

MINUTES
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 9, 2019 – REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Transylvania County met in regular session on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in Commissioners' Chambers at the County Administration Building located at 101 S. Broad St., Brevard, NC.

Commissioners present were Will Cathey, Jason Chappell, Vice-Chairman David Guice and Chairman Mike Hawkins. Commissioner Page Lemel was unable to attend as she was participating in NC Association of County Commissioners' meetings in Durham. Also in attendance were County Manager Jaime Laughter, County Attorney Misti Bass and Clerk to the Board Trisha Hogan.

Media: *The Transylvania Times* – Derek McKissock

There were approximately 20 people in the audience.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Hawkins presiding certified that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

WELCOME

Chairman Hawkins welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Commissioners and staff in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were no agenda modifications from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Guice moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Cathey and unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Cathey moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Chappell and unanimously approved.

The following items were approved:

MINUTES

The Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, October 22, 2018 and following met in closed session in which the minutes were sealed. Commissioners approved the minutes of the October 22, 2018 Board of Commissioners' meeting and sealed closed session as presented.

AUTHORIZE COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE COPIER MAINTENANCE AND LEASE AGREEMENTS

The County issued a formal request for proposals for copier and printer equipment leases and maintenance agreements. Following evaluation of the proposals, staff recommended the proposal from Duraline Imaging because it best fits the County's operations and will result in a \$15,000 reduction in general fund expenditures for FY 2020. Commissioners authorized the County Manager to execute the copier lease and maintenance agreements on behalf of Transylvania County.

MODIFICATION OF SHERIFF'S TUITION ASSISTANCE RESERVE FUND REVENUE

Commissioners considered a request in May 2016 to designate jail phone and commissary revenue into a reserve fund at the FY 2017 Budget Workshop. Revenue funds from FY 2016, minus the expenses to administer jail inmate phone and commissary operation supplies, were immediately put into reserve with adoption of the budget in June 2016. The Board of Commissioners has full discretion on how all reserve funds are used in the fund balance reserve and may change the designation or parameters of usage at any time.

In November 2016, at the request of Sheriff Mahoney, the Board adopted a tuition reimbursement policy for the Sheriff's Office that outlined parameters for use of the reserve funds. The intent was to improve skill sets for law enforcement and aid in recruitment and retention as advocated by the Sheriff due to concerns over growing recruitment issues in the law enforcement profession. Commissioners also authorized the special purchase of a training simulator in 2018 from the reserve fund at the request of the Sheriff.

The Sheriff's Office has been in the process of negotiating a new service agreement governing the inmate telecommunication system installed in the Public Safety Facility. They have presented the County Manager with an agreement that would modify some of the associated funds that go into the designated reserve by requiring they be held in a separate reserve for a separate purpose.

In prior years, net revenue received from the operation of the inmate communications system and commissary sales had been allocated to reserves for the purpose of reimbursing personnel in the Sheriff's Office for tuition, plus the recent purchase of the training simulator. This contract impacts those revenues and would need to be considered due to its potential impact on these programs. The County should enter into the contract only if they agree with the terms and are willing to direct staff to modify previous direction.

The Sheriff's Office requested approval of the contract. Should the Board agree, the Finance department will need to set up a Sheriff/Jail Technology Reserve Fund. For future expenses, Commissioners must approve appropriations from those funds either with approval of the annual budget or through budget amendments.

Commissioners approved the contract as requested.

FY 19-20 RENEWAL OF CORRECTIONAL HEALTH SERVICES AGREEMENT

The Sheriff's Office requested modifications to the current contract with Wellpath to reflect a credit to the County for services during the current fiscal year due to the replacement of a full time RN with a full time LPN, thus netting an annual cost savings of \$10,745. The new contract total for FY 2019 would be \$160,994.60. In addition, Wellpath requested renewal of the contract for FY 2020 to include the same, plus a price adjustment of the CPI increase of 1.9% for a total of \$163,673.48. Since the budget for FY 2020 has not yet been approved, the Board of Commissioners must authorize the County Manager to sign the contract revision and renewal committing the funds to the contract for the portion impacting FY 2020.

Commissioners authorized the County Manager to sign the revised contract for FY 2019 and the contract renewal for FY 2020.

PROCLAMATION-GUARDIAN AD LITEM CHILD ADVOCATE MONTH

Ed Buckley serves as a Guardian ad Litem Child Advocate for children in Transylvania County. Governor Cooper recently proclaimed April 2019 as Guardian ad Litem Child Advocate Month in North Carolina. Mr. Buckley asked Commissioners to proclaim the same for Transylvania County. The Guardian ad Litem program provides independent, trained court advocates to represent and promote the best interest of abused, neglected or dependent children involved in the court. Chairman Hawkins read aloud the proclamation. Commissioners approved Proclamation 09-2019 Guardian ad Litem Child Advocate Month.

**PROCLAMATION # 09-2019
GUARDIAN AD LITEM CHILD ADVOCATE MONTH**

WHEREAS, Governor Roy Cooper has proclaimed April 2019 as “**GUARDIAN AD LITEM CHILD ADVOCATE MONTH**” in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Guardian ad Litem Program, celebrating more than 36 years of child advocacy, has a distinguished record of public service through its work to enhance the quality of life for children; and

WHEREAS, Guardian ad Litem volunteers come from a variety of professional, educational, and personal backgrounds, and act as advocates for abused and neglected children in the complicated and often unfamiliar court and child welfare systems; and

WHEREAS, the court appoints Guardian ad Litem advocates to serve as officers, helping to improve the quality of information presented to the court by acting as the court’s eyes and ears in the child’s life; and

WHEREAS, every child deserves a voice in court, but more than 2,252 children across the State do not have a Guardian ad Litem volunteer; and

WHEREAS, abuse and neglect have long-term personal, economic, and social costs, hurting children today and impacting North Carolina’s future; and

WHEREAS, April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, an observance that reflects the purpose of Guardian ad Litem programs, which is to protect and defend children from harm and ensure that abused and neglected children are provided with the court-ordered services they need; and

WHEREAS, April is recognized annually in the United States as a time to honor the contributions of volunteers through National Volunteer Month, and more than 5,400 Guardian ad Litem advocates donated more than 523,680 hours of service to the children of North Carolina in 2018;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of Transylvania does hereby proclaim April 2019 as “**GUARDIAN AD LITEM CHILD ADVOCATE MONTH**” in Transylvania County, and recommends its observance to all citizens.

This the 9th day of April, 2019.

S: //Mike Hawkins, Chair
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

BLUE RIDGE HEALTH UPDATE

Blue Ridge Health CEO Dr. Richard Hudspeth requested to present to the Board of Commissioners information about their current services and upcoming expansion. He has presented information to other governing boards as well, most recently to the Polk and Rutherford County Boards of Commissioners. Blue Ridge Health operates a community health center in Brevard and is in the process of expanding to a larger clinic. This is a summary of his presentation:

Our Mission

To provide comprehensive, quality healthcare that is accessible and affordable for all.

Blue Ridge Health is a private non-profit organization and is governed by a board that mandates their bylaws. Community health center regulations mandate that at least 51% of their board is made of patients who represent the community they serve. They provide comprehensive quality healthcare services. They operate on a sliding fee scale so no patient is turned away for their inability to afford services regardless of their insurance status.

Services Overview

- Comprehensive primary care
- Laboratory and radiology services
- Preventive services
- Prenatal, Intrapartum and perinatal
- Cancer and other disease screening
- Well child services
- Immunizations
- Family planning
- Preventive dental
- Mental health and Psychiatry
- Urgent Care
- Minor injuries
- Pharmacy
- Nutrition
- 24/7 access to care
- Eligibility workers
- Case management Interpreting
- Outreach and health education
- Transportation

Blue Ridge Health is a comprehensive primary care organization.

Service Area

The community health center is a nationwide organization and is the largest primary care network delivery system across the country. There are over 4,000 community health centers in the United States. In North Carolina, there are more than 40 community health centers. Blue Ridge Health currently operates in seven counties.

History

Blue Ridge Health was founded in 1963 as a migrant health center. In the mid-1980's they were designated a community health center. Later, Blue Ridge Health opened a pediatric practice and school-

based health centers. They also opened a dental clinic for both children and adults. In the mid-2000's, Blue Ridge Health integrated behavioral services, later followed by on-site pharmacies. The Transylvania County facility opened in 2012. Blue Ridge Health operates a Teaching Health Center so they have a collaborative relationship with MAHEC to recruit and train folks to practice in rural WNC. Blue Ridge Health continues to expand in counties in WNC.

Transylvania County Expansion

In the spring of 2012, Blue Ridge Health received funding to expand to Transylvania County. They have continued to seek grant funding to provide care of uninsured and underinsured residents of Transylvania County. Long time Transylvania County resident Dr. Latter joined Blue Ridge Health in the summer of 2015 where she provides prenatal and pediatric care.

Dr. Latter took over the presentation at this point. She reported that Blue Ridge Health has had tremendous growth in its services in Transylvania County. They streamlined access for clients of The Haven and SAFE. They began treatment for Hepatitis in 2017. In the same year, Blue Ridge Health welcomed PA Greg Bernardi to the team and expanded to include medication assisted treatment to help combat the opioid crisis. Last summer, Blue Ridge Health purchased larger space at the French Broad Place in order to increase capacity. They are currently working to acquire the funding to outfit the location for service provision. Earlier this year, Blue Ridge Health added an addiction psychiatrist/specialist to assist with the medication assisted treatment program.

Transylvania County Data

- Annual growth patient visits
 - FY 2016-17: 8,213
 - FY 2017-18: 11,448
 - FY 2018-19: 11,587
 - Fully staff office; contributes to need for additional space
- Percentage of patients by service line for FY 2018-19
 - 50% Medical
 - 27% Behavioral
 - 23% Dental
- Patient Mix
 - 45% sliding fee scale
 - 24% Medicaid
 - 21% commercial insurance
 - 10% Medicare

Community Collaboration

Blue Ridge Health takes advantage of the charity care program with Transylvania Regional Hospital to help their patients receive access to specialists. As mentioned earlier, they have an agreement with The Haven and SAFE to serve their clients. Their move into the new downtown location may open up opportunities to serve County employees and Brevard College. They also conduct health screenings for participants at the Cindy Platt Boys and Girls Club. The Transylvania County clinic is not large enough to host a pharmacy, so they partnered with Gordon Pharmacy to provide medications at a reduced rate. Blue Ridge Health has a great relationship with Pisgah Legal Services to serve their clients. Several local donors assist the agency with their funding needs.

This concluded the presentation. Chairman Hawkins called for questions and comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Chappell inquired about their timeframe for being operational in their new location at the French Broad Place. Dr. Hudspeth responded as soon as possible. He informed the Board that Blue Ridge Health has applied for the necessary permits. He noted it will be an expensive endeavor to accomplish the relocation because the new site is only a shell at this point. They are working on acquiring grant funding and other revenue sources to support the construction. Due to this fact, they do not have a set deadline for relocating because it will depend on their ability to receive funding.

Chairman Hawkins thanked Dr. Hudspeth and Dr. Latter for what they do for this community. He inquired about the percentage of patients seen for either medical, behavioral health or dental services and asked if Transylvania County was consistent with other service areas. Dr. Hudspeth stated that each site is slightly different, but for the most part it is consistent. Some sites do not provide dental services which will skew the percentages somewhat. Blue Ridge Health recently purchased a dental bus that will be able to go out into specific places around communities that are underserved and this may change the percentage served. Dr. Hudspeth reported that they try to integrate their medical and behavioral healthcare allowing them over the past few years to expand the availability of behavioral health services to their patients.

Chairman Hawkins inquired about the number of counselors Blue Ridge Health employs to provide services. Mr. Hudspeth said they added a second counselor in late 2018. They also added a part-time psychiatrist to assist with the opioid crisis, in addition to a nurse practitioner psychiatric prescriber part-time to assist with behavioral health services. Blue Ridge Health has counselors on staff every day and some form of prescriber there on most days. Dr. Latter added that they work within a great collaborative model to ensure their patients get the care they need.

Commissioner Cathey asked how many clients they serve with methamphetamine addiction. Dr. Hudspeth did not have the data with him, but said he would be happy to forward information to the Manager to share with the Board.

Chairman Hawkins noted that the Manager discussed the possibility of school-based health centers with the Superintendent of Transylvania County Schools recently. He stated this is a need in all communities. Dr. Hudspeth agreed it is an issue in all communities and stated that school-based health centers have become the biggest demands from counties in their service area. Dr. Hudspeth pointed out that schools are stressed with the need for behavioral health services. Blue Ridge Health has received a number of grants from the Department of Public Instruction to provide crisis counselors in some schools. He felt there were great opportunities to expand these services.

Commissioner Guice stated it has become clear to him that there is a great need for additional social workers, psychologists, and counselors in the field to behavioral health to address all of these issues and challenges that people and families face today. He said the Board is mindful of this need and he felt the County should strive to assist Blue Ridge Health in making improvements in this area for the long term health of our citizens. Dr. Hudspeth saw school-based health centers as a preventative model to help kids deal with issues at school or in their families. Noting the proclamation for Guardian Ad Litem Child Advocate Month that Commissioners approved earlier in the meeting, he stated that a high percentage of children in foster care are in the program due to drug use issues in the parents. Anything Blue Ridge Health can do to help to stabilize or bring the family unit back together is certainly a goal.

Chairman Hawkins thanked them again for their presentation and stated the Board is appreciative of all they do for our citizens.

NEW BUSINESS

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE SHOWERS AT RECREATION CENTER/PRIMARY SHELTER LOCATION

The Recreation Center is utilized as the primary shelter location during disasters and emergency situations. Most recently the County operated a shelter for several days during a winter storm event with mass power outages which stressed the need for handicap accessible showers for the elderly and medically fragile citizens. The lack of shower facilities creates an unsanitary environment that can lead to the spread of disease in an already vulnerable population.

Staff worked with an architect to identify a solution to this issue and proposed the addition of showers adjacent to the existing restrooms. The estimated construction cost of the addition is \$50,000 - \$60,000, with design fees not to exceed \$8,000.

Staff reviewed the current fiscal year budget for potential funding. Maintenance staffs are completing two projects in-house at a significant savings (courthouse landscape and Silvermont tennis court lights) to the County. There are also funds in the current budget for handicap accessibility needs. The combination of these funds could be utilized to complete this project.

In addition, the approved construction of Pickle ball Courts in the 2019 budget adjacent to the Recreation Center will make the future addition of shower facilities more difficult and costly. The completion of the projects together will make completion of the project easier and more cost efficient.

If approved, the project will also provide shower facilities for citizens using the Recreation Center for sports activities which will be a significant enhancement to the current facility amenities. Staff will implement internal operating procedures for appropriate usage.

Staff requested the Board of Commissioners approve the completion of design and construction drawings at a cost not to exceed \$8,000 and allow staff to bid and complete the project provided bids received are within the current year available funds.

Commissioner Chappell noted there are reserves for recreation purposes that could be used if needed because this also meets recreation use.

Commissioner Chappell moved to approve the design, bidding and completion of the project provided the cost does not exceed the estimate of funding available within budget, seconded by Commissioner Cathey. Chairman Hawkins thanked staff for being creative with finding funding and for being proactive with fulfilling this need. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SOFTWARE RECOMMENDATION

Health Director Elaine Russell presented this item. As a result of a Lean Six Sigma assessment in the winter of 2018, the Health Department requested and was approved for FY18-19 to pursue software to improve data collection and management across all Environmental Health programs. Some of their programs have been paper-based with minimum support and tracking in an access database which has made it very difficult to have timely tracking and access to information. To build a better system, it was determined that the department needed to make an investment in better software and bring all of the functions of Environmental Health under one software footprint.

The department conducted a thorough assessment to develop a matrix for analyzing the software bids. The RFP submitted five bids. The review team developed an evaluation matrix that included 98 aspects of functionality across the eight different target areas that the software would need to support. Of the bids

that were brought forward and evaluated, the review team recommended the proposal from HealthSpace. This vendor responded to the RFP in a much more tailored way and the review team felt that they were very responsive to the RFP. The only drawback is they have no current North Carolina customers. All of their customer reviews were positive and they have never lost a client in their 20 years as a vendor. Ms. Russell recommended the Board award the software vendor contract to HealthSpace.

Commissioner Chappell moved to approve the contract with HealthSpace, seconded by Commissioner Guice. Chairman Hawkins inquired about the cost. The Manager stated staff is comfortable with the recommendation and that the software was budgeted for in the current fiscal year. HealthSpace's bid came in \$41,600. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reported the following:

- May 1 Board of Commissioners' Workshop with School of Government to learn about fire service responsibilities in counties
- Thursday, April 11 – Manager making presentation at the UNC School of Government to the City/County Administration Course Alumni about using the Collective Impact Model to structure Get Set Transylvania
- The US Census is hiring. Interested citizens can apply online.
 - Citizens can complete census online and avoid census worker visiting homes
 - Postcards will go out in April 2020
 - June timeframe-census workers will start going door to door to contact citizens who have neglected to complete the census
 - Important to respond because it impacts local funding; just over \$1,600 annually in federal funds in economic support per capita to Transylvania County
 - Best to have local people/neighbors working on the census
- Kudos to the Sheriff's Office honored by the US Forest Service and US Department of Agriculture for their help on a recent case and for always being ready to assist in the national forest land areas in the County
- Kudos from Clark Lovelace with TDA to EMS, Emergency Management and Fire Marshal's office for assistance filming the waterfall safety advertisements
- Kudos to Tara Rybka and Beth Hyatt in the Health Department for their work with Human Resources on the Employee Wellness Fair
- Thank you to GetSet from the Piedmont Triad Regional Council-attended WNC Early Childhood Conference hosted by Transylvania County; looking to use our successes in their area

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Cathey expressed opposition to the daytime meetings. He felt Board of Commissioners' meetings should be held in the evening. He said many of his constituents are unable to attend daytime meetings and they interfere with his work schedule as well.

Chairman Hawkins reported that he and Commissioner Chappell serve on the joint committee with the Board of Education to interview potential architects and construction managers for the school bond construction projects. The team interviewed several firms. They have a follow up meeting on Thursday

of this week in which the committee's goal is to narrow the list down to three architectural firms and three construction management firms. The list will be submitted to the Board of Education for them to make a final recommendation. Commissioner Chappell added that all of the firms are qualified and made good presentations to the committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, **Commissioner Guice moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:53 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Cathey and Chappell simultaneously and unanimously carried.**

Mike Hawkins, Chair
Transylvania County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Trisha M. Hogan, Clerk to the Board