

HHSINSIGHT



FORSYTH COUNTY Health and Human Services

What is HHS?

HHS stands for Health and Human Services. Forsyth HHS's mission is to advance well-being, safety, and self-sufficiency for all residents. We accomplish this by engaging in community partnerships, education, and regulation and by providing essential coordinated services to address existing and emerging issues. The Health and Human Services departments consist of Behavioral Health Services, Bridges to Hope Family Justice Center, Public Health, and Social Services.

The County Commissioners appoint an HHS board that serves in an advisory capacity and have statutory responsibilities for Public Health and Social Services. The current HHS Board Chair is Heather Parker. The current HHS Director is Shontell Robinson, who also serves as a Deputy County Manager.

Message from the HHS Director

There are many recognition months throughout the year, and I wanted to take the opportunity to highlight a few of them:

Special thank you to all our social workers who celebrated **Social Worker** month in March. The theme was "Empowering Social Workers!" This was an opportunity to recognize the positive contributions our social workers make every day to serve the community.

April is **Public Health** month. The theme is "Protecting, Connecting, and Thriving: We are all Public Health." As many know, Public Health was on the front lines leading our community through COVID (on top of their other daily tasks). We thank our public health team for their continued hard work, perseverance, and commitment!

April is **Child Abuse Prevention** month. This is an opportunity for the community to come together to raise awareness about child abuse. Child abuse is 100% preventable! Preventing child abuse and building strong, safe, and healthy children and families benefits our entire community.

April is **Second Chance** month. This is a time to remember the obstacles faced by individuals returning to our community after leaving prisons or jails. Reentry programs help individuals to rebuild their lives and reintegrate back into communities. Forsyth County is a second chance employer and open to individuals who are interested in county jobs.

May is **Mental Health Awareness** month. We join the national movement to raise awareness about mental health. Together, we fight stigma around mental illness and mental health conditions. If you or someone you know is suffering, you can call, text, or chat **988**.

Let us join together to recognize the significance of these months in our community! If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me at (336) 703-2020 or robinsa@forsyth.cc.

Best Regards,

Shontell A. Robinson
Deputy County Manager/HHS Director

Learn More About HHS

We want to ensure our residents are aware of the many services and resources that Health and Human Services offers. Below includes information on several programs, services, and resources:

Men's Health Program

The Men's Health program is a male based community outreach program that helps men become knowledgeable of chronic diseases and prevention. The program focuses on chronic diseases and other health topics, such as nutrition, physical activity, mental health, and dad and son relationships. For more information about the Men's Health program, please call 336-703-3366.

Preventive Dental Health Program

We are pleased to recognize 50 years of service from the Preventive Dental Health Program, the longest-running program in Public Health. The goal of the program is to help the community, particularly children, create healthy smiles that will last a lifetime by providing non-clinical, preventative dental health services including, but not limited to, oral health assessments and referrals for children within Forsyth County. The education provided by our dedicated team of specially trained public health hygienists has helped Forsyth County stay one step ahead of dental disease since 1974. While our community has grown and evolved over the years, our commitment to disease prevention and overall health promotion has not wavered. For more information about the dental program, please call (336) 703-3090.

Stepping Up Initiative

The Forsyth County Stepping Up Initiative houses two programs: Stepping Up Process to End Recidivism (SUPER) and the Mental Health Court (MHC). The goal of both programs is to help participants to prevent recidivism (returning to jail).

- The SUPER program provides screening, recovery planning, peer support, and case management to persons who have mental health or substance use disorders. The program serves men and women who have criminal justice involvement and assists those who may not have any legal issues.
- The MHC program is a court supervised treatment program for people who have been identified as having a mental illness, pending charges, and have agreed to participate in the program. MHC is a pre-plea court that links eligible defendants to treatment and support services that help them better manage their mental health. Charges are dismissed upon graduation from the program.

Learn more about both programs by calling (336) 703-2606.

SUN Bucks

North Carolina's newest food assistance program will begin in summer 2024. SUN Bucks will provide grocery-buying benefits to qualifying families with school-aged children during the summer months when schools are on summer break. SUN Bucks is sometimes referred to as Summer EBT.

SUN Bucks benefits are issued to debit-like cards (EBT cards) that families can use to purchase nutritious food. Beginning in summer 2024, families will receive \$120 per eligible child for the summer period. Please click here for more information: [SUN Bucks | NCDHHS](#)

Unseen Patterns

Unseen Patterns: The Overdose Story Revealed in Forsyth County, NC is a new publicly accessible online Storymap developed by MapForsyth in collaboration with Behavioral Health Services. The Storymap highlights overdose data collected by Forsyth County first responders through maps, dashboards, and textual analysis. Please click here to view the Storymap: [Unseen Patterns \(arcgis.com\)](#)

Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC)

WIC is a federally funded health and nutrition program for women, infants, and children. WIC helps families by providing checks for buying healthy supplemental foods from WIC-authorized vendors, nutrition education, and help finding healthcare and other community services. Participants must meet eligibility requirements. WIC is open Monday through Friday and offers extended hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information, please call (336) 703-3336.

Community Partnership Highlight

Bridges to Hope Family Justice Center, Forsyth County Government, and Wake Forest School of Medicine hosted *Collaboration for Safety and Accountability of Nonfatal Strangulation*, March 8th, 8:30 am-2:00 pm at Forsyth County Central Library. The Honorable Jim O'Neill, Forsyth County District Attorney, offered opening remarks regarding his experiences as a prosecutor and how his knowledge of the topic has expanded through the years.

Presenters and topics included:

Dr. Elizabeth Goodman, DNP, MSN, BSN, APRN, FNP-C, AFN-BC, CEN, SANE-A, SANE-P
Child Protection Team. Department of Pediatrics
Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist
Medical Considerations of Strangulation

Elisabeth Dresel, JD
Assistant District Attorney
Forsyth County
Strangulation: A Legal Update—Criminal Options

Daniel Joyce, JD
Managing Attorney
Legal Aid of North Carolina, Winston-Salem Office
Strangulation: Civil Options

DeWanna Hamlin, MA
Director
Bridges to Hope Family Justice Center
Role of Bridges to Hope Family Justice Center in Safety and Accountability of Nonfatal Strangulation

The event also included The Honorable Valene McMasters, JD, District Court Judge, Forsyth County, who provided a perspective from her role as part of the local judiciary. Judge McMasters offered insight on trauma-informed courts, her role and responsibility in the court system, and factors she considers in criminal and civil cases related to interpersonal violence.

Participants represented a wide range of disciplines including law enforcement, healthcare providers, social workers, advocates, public health professionals, civil and criminal court systems, academia, and other human services providers. The training culminated in facilitated discussion from participants for creating recommended guidelines for Forsyth County for responding to survivors of interpersonal violence who experience nonfatal strangulation.



Upcoming Events

Our HHS team works hard every day to serve our community. We participate in many community events throughout the year that are hosted by others, and we sometimes host our own events. Below are several upcoming events that we will be hosting **in partnership with other organizations**.* Our event schedules do change regularly, so please follow us on our website and social media for the most updated information. Check out page 5 for ways to “Connect With Us!”

April 3rd, May 1st, and June 5th - 1:00pm-4:00pm - Community Support Resource Fair at the Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA) Clark Campbell Transportation Center, 100 West Fifth Street in Winston-Salem
**A HHS and WSTA collaboration that unites community*

April 10th - 5:30pm-7:30pm - Healthy Forsyth Community Conversation at Second New Bethel Baptist Church, 1900 New Walkertown Road in Winston-Salem

April 10th and June 19th - 1:00pm-6:00pm - Remarkable You Health Screening Event at El Buen Samaritano Wesleyan, 2800 Ludwig Street in Winston-Salem
**A collaboration between HHS and Novant Health*

April 24th - 9:00am-11:00am - Resource Café: Basic Needs and Transportation, at Goodwill Industries, 2701 University Parkway in Winston-Salem
**A collaboration with HHS, Goodwill, Love Out Loud, and Piedmont Triad Regional Council*

April 27th - 12:00pm-3:00pm - Piedmont Park Community Event at Piedmont Park, 1130 East 29th Street in Winston-Salem
**A collaboration with HHS, ForsythWINS, and Housing Authority of Winston-Salem*

May 4th - 9:00am-12:00pm - Rural Hall Community Health Fair at Rural Hall Town Hall, 423 Bethania Rural Hall
**In collaboration with HHS, Town of Rural Hall, and Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office*

June 6th - 4:00pm-7:00pm HHS SchoolsOUT Event at Forsyth County Health and Human Services Campus, 799 N. Highland Avenue in Winston-Salem

HHS Team In Action

Below are a few pictures of our team, along with many community partners, over the last few months:



WeCare

Everything we do at Forsyth County is driven by our Shared Principles, known as WeCare. These principles are a uniting force, connecting us across departments, divisions, and functional areas. These values shape the organization's culture and enables us to make us a positive difference throughout our workplace and community.

INTEGRITY

We do what's right. Integrity is the impartial and honest standard by which we make decisions and take actions, large and small, every day. In our practices, integrity is a mandatory standard.

AWARENESS

We strive to gain an understanding of how each department fits into the big picture to make a difference for our employees and this community.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We take personal responsibility. We hold each other accountable for our actions. We learn and grow to develop skills to better serve the community.

RESPECT

We treat all people with dignity and respect. We value diversity and inclusion throughout our workplace and our community.

EXCELLENCE

We encourage forward thinking. We strive to find new ways to innovate and improve service to our citizens.

We care about our customers' experience, so please let us know how we're doing. Click here to provide us with feedback as we are committed to continuous improvement: <https://forsyth.cc/feedback.aspx>

County Jobs

We have many job opportunities available. We offer competitive pay and benefits, including medical, dental, vision, and life and disability insurances. We also provide generous paid leave benefits and a 2.5% contribution to the 401(k) plan. All employees participate in the Local Government Retirement System (LGRS), a pension plan that is one of the most secure and responsibly managed defined benefit plans in the nation.

To learn more about our jobs and to apply, please click the below links:

[New Year New Career! Join Team Forsyth Job Opportunities | Careers at Forsyth County](#)



Connect With Us

There are always lots of things happening in the County, and there are many ways for you to stay connected. Check us out on the following:

County Website: <https://forsyth.cc/>

HHS website: <https://forsyth.cc/hhs/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ForsythCountyNC> and <https://www.facebook.com/FCDPH>

County Connections: <https://connectwith.forsythcountync.gov/>

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/forsythcountync>

Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/people/forsythcountync/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@forsythcountygovernmentnor8016>

Board of County Commissioners



Don Martin, Chair
 Dan Besse
 Tonya McDaniel
 Richard Linville

Gloria Whisenhunt, Vice Chair
 David Plyler
 Malishai Woodbury

Commissioners meet most Thursdays at 2:00pm at the Forsyth County Government Center. Please click here for the updated schedule and more information: https://forsyth.cc/Commissioners/meeting_schedule.aspx

Health and Human Services Board

Heather Parker, Chair
 John Blalock
 Carmelita Coleman
 John Davenport
 Dr. James Doub
 Dr. Palmer Edwards
 Dr. Brooke Griffith
 Dr. Calvert Jeffers
 Dr. Charles Massler

Fleming El-Amin, Vice Chair
 Dr. Linda Petrou
 Dr. Sharon Pettiford
 Sharon Rimm
 Dr. Peter Robie
 J. Phil Seats
 Dr. Ricky Sides
 Gloria Whisenhunt

The HHS Board meets at 5:30pm at the Public Health Department on a bi-monthly basis. The 2024 meeting dates are as follows: February 7, April 3, June 5, August 7, October 2, and December 4.

Health and Human Services Leadership Team

Shontell Robinson, HHS Director/Deputy County Manager
 DeWanna Hamlin, Bridges to Hope Director
 Denise Price, Behavioral Health Services Director
 Christa Smith, Social Services Director
 Joshua Swift, Public Health Director