

Week of March 22, 2010:

- The Association of County Commissioners is continuing to work with the 911 Legislative Study Committee to develop legislation that would expand the uses of the 911 fee and make changes to the 911 Board. I participated in a conference call with Association staff and other members from our 911 Study Committee to suggest wording for the proposed legislation. We are getting opposition from the 911 Board and the private telephone companies on some of the proposed changes, especially the expanded uses of the fee.
- I travelled to Raleigh on Wednesday for a meeting of the Emergency Management Study Committee that I was involved in last year. We received updates from the State staff on changes in the local government grant program. I am pleased to report that our grant funds increased from \$25,964 in FY 2008-09 to **\$54,716 in this year's budget**. Even though we are the only 2 county emergency management agency in the state, we were only receiving funding as if we are one county. I questioned the formula at one of the first meetings of the study committee and as a result of that discussion, the formula was changed this year to give us credit as a 2 county agency. The State now funds 45% of the Emergency Management budget. The remaining 55% are local funds which are split between Pasquotank County (50%), Elizabeth City (33%) and Camden County (17%). The formula is going to change again next year with counties receiving a base amount which will be based on population and the remainder will be allocated according to projects which are completed.
- Attached is the latest Occupancy Tax report. Although, we are down compared to last year, the decrease is smaller than some of the previous months (4.3%).
- We have received most of the budget requests, and we need to begin scheduling some budget meetings at the beginning of April. Please check your calendars to see when you will be available to meet.

The following are reports from some of our other departments:

Clerk to the Board:

During the month of February, 213 Pasquotank County residents who used the NACo Prescription Drug Discount Card saved a total of \$11,555.69 on their prescription drugs. This was an average savings of \$10.20 or 24.96% off the retail price.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

The Board of Elections members and staff will be attending required State Board Training in Durham March 30th through April 1st. The office will be closed at noon on March 30th for that day, but will be open on March 31st and April 1st. Our office temp, Carolyn Madre, will be in the office on those dates to provide assistance to voters. The registration books close on April 9, 2010, and any changes to political party affiliation must be made by that date. Absentee by-mail requests will be accepted through April 27th.

Emergency Medical Service

- Interviews for part time office assistant were held today and Tuesday. We have interviewed several qualified candidates and will be making a decision on the final candidate early next week.
- Walter and Jerry were out with the North Carolina Forestry Service today at their annual pack test held at Pasquotank County High School. The pack test helps to measure the endurance of forestry service personnel. As many members have become severely ill during the pack test, we were there to monitor their medical status.
- EMS worked with the Elizabeth City Fire Department on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons performing driver training with our ambulances. The all-afternoon

- classes in serviced firefighters on proper operation and handling of an ambulance. The practical portion of the class was held behind Ollie's where we set up 5 obstacle courses which tested the driver's ability to handle different maneuvering situations.
- Students at JC Sawyer Elementary are in the process of building their town "Hillville." In Hillville, students must put in place essential services, such as Fire, EMS, Police, banks and restaurants. Jerry attended the "work sessions" on Wednesday and Thursday to show the students what would be needed in their town as far as EMS is concerned.
 - EMS participated in the mock "shooter" drill last Friday at ECSU. Many organizations that hadn't worked together in years had the opportunity to come together. EMS got the opportunity to implement our SMART Triage system and test our the capabilities of our Disaster Management Unit (DM-1). Hats off to ECSU for putting on a very effective exercise.
 - The EMS Board met on Monday of this week at Station 50 to review the requested EMS budget.
 - Tip a Cop, a fund raiser for the March of Dimes, will be held at Golden Corral on Monday from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Jerry and Walter from EMS will be assisting the Sheriff's Department by waiting tables for tips. All tips will be donated to the March of Dimes.
 - Our final protocol rollout sessions will be held Tuesday and Wednesday of next week at Station 50. We will go live with our new protocols, policies and procedures on Thursday, April 1st.

Cooperative Extension:

4-H and Youth

130 youth from Weeksville and J. C. Sawyer had sessions on the embryology program.

Kids in the Garden was held at J. C. Sawyer and Weeksville for 80 youth. They learned the life cycle of plants and then participated in physical activities.

A volunteer leaders meeting was held for 8 adult leaders. Plans for summer activities was one of the main topics for the meeting.

4-H EFNEP was taught at Pasquotank Elementary and Central Elementary After School Programs. The lesson was on protein and calcium. Participants also used an interactive video game to pick a fast food restaurant and menu. Afterwards they get to analyze their menu to see how healthy the meal they chose was.

Agriculture

Plans are underway for on-farm tests and demonstrations to generate local information for the farmers

Planning for the 2010 NE Ag Expo has started. This year it will be hosted by Gates County. Featured topic is "Precision Agriculture"

Spoke to farmers about integrated pest management products and methods for controlling weeds.

A master gardener meeting was held to design a booth for the Currituck Flower and Garden Show.

Answered calls on mosquitoes, snake identification, pruning, lawns and planting fruiting plants.

Family and Consumer Sciences

Steps to Health was offered at Virginia Dare for 19 participants

Assisted 4 people with Medicare Part D

CPR Recertification was held for 12 participants

2 EFNEP home visits were made

EFNEP was held at LaCasa and the Parent Center for 7 participants. Topics were: Shop Get the Best for Less and Choosing to Move More Throughout the Day

Social Services:

Program	Applications Taken	Applications Processed	Reviews	Terminations/Changes	Total Caseload
Adult Medicaid	58	86	140	686	2321*
Family & Children's Medicaid	251	310	216	604	3848
Food & Nutrition Services	215	220	325	433	2991
Work First Family Assistance	22	17	5	58	162

*Includes

1114 SSI cases

Intake was down for all program areas during February which allowed intake staff to “take a breather” that had not been possible for several months. Although intake was down in all areas, Medicaid caseloads increased slightly while Food & Nutrition Services and Work First remained stable for February. We do not anticipate this “lull” in intake will last and expect intake volume to increase.

We are seeing an increase in the number of Medicaid applications generated from Social Security requests for assistance with the Medicare Part D premiums. These applications are in addition to the regular intake process and are quite time consuming because minimal information is provided from the Social Security generated report. Staff are required to make contact with the applicant within two days. When contact is made, staff are completing the interview “from scratch”. Not only is minimal information available, the entire intake process must be completed in order to determine eligibility. Medicare allows a person to apply three months in advance of becoming eligible. We are seeing a lot of Medicaid applications generated in this situation and these applications are being denied for the client’s inability to meet a deductible or they would have to complete the

disability process since they are not yet age 65. Pasquotank is anticipated to have 500 applications generated from this process.

The Citizenship match with Social Security is expediting application processing. The match process has a 24 to 48 hour turnaround which is much quicker and less expensive than the agency purchasing certified birth certificates.

Interpreter Contacts: 28 Total

Spanish: 29

Vietnamese: none

Other: none

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