

## **Week of June 14, 2010:**

- I attended the grand opening of Telephonics' Technical Support Services Center on Tuesday at the airport. The jobs and tax base that this company will generate is a great addition to the community. The radar installations and repair services that they will offer also adds to the aircraft related services that are now available in Pasquotank County.
- We are continuing to prepare for the transition of Fire Marshal services from the City to the County. I met with the manager of one of the local rest homes to discuss the services and capabilities that the County will offer compared to the services that are now offered by the City. Some of the fire evacuation drills and emergency management training that they have been receiving from the City will now have to be contracted through private sources. These are services that the companies have to receive but they are not required to be provided by the Fire Marshal.
- Commissioner Perry and I attended the ECBH meeting in Williamston on Wednesday. Mr. Perry had to attend orientation training earlier in the day and went for the regular meeting that started at 7:00 pm. There was a lot of discussion about the funding level from the Albemarle counties and we explained what we had been told at the initial meetings by ECBH staff. We also discussed the transfer of the buildings that are currently owned by AMH. The county managers are now recommending that the buildings be transferred to ECBH due to several factors. We now have approximately \$1 million to pay for retiree health insurance. If the buildings remained with the Albemarle counties and the buildings were eventually sold, we would have to repay the state for the state funds that were used to build the buildings. The buildings were originally built to provide mental health services and ECBH needs the buildings for that purpose.
- I attended a regional county managers' meeting today in Perquimans County. We discussed the remaining Mental Health issues such as the retiree health insurance, county appropriations, and the buildings. We are still working with the Association to provide the health insurance coverage for the retirees. We will also need to develop an inter-local agreement for the 10 counties to cover any excess cost when and if the current funds run out. We also discussed the state's budget situation and the possibility that the state may take all of our lottery proceeds this year to balance the state budget. Everyone is being asked to call their legislators to tell them what effect that would have on the county budget. We have budgeted \$650,000 in the 2010-11 budget for lottery proceeds. That is equal to 2 cents on the property taxes.
- The 911 bill passed the House Finance Committee and is now headed to the full House next week. We are hoping for quick passage so that it can move to the Senate.

## **The following are reports from some of our other departments:**

### **Volunteer Fire Department Coordinator:**

I have just been informed by Chief Buddy Mickey that they have secured a used brush truck for Providence from Forestry. The truck that Providence got for a brush truck actually came from the Dept of Defense. The Forestry Service can pick up these used vehicles when they are available. Providence put in a request for a truck about 8 months ago. The truck is a 1995 Chevrolet with 75,000 miles. Longs Body Shop will be doing the painting on it. The light bar and siren they got from the sheriff's dept. The brush unit will be new and will be purchased with state grant funds this year. The radio will have to be a portable radio for now. Hopefully they can get a mobile radio on the state grant next year.

### **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

One-Stop voting ends this Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. The hours for voting on Saturday are 8:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m. Early voting numbers are at 176 as of the close of voting on Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. Last

Thursday's total of 147 at the end of that day was incorrect. The correct total of voters up to that date was 107. Apologies for the error.

Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> is 2<sup>nd</sup> Primary Election Day. Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. All polling places will be open. As a reminder, Nixonton precinct voters will vote at the Weeksville Lions Club, 2760 Peartree Road, for this election only.

The Board will meet at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, for an absentee meeting. The Board will meet at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, to count absentee by-mail ballots. The results of this count will be released, along with One-Stop totals, at 7:30 p.m. on Election night.

**Social Services Department:**

Program	Applications Taken	Applications Processed	Reviews	Terminations/ Changes	Total Caseload
Adult Medicaid	59	80	135	136	2330*
Family & Children's Medicaid	240	239	253	546	3896
Food & Nutrition Services	258	247	294	467	3014
Work First Family Assistance	28	31	7	68	156

\*Includes 1110 SSI

cases

The roller coaster of intake continues – caseloads slightly increased over the past month but remained relatively stable – for now. Effective July 1, 2010, the income limits for categorical eligibility in Food & Nutrition Services will increase to 200%. We do not know the impact this will have on caseloads because of the formulas used to actually determine eligibility. However, we do anticipate a drastic increase in intake as families come in to see if they are eligible for food assistance. Caseworkers are already receiving telephone calls to inquire about program changes. Our intake procedures guarantee that when an individual inquires for one program, they will be referred to and evaluated for any other program they could receive.

Low Income Subsidy applications for Medicaid generated by Social Security remain steady and information from the state office indicates numbers are higher than anticipated. These applications contain very little information other than the client's name, address and phone number. We know they receive social security and may know they have resources; however, the specifics are unknown and require quite a bit of legwork on the caseworker's part to determine eligibility.

Changes in budgeting for the program that assists with Medicare premiums is creating additional cases as more individuals become eligible using the new regulations. We have also received several reports that require individuals terminated or denied between the change in and implementation of new policy be reviewed and evaluated under new policy. Caseworkers are diligently working these reports to make sure all qualified individuals receive their entitled benefits.

Interpreter Contacts: 26 Total  
 Spanish: 23  
 Vietnamese: 2  
 Other: 1

## **Cooperative Extension:**

### **4-H and Youth**

Summer enrichment activities started this week. We had youth attend woodworking classes and electric workshop classes. Youth were able to make bookends and coke can flashlights.

28 youth have been in the extension office working on presentations, posters, cooking skills in preparation for District Activity Day which will be held next Thursday at Nash Community College.

55 youth were enrolled in six groups for 4-H EFNEP.

### **Agriculture**

Farm Tour for Pasquotank and Perquimans Counties has been scheduled for July 30<sup>th</sup>. Call the extension center if you would like more information.

The first state contest wheat yield entry was taken. It yielded 72 bushels per acre. Speaking to farmers in the county, wheat is ranging from 40 to 60 bushels per acre.

Wheat meeting has been scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup> at the extension center.

Meeting was held with NC Dept. of Labor Representatives to plan safety education meeting for area farmers.

Helped one greenhouse manager to find solutions to several insect invasions.

### **Family and Consumer Sciences**

EFNEP had 4 home visits & programs at LaCasa.

Seniors were helped with Medicare Part D.

Babysitting class was held in conjunction with 4-H where 11 youth received certification in babysitting, CPR and First Aid. Also, one adult received certification in CPR & First Aid.

Class was held at Harriot Heights for 15 participants.

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