

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF GUILFORD COUNTY
WORK SESSION**

Greensboro, North Carolina

October 5, 2017

The Board of County Commissioners met in a duly noticed Work Session at 3:00 PM in the John H. McAdoo Conference Room, BB&T Building 201 West Market Street, Greensboro NC.

Present: Chairman Jeff Phillips; Vice Chairman Alan Branson; Commissioners Justin Conrad, Alan Perdue, Kay Cashion; J. Carlvena Foster (in at 3:20PM)

Absent: Carolyn Coleman; Melvin “Skip” Alston

Also Present: County Manager Marty Lawing, Deputy County Manager Clarence Grier, County Attorney Mark Payne; Clerk to Board Robin Keller, Merle Green DHHS – Public Health Division Director, Larry Reece Senior Vice President of Wells Fargo, Lynda Clyne, Senior Accountant Executive Wells Fargo members of the community and members of the Media.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Phillips welcomed those present and called the meeting to order at 3:17PM

County Manager Marty Lawing reviewed the Work Session Agenda with the Board.

2. DHHS – Public Health Financial Report Update

DHHS Public Health Division Director, Merle Green, reviewed the requirements of accreditation, and noted that there are over 147 bench marks in order to maintain accreditation. Green provided each commissioner with copies of the Board of Health Operational manuals, and stressed the impacts of lead poisoning throughout the County. She stated that the issue of lead poisoning is of paramount concern in North Carolina. Green discussed the roles of the Board of Health, and stressed that it is the Board’s duty to stay abreast to health issues facing the County. Green reviewed several health related topics such as seasonal issues and trends, and discussed the importance of flu shots and their availability throughout the County.

Public Health Agency Business Manager, Barbara Grady, provided updates on essential services including the FY 18 Budget Revenue figures, and subsequent departmental total budget. She delineated between the 49% county allocation, and the 51% derived from other revenue sources. She provided a breakout of the budgeted expenses by division, and noted several specific services that the Public Health Department cannot outsource and must be provided by the County.

Green elaborated on the essential details of those services. She stated that almost 5.7M is allocated to run these particular essential services, and further noted that it is a County requirement to provide funding for those services.

Grady outlined several issues including unplanned state budget cuts, which resulted in 144K revenue reduction in the maternal and Child health programs.

Green noted that they were able to absorb the unplanned budget cuts without the need for additional funding requests in this fiscal year, and advised that, due to the early notification during this budget season of cuts from the state, they predict additional cuts throughout the year. Green implored the Board to consider locating additional funds to support the demand in service needs. She elaborated on the budget issues that arise throughout the budget year, and emphasized the need for additional grant funding and alternative sources of funding as an attempt to curtail additional public health service expenses.

3. DHHS – Public Health Review and Approve Annual Agency Guidelines

Public Health Deputy Director Ken Carter provided an overview of the Board of Health Guideline revisions. Carter noted that text changes and amendments have been reviewed by Commissioner Conrad as the Board's designee.

Commissioner Conrad noted that it was uncharacteristic of the Board to make motions during a work session, but suggested that given the administrative function of the approvals he would support approving the item in a work session.

Commissioner Conrad made a motion to approve the annual agency guidelines, seconded by Vice Chairman Branson. The motion carried unanimously

Carter reviewed a recent local rule recently adopted by the Board for post-exposure rabies standards to be added to the local health rules. Carter stated that now that the legislature has approved. And, noted additional legislative standards for lead poisoning that will be brought before the Board for further consideration during the Board's regular monthly meetings.

Chairman Phillips thanked staff on behalf of the citizens for their work in Public Health and for keeping the Board informed.

4. Hold Closed Session Pursuant N.C.G.S. 143.11 For Purpose of Discussing Privileged/Confidential Information, Contract Renegotiations, and Consultation with the County Attorney

Commissioner Perdue made motion to Hold Closed Session Pursuant N.C.G.S. 143.11 For Purpose of Discussing Privileged/Confidential Information, Contract Renegotiations, and

Consultation with the County Attorney, seconded by Commissioner Conrad. Motion carried unanimously.

Board entered Closed session at 3:40PM

Board reconvened from Closed Session at 4:08PM

Commissioner Cashion made a motion that Guilford County continue administrative contract with United Health care for three years, seconded by Branson and to allow staff to take any and all necessary measures to execute the agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Consider Approval of Group Health Plan 3rd Party Administrative Agreement/ Medicare Advantage Renewal

Wells Fargo Senior Account Executive, Linda Clyne, reviewed the County's Medicare Advantage plan. She stated that there are more than 800 members on this plan, and that the County recently went out for bid for the plan renewal. Clyne reviewed the bid submissions and stated that they were able to renegotiate with United Health Care (UHC) with only a 8.5% increase; however, Clyne stressed that the increase was due to ACH fee increases. Clyne noted that UHC's bid was still the top bidder and would be their recommendation to continue with them.

Lawing stated that these additional fees apply to all insurance plans including vision and dental plans.

Chairman Phillips clarified the second column data as it reflected the current plan, with all fees associated within the plan, are unchanged, except for the ACH insurer fee increasing.

Wells Fargo Senior Vice President Larry Reece confirmed and stated if that if the ACH fee is repealed then additional \$20.12 per month per employee would go away.

Chairman Phillips noted the approximate \$20 increase for those on the Medicare Advantage plan for the retirees. He inquired about several aspects of the plan including the fees that needed to be absorbed by the County and those passed down to employees should the ACH fee not be repealed, and questioned if the renewal was a multi-year proposal, and if the formal recommendation was to maintain the current plan structure.

Clyne noted that Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BCBS) was not able to match the County's existing plan. She noted that BCBS offered equal co-pays; however, there was significant disruption in prescription coverage and increases in tiers and loss of medication coverage.

Wells Fargo staff indicated that they are annual renewals, with increases each year, and confirmed that is the recommendation.

Vice Chairman Branson questioned the number of retirees that would be impacted.

Mr. Reece stated there are 830 plan participants which includes eligible spouses, and roughly equates to a 200K increase if the County was included to absorb those costs.

Commissioner Cashion questioned if any consideration had been given to the budget for the allotted increase

Lawing stated that the County did not anticipate an increase for the Medicare Advantage and as such there was no additional funds appropriated with the budget to absorb the costs.

Commissioner Perdue questioned the effective date for the plan to begin.

Lawing stated that it would be January of 2018.

Commissioner Cashion questioned if the plan were to change, would the change occur before the plan took effect in January.

Reece stated that they would not, but members would need to enroll during the open enrollment period.

County Attorney Mark Payne offered a subsequent option where the County could absorb the costs over a set period of time.

Commissioner Perdue stated given the hastiness of the timeline, and subsequent increases, it did not provide much time for retirees to make preparations.

Commissioner Cashion echoed Perdue's concerns regarding the short time for retirees to prepare, and shared that she would be inclined to support the County absorbing the fees.

Commissioner Conrad shared that he would support absorbing some of the fees regarding the retirees to reduce the burden, and recommended absorbing the costs over the preliminary months which would be a 6-month total time period for retirees, effective April 1.

Vice Chairman Branson expressed concerned with the steady increase of insurance. He did note that the County's current plan is very rich.

The board discussed various options and the impact to the retirees.

Vice Chairman Branson made a motion to move forward to approve the plan as presented with the proposed increases to be effective January 1, seconded by Hank Henning.

Human Resources Manager Carol Campbell noted that October begins Open enrollment period for retirees will have the option to re-enroll, or go out to the market per their volition. She stated that if they leave the plan they do not have the option to return.

Chairman Phillips noted that there is a large increase to the plan regarding the retirees.

Campbell stated that they predicted that membership on the plan will continue to rise, and stated that 33.61, but if the ACH tax stays it will go up to 53.73 per plan member.

Discussion ensued among the Board concerning the rising costs, and general expenditure costs to the plan.

Commissioner Cashion recognized that the County's Medicare plan is exceptionally rich and is a strong plan.

Commissioner Henning echoed the quality of the plan and shared that with the increasing in healthcare costs he is more inclined to support the motion.

Motion Carried on a 5:2 Vote

AYES: J. Phillips, A. Branson, A. Perdue, J. Conrad, H. Henning

NOES: C. Foster, K. Cashion

6. Receive Update on the Family Justice Center (FJC) High Point Expansion

Chairman Phillips introduced the item. He stated that since the sub-committee had not yet had an opportunity to meet to discuss specific costs, the purpose of the meeting today would not be to necessarily make a finalized decision. Phillips shared that he would rather see a well-vetted proposal.

Family Justice Center Director, Catherine Johnson, shared that they held a very successful Camp Hope, and shared that the program is now a year-long program. She emphasized the unique quality of the program as it is the first program that they have done on prevention and how to break the cycle of abuse. Johnson stressed how pleased staff is regarding the turnout last August. She provided an update on the launch of the Elder Justice Committee, which is a community-wide prevention program on reducing fraud, abuse, and exploitation. She stated that they piloted the program in Gibsonville and observed great success, and are moving forward to present the program to the state. Johnson stated that they have had over 1,200 victims to present since opening the center. Johnson reviewed the statistics for victim's reasons for visits. With the primary purpose seeking 50B and 50Cs, Johnson emphasized that one of the primary drivers for the program is the court calendars. She noted that most citizens first involvement tends to be associated with law enforcement.

Commissioner Foster inquired about how the families were selected for consideration to the program.

Johnson indicated that there was not, and that court and jail is based by the Administrative Office of the Courts where a majority of the cases come from those who are assigned to the Greensboro Courthouse with the majority of clients residing in Greensboro.

Chairman Phillips noted the increased participation.

Johnson confirmed that the number of calls received by law enforcement has not undergone a significant change, nor has the court referrals changed; however, they attribute the increase to better promotion and education of our community.

Commissioner Henning stated that if an FJC were introduced in High Point, questioned the volume of calls the FJC might receive.

Johnson stated that she would predict that they would most likely begin with 10-15 per day in the first year with an increase in the second year. She noted that while we can support them but not at the level that they need.

Vice Chairman Branson questioned those traveling from Oak Ridge, Stokesdale, and Whitsett.

Commissioner Cashion clarified that the Office of Administrative Court assigns the location of the courthouses.

Chairman Phillips sought clarification for the number of domestic related homicides in the County, and noted that at one point Guilford County had the highest rate of domestic violence related deaths in the state. He indicated that since the opening of the FJC in Greensboro the number has reduced exponentially, and conversely noted that the number of domestic violence related deaths are increasing in High Point area.

Johnson stated that statistically the FJC can equip families for safety planning especially those who are involved in court related cases.

Commissioner Cashion stated that she sees the FJC as an excellent and proven prevention and intervention program, and noted that when the County agreed to open the Greensboro site, the Board intended at a later date to consider the expansion of an FJC into High Point. She asked that she would hope that the Board consider this. She emphasized that she would like to call a meeting of the FJC committee and come back to the board with specific expansion figures.

Commissioner Conrad questioned if the High Point Courthouse served Guilford County cases in addition to city cases. He shared his support of hearing more information from the committee, and emphasized the importance of the topic which needs to be addressed. He remarked that there

were over 12K citizens in crisis that received services, and stressed that the FJC is a dire service in need of the Board's focus.

Commissioner Cashion reiterated Conrad's sentiments, and further stated that it is a program that is committed to saving lives and families and should be a priority in the County.

Commissioner Foster spoke in detail concerning the need for extensive access to services, and recognized that the bulk of the domestic violent homicides occur in High Point. She noted the challenges facing those that seek services whom are forced to alternate between the High Point Courthouse and the Greensboro Family Justice Center. She hoped that the Board would continue to obtain a robust consensus and move forward with an FJC in High Point.

Vice Chair Branson sought clarification for the number of examples where a multitude of FJC-type centers exist in a single county.

Johnson provided several examples as a policy of best practice where Family Justice Centers exist extensively alongside county courthouses.

Commissioner Perdue inquired about the critical necessity that an FJC be located in proximity to a courthouse, and if a pin map could be established to identify those domestic violence calls that could essentially expedite and match the necessary resources among areas of high demand.

Johnson stated that the effectiveness of the Greensboro Family Justice Center is that it stands in the line of site of the courthouse, thereby ensuring its overall success.

The Board expressed a consensus for having the committee provide a detailed proposal in the near future for moving forward.

By general consensus, the Board agreed to a committee to provide a detailed proposal to consider moving forward with a High Point Family Justice Center.

7. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 5:09PM

