wilton, NAMI are also on that team. The team reviews the treatment report and based on the report, they decide if the participant gets a promotion, are doing well, they are compliant and also they decided if they need to give out any sanctions or any kind of therapeutic responses. Ms. Humble stated that they do have sanctions in that court that start with things as easy as having to write an essay on what is the purpose of mental health court, what can you get out of it – the paper is normally at least two pages. They then go to things like community

service and jail time is one of those options, as the sanction, consider going back to previous phase, and then expulsion.

Ms. Humble stated that the really good thing about this court is that once you graduate, all your charges are dismissed. Ms. Humble said you have to be motivated and willing to follow the mental health court guidelines and, of course agree to engage in their treatment and all the recommendations of their provider.

Committee Updates

FROST Committee: Mr. Blalock, on behalf of committee members, Ms. Weston and Ms. Rimm reported the following:

Mr. Blalock complimented Ms. Price on the great presentation she gave earlier incorporating a FROST update and the information regarding the opioid settlement. Mr. Blalock stated that he, Ms. Weston, and Ms. Rimm continue to connect with Ms. Price and Ms. Amanda Clark on a monthly basis, to understand how they can support the team. Mr. Blalock said the FROST Committee is very excited about the opportunities that could be advanced through settlement dollars, especially for strategies focused on prevention and harm reduction within the community. Mr. Blalock also shared that the committee is proud of the continued the media attention regarding the naloxone vending machine in the detention center. The vending machine has been very successful to help increase the supply of naloxone in the community; however, it has also created a new challenge with maintaining supply. Mr. Blalock knows that Ms. Price and Ms. Clark are focused on strategies to replenish the naloxone supply and are working in partnership with the Winston-Salem Police Department and the Sheriff's Office. The team is also evaluating options for utilization of lower cost Narcan supplies, when appropriate.

Mr. Blalock announced that the last FROST meeting was in mid-October. They had some guest presentations from Triad Therapy Wake Forest CTN Study and Healthy Brain and Child Development Study. Ms. Clark also provided an update on the opioid settlement to the FROST task force. The next meeting is on January 18th.

Legislative: Dr. Petrou had no report – they will not be coming back until January.

HHS Board Member Shadowing – Moment of Reflection:

Dr. James Doub shared that in the beginning of the pandemic, vaccine supplies were short and people were desperate to get vaccines – we were counting every dose we had. During the vaccine clinics, we were careful about opening vaccine vials, because we did not want to waste a single dose. Later when vaccines were more available, at times they were not used and reached expiration dates because more were available, than requested – some had to be discarded. Dr. Doub's question for Mr. Swift was did the available amounts of vaccine meet demands and no longer did vaccines have to be destroyed, due to surplus. This was a complete opposite from the beginning when supplies were short. Mr. Swift responded basically, we did not want the guidance just totally flipped from the State, where before we were called by everybody, for vaccine. Vaccines were gold in the beginning and we worked hard to ensure no wasted doses had to be destroyed. Now, we do not want to miss an opportunity, so if we have to draw up one dose from a vial, we do it.

Ms. Whisenhunt mentioned what was going on in the media about the problems the Commissioners are having with the Forsyth County Humane Society. She told Board members that they had seen tonight, a fraction of what the county spends their money on and they are working – they have another meeting tomorrow with the Director of the Forsyth County Humane Society. Ms. Whisenhunt was doubtful they could give the \$1.5 million that the Humane Society was asking for. She stated they had received over 350 emails from citizens – some not very nice. Ms. Whisenhunt expressed that they care about what the Humane Society does for our citizens and what they do for animals but there are a lot of services that the county have to provide for and we try but it is difficult, so what you read in the paper sometimes is not always so.

Mr. El-Amin shared that Wake Forest Divinity School has started a program called Interfaith Ambassadors. The goal of this program is to deal with the stigma associated with HIV. Mr. El-Amin was selected to be a part of this program. Ms. Humble asked if they are plugged into our POSSE team and Mr. El-Amin responded he was not sure. Ms. Robinson mentioned duplicating services and Mr. El-Amin stated he would make it a point to make sure they are not duplicating services.

Adjourn:

Ms. Parker asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Seats made a motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

SR/lgc

Next Meeting: February 1, 2023 - 5:30pm