MINUTES OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina met in Informal Session at 5:00 p.m., and in Formal Session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

Due to the State of North Carolina’s Declaration of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and per NCGS § 166A-19.24, the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners conducted a remote meeting using the WebEx application.

ATTENDANCE

Present:  Chair George Dunlap and Commissioners
          Leigh Altman, Patricia “Pat” Cotham, Mark Jerrell, 
          Vilma D. Leake, Laura J. Meier, Elaine Powell, 
          Susan Rodriguez-McDowell, and 
          Ella B. Scarborough
          County Manager Dena R. Diorio 
          County Attorney Tyrone C. Wade 
          Interim Clerk to the Board Kristine M. Smith

Absent: None

-INFORMAL SESSION-

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dunlap, after which the matters below were addressed.

REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM CONSENT

The Board identified item(s) to be removed from Consent and voted upon separately. The items identified were Items: 21-6782, 21-6790, 21-6791, 21-6793 and 21-6799.
CLOSED SESSION

21-6840 CLOSED SESSION

Motion was made by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Scarborough, and unanimously carried with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to go into Closed Session for the following purpose: Consult with Attorney.

*The Board went into Closed Session at 5:10 p.m. and came back into Open Session at 6:00 p.m.*

STAFF BRIEFINGS – None

FORMAL SESSION-

CALL TO ORDER

*Chair Dunlap called this portion of the meeting to order, which was followed by introductions, invocation by Commissioner Leake, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; after which, the matters below were addressed.*

AWARDS/RECOGNITION

21-6780 PROCLAMATION - "A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE" HONORING THE HEROES AND VICTIMS OF THE UNC-CHARLOTTE MASS SHOOTING

*Background: On April 30, 2019, a mass shooting occurred on the campus of UNC-Charlotte resulting in the loss of lives, injuries to others, and trauma, not only to the UNC-Charlotte family, but the entire community. This proclamation is to recognize the two-year anniversary and to honor the heroes and victims of that mass shooting.*

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell read the proclamation.
April 20, 2021

Motion was made by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell, and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to adopt a Proclamation recognizing the two-year anniversary of "A Day of Remembrance" and honoring the Heroes and Victims of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNC-Charlotte) mass shooting.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE TWO-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE HEROES AND VICTIMS OF THE UNC CHARLOTTE MASS SHOOTING AND COMMITTING TO A PLAN OF ACTION TO ADDRESS GUN VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2019, the people of Mecklenburg County were shocked and saddened by the mass shooting that occurred at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, resulting in the tragic deaths of two students and the injuries of four more during the last week of classes; and

WHEREAS, the lives of students Riley Howell and Ellis Reed Parlier were taken from us far too soon, and the injuries suffered by students Soan DeHart, Drew Pescaro, Emily Houp, and Rami Alramadhan were too much to bear; and

WHEREAS, the extraordinary heroism of Riley Howell and the quick action by campus police and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department surely prevented further tragedy and saved lives; and

WHEREAS, April 30, 2021 marks two years since this horrific attack; and

WHEREAS, as of April 15, 2021 there have been 143 mass shootings according to the Gun Violence Archive; and

WHEREAS, the prevalence of gun violence presents a threat to public health, a matter that is squarely within the scope of responsibility of county government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners does hereby proclaim April 30, 2021 as the two-year anniversary of

“A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE”

in Mecklenburg County to honor and recognize the heroes and victims of the 2019 UNC Charlotte mass shooting, to recognize the spirit and resilience of the community and to allow residents and students to pay tribute to the people who were lost during this tragedy and bring awareness to gun violence in our community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners does hereby reaffirm its commitment to developing and implementing a plan of action to address gun violence in our community.

Adopted this the 20th day of April 2021.

[Signature]
George R. Dunlap, Chair
Background: The City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County strongly condemn the mistreatment of and violence against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Both entities will work across the community to create a more equitable and inclusive Charlotte-Mecklenburg where violence and fear of the other are not a part of our ethics or our values, a Charlotte-Mecklenburg that is willing to see one another and more importantly, stand in solidarity. The City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County are committed to working for fair treatment, equity, and justice for all.

Commissioner Altman read the proclamation.

Motion was made by Commissioner Altman, seconded by Commissioner Meier, and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to recognize and adopt a joint proclamation declaring that the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County are committed to rooting out racism and xenophobia by building stronger relationships and supporting community-led solutions.
The Board received a presentation on a piece of Public Art titled Balancing Act - Daily tous les jours - First Ward Park from Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell.
Balancing Act
Daily tous les jours
First Ward Park
PUBLIC APPEARANCE

21-6802   PUBLIC APPEARANCE

No one appeared to speak during the Public Appearance portion of the agenda.

APPOINTMENTS

21-6769   NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS TO THE CITIZEN'S CAPITAL BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The following persons were nominated for appointment consideration to the Citizen’s Capital Budget Advisory Committee for one unexpired term expiring July 31, 2023, and two (2) three-year terms expiring July 31, 2024.

Jacquelyn Horton nominated by Commissioner Meir
Steven Hyland nominated by Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell
Abel Massalee nominated by Commissioner By Jerrell
Gabriel Mathless nominated by Commissioner Powell
Linda Reece nominated by Chair Dunlap

Appointments will occur at the next regular meeting on May 4, 2021.

21-6770   NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS TO THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVISORY BOARD

Motion was made by Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Leake, and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to reappoint Britney Hammonds, Ashley Owen, and Racquel Ward to the Domestic Violence Advisory Board for (3) three-year terms expiring April 30, 2024.

The following persons were nominated for appointment consideration to the Domestic Violence Advisory Board for (3) three-year term expiring April 30, 2024.

Benita Camilo nominated by Commissioner Cotham
Jamilah Green nominated by Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell
Christian Hunt nominated by Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell
Tyjuan Turner nominated by Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell

Appointments will occur at the next regular meeting on May 4, 2021

21-6772 NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS TO THE WOMEN'S ADVISORY BOARD

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to reappoint Piper Booth, Shawana Burnette, Katelyn Hogan, and Alexis Kondratyk to the Women's Advisory Board for three-year terms expiring April 30, 2024.

The following persons were nominated for appointment consideration to the Women's Advisory Board for three (3) three-year terms expiring April 30, 2024:

Sara Seegers nominated by Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell
Tameka O'Neal nominated by Commissioner Powell
Shalinda Williams nominated by Commissioner Altman
Sarah Edwards nominated by Chair Dunlap
Laphaedra Howard nominated by Commissioner Meier

Motion was made by Commissioner Scarborough, seconded by Commissioner Leake and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to close the nominations on the above said names.

Appointments will occur at the next regular meeting on May 4, 2021.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – NONE

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS - NONE

21-6795 WOMEN'S ADVISORY BOARD'S ANNUAL REPORT
The Board received an Annual Report of the Women's Advisory Board from Dr. Yolanda Holmes, Chair of the Women’s Advisory Board.
2020 Annual Report

Mecklenburg County
Women’s Advisory Board
April 2021
**Mission Statement**: To promote the critical and emerging needs of women in Mecklenburg County through education and service.

**Vision Statement**: Equality for all women in Mecklenburg County.

Despite the tremendous challenges that 2020 presented, the Women’s Advisory Board (WAB) was successful in its work to bring about awareness to issues impacting women throughout Mecklenburg County. After two initial in-person meetings in January and February 2020, members began meeting virtually monthly to practice COVID-safe behaviors. This allowed for a higher attendance rate and a lower turnover rate compared to previous years. The Board remained successful in ensuring a wide representation of the community on the board related to race, ethnicity, age, professional background, and physical location within the county.

**2020 Theme “Mental Health & Wellness”**: The Board elected to keep its focus on mental health. Board members felt that the topic is so broad and encompassing of so many other factors that ongoing discussion and learning is needed to broaden members’ understanding of the theme. The Board will continue to invite community representatives of various nonprofits, community-based advocates, and local experts to speak on issues of childcare, financial remediation, racial justice, housing, and other factors that impact women’s mental wellbeing.

**WAB Visibility**: The Board ensured continued visibility within the community, despite the lack of in-person meetings and drastically reduced number of community events due to COVID-19. The Board achieved this by hosting a variety of guests on its virtual meetings, holding a series of community conversations, establishing a presence at several local rallies in support of social and racial justice, and working at events in encouragement of COVID-safety, including mask-making and distribution within the community. Events were advertised through social media on the County’s various media streams and platforms. Additionally, the WAB developed a new logo to be utilized in all communications and marketing materials.

**EVENTS**

- The Board hosted three different webinars on major social and health issues impacting the community with a specific focus on how they affect women. These topics included:
  - **The Urgency of Now: Listening, Learning & Leading (Social & Racial Justice)** (September 2020)
    - Moderated by Corehutta Reid
    - Panelists: Dr. Anita Bledsoe, Mr. Eric Boulware, Ms. Jackie Bryley, Ms. Janae Bryant, and Rev. Glancia Rheedrick
    - Focused on listening, learning, and truly hearing issues regarding social injustices and racial disparities in our community.
- Identified opportunities to help and share resources that could impact and support the needs of Mecklenburg County.
- Shared information on county supported resources such as the Meck-Better Together program and the HOPE program.
- Closing remarks by Stacey Sandeford-Lyons

- The Urgency of Now: Listening, Learning & Leading (COVID-19) (October 2020)
  - Moderated by Piper Booth
  - Panelists: Lydia Williams, Sonia Jenkins, Shannon King and Karen Pelletier
  - Focused on the impact of COVID-19 on women (childcare, finances, community support, isolation) and what resources exist or would be helpful to support women and families in Mecklenburg County.
  - Closing remarks by Stacey Sandeford-Lyons and Dr. Yolonda Holmes

- The Urgency of Now: Listening, Learning & Leading (Mental Health Awareness) (November 2020)
  - Moderated by Shekeria Smith-Barnes
  - Panelists Katie Ferracoli, Dr. Aalece Pugh-Lily and Dr. Gina Navarrete
  - Discussed mental health and wellbeing as it specifically relates to women, including major socioeconomic and community determinants of health, pre- and post-partum health, local resources available to women, and the impacts COVID-19 specifically has on women’s mental health.
  - Closing remarks by Dr. Yolonda Holmes

The Board hosted two of the founding members of Hearts of Invisible Charlotte, a local non-profit that works in support of people experiencing homelessness in Mecklenburg County. The guests spoke about the work being done to advocate on a local and state level and about the support needed to sustain these efforts.

WAB partnered with New St. John Missionary Baptist Church and Oak Street Health for their free Covid-19 Community Testing Outreach Drive-by Event. A total of 150 masks were made and distributed with WAB information packets in each mask pouch.

Several WAB members participated in local organized racial justice protests in March to listen and understand the needs and frustrations being voiced in the community.

Charlotte American Association of University Women’s Event - Monday, March 9, 2020 at Morrison Regional Library from 6:00pm-7:45pm. Attended by Corelutta Reid, Suzanne Elsberry Schwikert, and Dr. Holmes.

Tuesday Morning Breakfast Forum guest panelist with Girl Scouts - Tuesday, March 17, 2020 @ Belmont Center 700 Parkwood Avenue Charlotte from 8:30am-10am. Invite extended but event canceled due to COVID-19.
NC Council for Women and Youth Involvement: Women’s History Month Celebration - Tuesday, March 17, 2020 - invite extended but event canceled due to COVID-19.

August 2020 Coalition for Pay Equity/Women’s Equality Day Partnership: Dr. Yo! served as Moderator on Wednesday, August 26. In preparation for Women’s Equality Day, the WAB collaborated with the Charlotte Chapter of the League of Women Voters and various women boards/organizations in Charlotte to commemorate this day. The panel discussion focused on the gender pay gap issue and launched as the Coalition for Pay Equity.


COUNTY MANAGER RECOMMENDATIONS

Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Recommendations: In May 2020, the Women’s Advisory Board received a request from Mecklenburg County Manager, Ms. Dena Dionio regarding recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2021 budget. WAB Recommendations included:

- Priorities for COVID-19 funding to support head of house/breadwinner mothers who have lost their jobs.
- Increase in funding that would permit the county to make available to any interested woman whose family earnings are below the median for the county any form of long-term, reversible contraception.
- The $900,000 allocated for arts should be disbursed to more than 3 companies, many grassroots organizations can benefit from a portion of that funding.
- Overall support for the recommended FY 2021 budget.

WAB 2020 Recommendations for Coronavirus Relief Fund: In August 2020, WAB members (Jamalah Espisosa, Katie Feraioli, Alexis Kombratyk, Covelatta Reid), provided feedback on behalf of The Women’s Advisory Board regarding proposed investments for use of the CARES ACT funds. Proposal Recommendations included:

- Ensure the income threshold eligibility requirements for residents seeking financial assistance is at a level that households previously over the poverty guidelines qualify (Consider using last 60-90-day earnings as income threshold).
- Ensure the Community Engagement Plan includes providing communication for those with limited English proficiency (most common foreign languages). Plan should include communications for those visually and hearing impaired.
- Ensure the Community Engagement Plan provides communications related to the mental health services provided in the County.
- Ensure the Community Engagement Plan incorporates traditional and non-traditional communication platforms, such as social media, television, and radio.

Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Recommendations: In December 2020, the Women’s Advisory Board received a request from Mecklenburg County Manager, Ms. Dena Dionio regarding recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2022 budget. WAB Recommendations included:
• **Mental Health Recommendations**
  - Communicate mental health services in the County
  - Issue transportation vouchers
  - Expand Behavioral Health Integration (BHI)
  - Especially within the Crescent

• **Childcare Services Recommendations**
  - Raise income limits for the childcare subsidy

• **Employment Recommendations**
  - Deploy intentional strategies to increase employability and pay women
  - Expand availability of unemployment insurance and paid sick leave for part-time workers
  - Adjust income threshold eligibility requirements

• **Communication Recommendations**
  - Employ traditional and non-traditional communication platforms
  - Include common foreign languages
  - Expand MeckHelp.com to include communication in other languages

• **Community Support (COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution) Recommendations**
  - Mobile vaccination services
  - Increased communication in multiple languages
  - Transportation vouchers
  - Childcare resources

**Board Committees:** The Board continues to prioritize its committees to ensure their participants’ strengths and talents are effectively utilized. The committees for 2020-2021 focused on a broad range of topics and events, all of which support the overall mission of the Board. These committees include Program Planning, Annual Retreat, Marketing, Advocacy, Annual Report, Women’s Equality Day and ad-hoc committees where needed.

**Challenges:** Ongoing obstacles included the lack of financial services and some member turnover. However, the ability to meet virtually assisted with the latter, as members were able to attend more meetings and meet the attendance requirements set forth by the county. COVID-19 presented the biggest external challenge to members, as they faced unprecedented challenges related to health and safety of themselves and their families, as well as childcare issues and a general sense of burnout.

**Looking Forward – 2021:** The Board will continue to operate in a COVID-safe manner until the County updates its regulations regarding meetings and the guidelines around virtual gatherings. The Board will remain focused on community engagement, with a specific focus on how to highlight both the mental health needs of women in Mecklenburg County (and the many determinants of mental wellbeing), as well as the available resources or recommended resources to address these concerns.

**2020 Board Members:**
Dr. Yolonda Holmes, Chair
Stacey Sandeford-Lyons, Vice-Chair
Kristin Buhler, Secretary
Suzanne Elsberry-Schweikert, Parliamentarian
Brooke Adams
Maura Chaves
Jamilah Espinosa
Katie Ferraioli
Katelyn Hogan
Alexis Kondratykh
Marcie Parrot
Corelotta Reid
Lindsey Schuster
Piper Booth
Shawana Burnette
Kathy Pate

2021 Board Members:
Dr. Yolonda Holmes, Chair
Stacey Sandeford-Lyons, Vice-Chair
Kristin Buhlert, Secretary
Suzanne Elsberry Schweikert, Parliamentarian
Piper Booth
Shawana Burnette
Jamilah Espinosa
Katie Ferraioli
Katelyn Hogan
Alexis Kondratykh
Marcie Parrot
Kathy Pate
Corelotta Reid
Shekenia Smith-Barnes
April 20, 2021

Piper Yerger  Shawana Burnette  Jamilah Espinosa  Katie Ferraioli  Katelyn Hogan

Alexis Kondratyk  Marc Parrott  Kathy Pate  Corelutta Reid  Shekeria Smith-Barnes

Peter Safr & Elyse Hamilton-Childres, Community Support Staff
The Urgency of Now: Listening, Learning & Leading

There were no comments.
Gibbie Harris, Public Health Director gave a COVID-19 Response update.
COVID-19 Testing

- Residents should not have out-of-pocket costs for COVID-19 testing
- No cost molecular (PCR) and rapid antigen testing widely available throughout the county
- Demand for testing is starting to increase; turnaround times are averaging < 2 days

**Where to Get NO COST COVID-19 Tests**

**Daily COVID-19 Testing (as of April 14, 2021)**

These data only include tests for molecular (PCR) tests submitted to NC SHINE for laboratories electronically submitting negative and positive COVID-19 results. Results of ELISA may affect daily testing counts and positivity rates. Data reported within the past week should be considered preliminary and will be updated as new information becomes available.
COVID-19 Vaccine Update

- Vaccine supply and the number of access points in Mecklenburg County increased substantially over the last several weeks. There are at least 64 providers in Meck receiving direct allocations from NC DHHS — many received initial training and transfers from Public Health.
- Many providers, including Public Health, have relaxed appointment requirements as supply is currently outpacing demand.
- COVID-19 website updated to reflect all available vaccine opportunities.
- Hotline staff prepared to assist residents with appointment and walk-in opportunities throughout the county.

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

- Public Health is focusing on coordination across providers and reaching hardest to reach populations:
  - Last round of appointments for Bojangles’s Coliseum will open tomorrow (4/21) at 8:30 a.m. for first doses through 4/30
    - Book at starred care or by calling 980-314-9400 (option 3 for English, option 8 for Spanish)
    - Walk-in first and second doses will be offered through 5/22
  - Public Health will host on-going clinics at SE Health Department, MEDIC, and other community-based sites.
  - Public Health is continuing the vaccination program for homebound residents (w/Pfizer vaccine).
  - Expanding COVID-19 Ambassadors’ role to assist with vaccine outreach.
  - Launching partnership with Action NC for grassroots canvassing/door-knocking to provide vaccine education and scheduling assistance.
COVID-19 Vaccine Update

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Received (as of April 14, 2021)</th>
<th>Total Transferred (as of April 14, 2021)</th>
<th>Doses Administered by MCPH (as of April 14, 2021)</th>
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<tr>
<td>First Doses</td>
<td>90,270</td>
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<td>Second Doses</td>
<td>59,115</td>
<td>10,845</td>
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*MCPH is currently providing the Pfizer BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines to individuals in Groups 1, 2, 3, and 4. For more information about the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution visit https://www.mckcs.gov/covid-19/pages/vaccine.aspx.

COVID-19 Vaccine Data: Percent of Total Population Vaccinated, Mecklenburg

(based on all Vaccination Programs administering doses to Mecklenburg Residents)

Data as of April 19, 2021

- Percent of Total Population At Least Partially Vaccinated: 33.8% (375,445 residents)
- Percent of Total Population Fully Vaccinated: 21.5% (238,359 residents)


COVID-19 Vaccine Data: Partially Vaccinated Residents, Mecklenburg

(based on all Vaccination Programs administering doses to Mecklenburg Residents)

COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant

- CDC’s National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities:
  - Two-year (June 2021 – May 2023), non-competitive funding for designated jurisdictions.
  - Mecklenburg County Health Department is eligible for $4,936,739 total funding.
  - Funding objectives:
    - Expansion of existing and/or development of new mitigation and prevention resources and services to reduce COVID-19 related disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved.
    - Strategies include building, leveraging, and expanding infrastructure support for COVID-19 prevention and control; mobilizing partners and collaborators to address COVID-19 health disparities.

COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant

- Potential strategies and activities from CDC recommendations:
  - Expand access to COVID-19 testing through home-based and over-the-counter test kits.
  - Improve COVID-19 data collection, analytics and informatics infrastructure.
  - Extend community capacity to reach disproportionately impacted communities through grassroots partnerships to inform/educate/connect.
  - Establish mechanism, like a community action network, representing underserved populations to inform current and future emergency response activities.
  - Connect community members to programs, healthcare providers, services and resources, through community health worker initiatives.
Comments

Commissioner Cotham asked what was being done about residents in the community that were hesitant about taking the vaccine. Director Harris said they were constantly in discussions to see what initiatives could be taken to get them vaccinated. She said they were getting out into the community and having conversations with people and providing them with information.

Director Harris said one of the reasons people weren’t getting vaccinated was their lack of a sense of urgency.

Commissioner Powell thanked Public Health Director Harris for assisting the residents who were hesitant to get vaccinated.

Commissioner Leake said people of color needed to get vaccinated. She asked how to get the news media to stop inciting nervousness in people to get vaccinated. Director Harris said they were trying to get out the positive message and was working on engaging the news media.

Commissioner Jerrell asked County Manager Diorio if the distribution of the American Rescue Plan dollars was over the next two fiscal years or calendar years. County Manager Diorio said the County had until December 21, 2024.

Commissioner Jerrell asked how the campaign was going that was launched by Public Information to address the hesitancy. County Manager Diorio said she didn’t have any statistics but would obtain the information.

Commissioner Jerrell asked how it would be decided what neighborhoods or areas to target to get people vaccinated. Director Harris said they were going to use State data to target the communities that showed a need.

Commissioner Meier asked if zip code 28203 had the highest rate of Covid? Director Harris said yes.

Commissioner Meier asked if a clinic could be set up in a bar or brewery. Director Harris said yes. She said those conversations were being had with regard to those places being vaccination sites.

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell asked if the towns were receiving their own dollars directly from the Covid Relief funding. Director Harris said yes, they would get their own allocation.
Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell asked if other County services could be offered while they did their grassroots efforts of knocking on doors. **Director Harris said the effort was mainly focused on getting the word out about vaccinations. She said if other services were requested, they would put the resident in contact with the right person.**

Chair Dunlap thanked Public Health Director Harris and her staff for all their efforts.

**21-6844 UPDATE ON ENCAMPMENT HOTELS**

Karen Pelletier, Director of Housing Innovation, Strategy & Alignment, Community Support Services gave a verbal update on the Encampment hotels.

Director Pelletier gave an overview of how and why the encampment hotels began. She said the initial plan was to have the hotels available until June 30th but as the work moved from triage to the treatment phase, they found there was a greater clarity of the needs of the guests and resources necessary to insure stability and a more realistic timeframe that the hotel needed to operate.

Director Pelletier said 204 people had been served since the hotels opened and 168 guests remained. She said due to the needs of the guests, it was imperative to extend the operations of the hotels through September 30th.

Director Pelletier said it took anywhere from 30 days to 120 days from being matched to a housing program to actually leasing up and moving into housing. She said factors that impacted that timeframe were the barriers that many of the people at the hotels faced.

Director Pelletier said they were working to consolidate to one hotel. She said Block Love Charlotte would continue to partner with the County and outreach agencies to provide resources to unsheltered people throughout the County.

Director Pelletier said they estimate 48 guests, who were chronically homeless, have the highest barriers and limited ability to maintain without a support service and subsidy, and would need permanent supportive housing. She said 71 people would need rapid rehousing, which was 1 year of housing subsidies with support of wraparound services. She said 17 people needed further assessment related to their vulnerability, disability or income in order to determine what their housing resource need was. She said it was believed that the 17 would need permanent supportive housing.

Director Pelletier said there were 30 people who were matched to a housing resource.
April 20, 2021

Director Pelletier said there were 2 people that needed a higher level of care due to a chronic medical or mental health condition and they were working with the Department of Social Services as well as Cardinal Innovations in order to secure what the appropriate housing resource would be.

Director Pelletier said since the hotels opened there were 36 people who exited the hotels, 3 people who exited permanent housing, and 3 deaths at the hotel. She said 6 people exited to the Mecklenburg Detention Center, 18 people exited to homelessness and 6 who exited but their whereabouts were unknown.

Director Pelletier said there was staff from substance abuse services and Anuvia, who were onsite several times a week engaging with the guests and offering services. She said Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings were started at the hotels once a week.

Director Pelletier said the Department of Social Services continued to come onsite and to screen and accept applications for Medicaid and food and nutrition services. She said guests continued to receive their monthly bus passes. She said Charlotte Works was onsite once a week.

Director Pelletier said County staff and Promise Resource Network were planning a housing blitz to be onsite at both hotels to help people with their housing search.

Director Pelletier discussed the next steps. She said Charlotte City Council approved the allocation of $2.1M of their Emergency Solutions Grant funding to provide one year of subsidy and support services for 75 households with lower barriers and a covid related hardship. She said contracts had not been executed but the City of Charlotte and the United Way would subcontract with Catholic charities to provide those support services and with Social Serve to help with the housing navigation. She said they were beginning to identify people who would be eligible for those services.

Director Pelletier said they asked Inlivian to compare their hotel roster with their current waitlist and found that 2 guests were on that waitlist so they were making sure their information was updated so that when their name came up, they would be connected to that resource. She said they were also working with Inlivian to get a better understanding of the additional vouchers and subsidies they would be receiving through the ARPA, and how they planned on allocating them.

Director Pelletier said there was a gap in need and available resources for this highly vulnerable population. She said having a viable housing solution for every guest was going to be difficult. She said there were guests with extensive criminal histories including violent felonies and open
criminal charges and the community did not have landlords that were willing to lease to individuals with those factors. She said there were also guests with several and persistent mental illnesses and substance use disorders which were making them harder to engage. She said further advocacy in that area was needed.

Comments

Commissioner Altman asked what the circumstances were with regard to the 3 deaths that occurred with residents. Director Pelletier said one was related to substance abuse, the two others were related to underlying medical conditions.

Commissioner Cotham asked what the age of the youngest person at the encampment hotel was. Director Pelletier said they did not have that information but would get it to her. She said there were no children that were moved from the encampment.

Commissioner Cotham asked if there was an issue with crime. Director Pelletier said yes, there were a number of guests in which they had to engage CMPD with regard to drug use and soliciting and domestic violence.

Commissioner Cotham asked Director Pelletier to clarify when the lease was up. Director Pelletier said it was a recommendation to extend it until September 30th.

Commissioner Leake thanked Director Pelletier and offered help to talk about solutions.

Commissioner Jerrell thanked Director Pelletier and the partners for all the work they had done so far. He said Block Love Charlotte was an important community partner. He said he would like to see how the County was doing relative to availability in the entire shelter system.

Commissioner Meir asked if, along with Block Love Charlotte, there were any other organizations that continued to partner with the County. Director Pelletier said Hearts Beat for One Foundation was helping to staff one of the hotels, Just Do It Movement was helping people with obtaining state IDs and Hearts for the Invisible.

Commissioner Meir asked if they were volunteers or if they were being compensated. Director Pelletier said there were agreements with Block Love Charlotte and Hearts Beat for One Foundation because they were providing direct staffing 24/7. She said Hearts for the Invisible were there as volunteers and Just Do It Movement were working directly off donations.

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell thanked Director Pelletier for such a detailed presentation and for all the hard work she has done.
Chair Dunlap thanked Director Pelletier for all her efforts. He said there were still other volunteer groups that were addressing homelessness issues. He said there were other homelessness sites located throughout the County.

Chair Dunlap said the presentation answered the question of what the County was doing.

**DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORS’ MONTHLY REPORTS**

**21-6815 DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT MONTHLY REPORTS**

The Board received as information monthly Department management reports for April 2021.

*Background: The County Manager has requested department directors develop department management monthly reports highlighting key activities and initiatives within the departments and that reports show relevant performance indicators of departmental activity.*

*A copy of the reports is on file with the Clerk to the Board.*

**STAFF REPORTS & REQUESTS - NONE**

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER’S REPORTS & REQUESTS – NONE**

**CONSENT ITEMS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Scarborough, seconded by Commissioner Jerrell, and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to approve the following item(s):

**21-6798 TAX REFUNDS**
Approve refunds in the amount of $1,891.50 as statutorily required to be paid as requested by the County Assessor.

*Background: this Board action is necessary to approve tax refunds resulting from clerical errors, audits, and other amendments, including revaluation appeals. There is no estimated interest included in the $1,891.50 refunds.*

*A list of the taxpayer recipients in on file with the Clerk to the Board.*

21-6804  MINUTES

Approve the following Meeting Minutes: February 16, 2021, Budget/Public Policy Meeting and March 2, 2021, Regular Meeting.

**THIS CONCLUDED ITEMS APPROVED BY CONSENT**

21-6801  PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

Commissioners may remove agenda items from the Consent Agenda for separate vote, to bring more public awareness or to make comments. The following items were pulled and voted upon separately:

21-6782  PUBLIC AUCTION FOR DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Scarborough, and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to adopt a resolution authorizing sale of surplus personal property by public auction on May 15, 2021.

**MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Resolution Authorizing Sale of Surplus Personal Property by Public Auction
WHEREAS North Carolina G.S. 160A-270(b) allows the County to sell surplus personal property at public auction upon adoption of a resolution or order authorizing the appropriate official to dispose of the surplus property at public auction; and

WHEREAS, the County Manager has recommended that the surplus property listed on the attached Exhibit-A should be sold at public auction,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners that the County Manager or her designee is authorized to sell the surplus property described on Exhibit A at public auction on the day of May 15, 2021, at 9:00 am at 5550 Wilkinson Blvd, Charlotte, North Carolina, as per the terms and conditions in accordance with North Carolina G.S. 160A-270(b) and in compliance with County policies. The terms of the sale shall be net cash. The County Manager or her designee is directed to publish at least once and not less than ten (10) days before the date of the auction, a copy of this Resolution or a notice summarizing its content as required by North Carolina General Statute 160A-270(b).

Resolution recorded in full in Ordinance Book ________, Document # ___________.

21-6790 CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT - STREAM RESTORATION OF WEST BRANCH ROCKY RIVER TRIBUTARY

Motion was made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Meier and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to authorize the County Manager to execute a construction contract with Carolina Wetlands Services, Inc. in the amount of $1,766,281.00.

Background: The County is managing the design and construction of approximately 9,100 feet of stream restoration along West Branch Rocky River Tributary from just north of Davis Road to the confluence of West Branch Rocky River at Fisher Farm Park in Davidson, North Carolina. The project will improve water quality and wildlife habitat.

21-6791 GRANT APPLICATION-CAROLINAS CARE PARTNERSHIP - HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS (HOPWA)

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to affirm submission of grant application totaling $36,000 for a one-year period (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022) to Carolinas CARE Partnership Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) to support program
promoting stabilized housing for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA); and if awarded, recognize, receive, and appropriate the amount awarded to the General Grants Fund (G001) for the duration of the award.

**Background:** The Mecklenburg County Health Department is requesting affirmation of its application for renewal funding from Carolinas CARE Partnership for funding for one year (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022). The Health Department has been a grant recipient of this since 2018.

Grant funds will be used to: Provide Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) housing case management and short-term payment of utilities for PLWHA to assist in maintaining stable housing that supports adherence to medication, avoiding inpatient care and further spread of infection.

### 21-6793 GRANT APPLICATION-CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Scarborough and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to approve submitting grant application totaling up to $9,000,000 for a two-year period (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023) to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support addressing COVID-19 health disparities among populations at high-risk and underserved, including racial and ethnic minority populations and; if awarded, to recognize, receive, and appropriate the amount awarded to the General Grants Fund (G001) for the duration of the award.

**Background:** The Mecklenburg County Health Department is requesting approval to apply for funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for funding for two years (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023). Grant funds will be used to support: expansion of existing and/or development of new mitigation and prevention resources and services to reduce COVID-19 related disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved. Strategies include building, leveraging, and expanding infrastructure support for COVID-19 prevention and control; mobilizing partners and collaborators to advance health equity and address social determinants of health as they relate to COVID-19 health disparities.

### 21-6799 LINCOLN HEIGHTS PARK WI-FI SERVICE AGREEMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Meier and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to authorize the County Manager to
negotiate and execute a Service Agreement with the City of Charlotte for the installation, operation, and maintenance of wireless networking technology in Lincoln Heights Park.

**Background:** As part of its CARES Act Coronavirus Relief funding, the City of Charlotte is supporting Access Charlotte which aims to promote digital inclusion and equity across the city. To address the digital divide, the City has created a pilot project in which it is partnering with an internet provider, Open Broadband, LLC, to install, operate, and maintain wireless internet (Wi-Fi) service at several public locations. One of the locations proposed is Lincoln Heights Park in west Charlotte. The terms of the proposed Service Agreement between the County and City are as follows:

- **Term** - Two (2) years following installation of the service
- **Renewals** - One (1) year automatic renewals so long as the City provides the service.
- **Service Provider/Operator** - Open Broadband, LLC.
- **Fee for Service** - The service is being provided at no charge to users of the service or the County.
- **Hours of Availability** - Wi-Fi access will be available from dawn to dusk within the park.
- **Restrictions** - No advertising allowed.

**21-6806 COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioners shared information of their choosing within the guidelines as established by the Board, which included, but not limited to, past and/or upcoming events.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell, and carried 8-1 with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, and Commissioner Leake voting no, that there being no further business to come before the Board that the meeting be adjourned at 8:25p.m.

______________________________  __________________________
Kristine M. Smith, Interim Clerk to the Board  George Dunlap, Chair