

PERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

November 6, 2023
OTHERS PRESENT

Gordon Powell
C. Derrick Sims
Kyle W. Puryear
Charlie Palmer
Jason Thomas

Katherine M. Cathey, County Manager
Michele Solomon, Clerk to the Board
S. Ellis Hankins, County Attorney

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Person, North Carolina, met in regular session on Monday, November 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Boardroom 215 in the Person County Office Building located at 304 S. Morgan Street, Roxboro, NC.

Chairman Powell called the meeting to order. Commissioner Sims offered an invocation and Commissioner Puryear led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Sims and **carried 5-0** to approve the agenda as adjusted with the addition of the Northern Middle School Utility Easement to the Consent Agenda and the deletion of Closed Session #2.

RECOGNITION:

The Disabled American Veterans awarded the following Certificate of Appreciation to the Person County Board of Commissioners.

November 6, 2023

Disabled American Veterans



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

PERSON COUNTY CHAPTER 72

Awarded To

Person County Board of Commissioners

This Certificate is awarded in sincere appreciation of your continued support of The Disabled American Veterans and its mission, fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served.

*Presented on
This 4th day of November 2023*

SIGNED

Ronald K. Epps
COMMANDER

ATTEST

Philip Schissler
ADJUTANT

November 6, 2023

INFORMAL COMMENTS:

The following individuals appeared before the Board to make informal comments:

Andrea Childers of 270 Blackberry Ln, Rougemont spoke in opposition to Dominion Energy's proposed Moriah Energy Center. Childers stated that she has been a resident of Person County for the past 31 years and owns 10 acres located less than a half-mile from the proposed Dominion Energy site. She advised that she has worked for Person County Schools and Piedmont Community College. Childers stated that she has given this county her heart, energy and time to try to make it a better place. She stated that in return, her county has destroyed her with the news that they are going to build a fossil fuel storage facility next to her 10-acre slice of paradise. Childers read a report from the Sierra Club. She provided to the Board a signed petition from residents in the community to postpone the approval process for Dominion Energy's Moriah Energy Center and a list of questions they want addressed and answered before any zoning or permit decisions are made. Childers expressed thanks to Chairman Powell for his presence at the Dominion Energy public meeting on November 1.

Kris Clayton of 6600 Helena Moriah Rd, Rougemont spoke in opposition to Dominion Energy's proposed Moriah Energy Center. Clayton stated that he and his son have lived in Person County for the past 11 years. He stated that he moved to Person County from northern Durham County, as he was looking for a great place that is peaceful, and quiet to live and raise his son. Clayton pleaded with the Board to choose the right answer.

Susan Jacque of 546 Lockamy Rd, Timberlake spoke in opposition to Dominion Energy's proposed Moriah Energy Center. Jacque stated that she has been a resident of Person County for the past 33 years. She stated that during the past 33 years, she has owned a couple of small businesses in Durham County and was part of an Economic Development Board in Durham. Jacque stated she has some understanding of the importance of economic development in the county and the city. She stated she moved to Person County to be in a rural setting, to see trees, and have fresh air. Jacque stated that if the Dominion Energy site were here 33 years ago, she would not have chosen to move here. She stated she believes this project will be harmful to the economic development of Person County. She encouraged all to ask if the benefits of this facility are worth the risks we are facing.

Don Narensky of 1 Summer Place Farm Rd, Timberlake spoke in opposition to Dominion Energy's proposed Moriah Energy Center. Narensky stated that he and his family own a 55-acre farm in Timberlake. He advised that he has sent multiple emails to the Board with little response. Narensky read his email that he sent to the Board. He had concerns about the impact that such a massive facility storing liquefied natural gas on 400 acres of rural farm and wetland could do in terms of noise, light, and air pollution, as well as underground water and wells. Narensky stated he had safety concerns, such as, leaks, fires and explosions. He asked what benefit is this project to the people of Person County. Narensky stated Dominion Energy has advised there will be only 12 full-time positions once the facility is up and running. He stated that none of the stored gas would be delivered to the citizens of Person County.

Narensky stated the lack of transparency was also an issue as this project was rushed through economic development without public input. He asked how long the Board knew about this proposed facility before it was made known to the public. Narensky stated that this a terrible ill-advised project.

Sabrina Verrier of 4196 Oxford Rd, Roxboro spoke on matters related to the Person County Department of Social Services (DSS) and foster care reform that needs to happen. Verrier expressed thanks to the Board for taking the time to discuss and listen to the issue. She stated this month is National Adoption Month. Verrier advised that in support of National Adoption Month, Person County as well as DSS have posted on social media sites. She stated that when she asked DSS to help and support her with adoption, they turned her to a private agency.

Liz Bradsher of 976 Estate Rd, Semora spoke on matters related to Person County Department of Social Services (DSS). Bradsher expressed thanks to the Board, as she is grateful they are discussing restructuring of the agency. She stated when PJ Gentry was on the Board a few years ago, she was the Board of Commissioners appointee to the DSS Board. Bradsher stated Gentry toured DSS and met with several people in the agency. She stated that Gentry received several calls from employees of DSS that wanted to meet. Bradsher stated due to the influx of employees wanting to meet, Gentry reached out to her for assistance, as all of the employees wanted to meet in anonymity. She advised she met employees at different times of the day and night and in inconspicuous locations to ensure they were not seen. Bradsher stated the employees' stories were sad and dealt with an unprofessional climate, nepotism, lack of protocol for employee mentoring, bullying, and high turnover. She stated the agency was described as a chaotic and toxic environment. Bradsher stated that Gentry spent months compiling research for ways to restructure the agency and hopes the Board will now take this seriously. She stated in reference to the former foster care case with DSS, the case is now in court and reminded the Board the guardian ad-litem did not recommend or agree for the children to be placed with their biological mother, and the DSS Attorney sought 18 continuances over the course of 4 ½ years. Bradsher advised she spoke to a resident today that reached out to her to in reference to a similar case with DSS, with the same attorney and judge.

George O'Neal of 1591 Chambers Loop Rd, Timberlake spoke in opposition to Dominion Energy's proposed Moriah Energy Center. O'Neal expressed thanks to those in the audience for their comments and to the Board for allowing public comments. He stated that he is a farmer in Person County. O'Neal stated Person County could be known for many awesome things, and the dumping ground for Raleigh's pollution should not be one of them. He urged the Board to make the right decision for Person County's future.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear and **carried 5-0** to approve the Consent Agenda with the following items:

- A. Approval of Minutes of October 16, 2023,
- B. Resolution Amending the Board of Commissioners 2023 Meeting Schedule to add a Strategic Planning Retreat,
- C. Budget Amendment #10,
- D. Person County Health Department Fee Schedule Amendment related to RSV vaccinations, and
- E. Northern Middle School Utility Easement

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS

Director of Emergency Services Thomas Schwalenberg read a Resolution in support of Operation Green Light for Veterans. Schwalenberg encouraged all citizens and businesses to display green lights in a window of their place of business or residence from November 6-12, 2023, in observance of Veterans Day and support of Operation Green Light.

Chairman Powell stated that he is proud of all service men and women and fully supports Operation Green Light for Veterans.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Sims and **carried 5-0** to approve the Resolution Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans.



RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS

WHEREAS, the residents of Person County have utmost respect, appreciation and gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served our country and our community in the U.S. Armed Forces and believe these service members should be granted specific recognition, and;

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices made by those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens, and Person County seeks to honor these individuals who have made countless sacrifices for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all, and;

WHEREAS, veterans continue to serve our community in various civic, religious and community organizations, as well as through civil service and by volunteering at various community-based events, and;

WHEREAS, members of the Person County Veterans Council, assist Person County veterans by serving as a liaison with the community in coordinating services and activities that benefit and honor local veterans and their families and solicit information and provide updates about activities honoring veterans in our community, and;

WHEREAS, Person County recognizes the necessity and value of employing a dedicated Veteran's Services Officer whose role includes aiding and advocating for local veterans by helping them navigate the complexities of veteran specific benefits, resources and programs and ensuring they receive the benefits and assistance they deserve, and;

WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually, and an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future, and;

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and active military service members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service, and;

WHEREAS, as of 2022, 40 percent of transitioning service members stationed in bases throughout North Carolina decided to stay in North Carolina upon their transition to civilian life, and 55 percent of service members retiring from the military with 20-plus years of service also made the decision to stay in North Carolina, and;

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to participate in Operation Green Light for Veterans 2023 by shining green lights throughout their communities to let local veterans know they are seen, appreciated and supported, and;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that having officially been designated a "Green Light for Veterans County," Person County hereby declares now through November 12, 2023 a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform, and;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light 2023, the Person County Board of Commissioners encourages its citizens and businesses to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve our freedom by displaying green lights in a window of their place of business or residence from November 6, 2023 through November 12, 2023.

Adopted this 6th day of November 2023, by the Person County Board of Commissioners.




Gordon Powell, Chairman

Attest:


Michele Solomon, Clerk to the Board

November 6, 2023

PERSON COUNTY PREPARE MASS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Director of Emergency Services Thomas Schwalenberg presented the following slideshow presentation on Person County Prepare. Schwalenberg stated Person County Prepare was launched on November 1, 2023 and replaces CodeRed. He advised that Person County Emergency Services has partnered with Rave Mobile Safety; which is a leader in mass notifications and incident management services for public agencies. Schwalenberg stated that they collaborate during emergencies to help organizations work together to help spread information. He advised Person County Prepare has more functionality than CodeRed and it is a free service to citizens in real time by text, email, or by voice response system to relay important emergency alerts to registered users. Schwalenberg advised that this system has been implemented on all county user devices. He advised that citizens would have to register, as the information did not integrate over from CodeRed if they were previously signed up.

County Attorney Ellis Hankins advised the General Assembly enacted a bill that provides that when a citizen provides their contact information for emergency notification purposes, their personal information is not a public record; therefore, the County would not disclose that information.

Person County Board of
Commissioner's Meeting

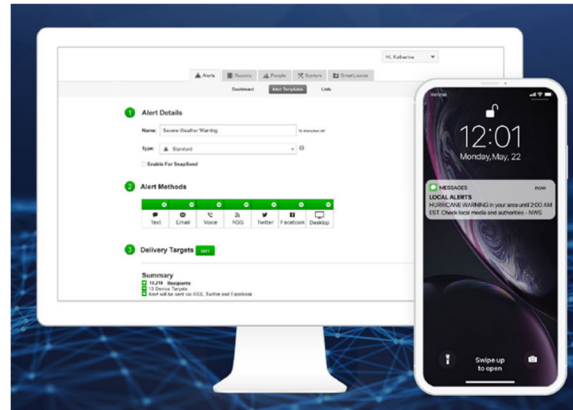
November 06, 2023



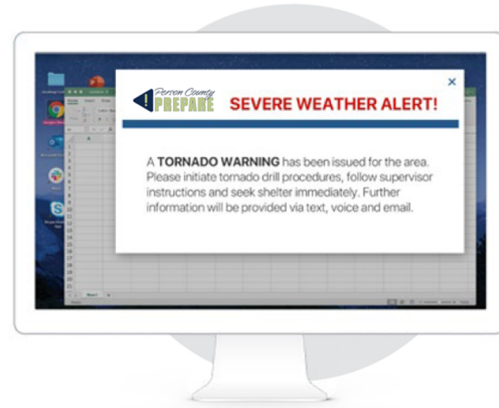
November 6, 2023



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November 6, 2023



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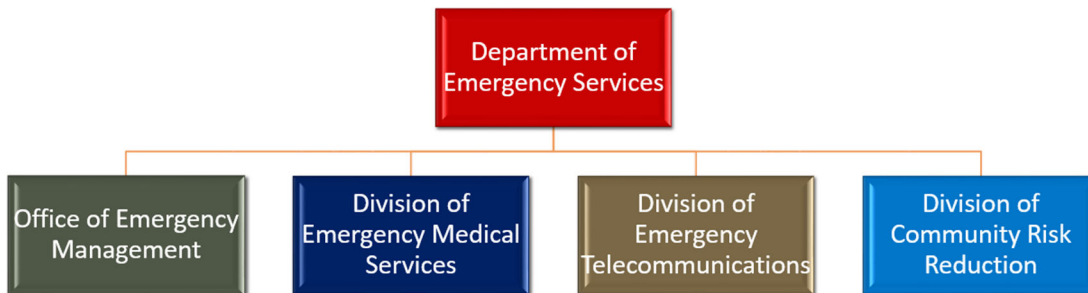
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Director of Emergency Services Thomas Schwalenberg presented the following slideshow presentation in reference to the Division of Community Risk Reduction. Schwalenberg stated with restructuring of the department, with the new position of Division Chief, it is a more targeted and collaborative approach for fire prevention, risk assessment and other risks in the community. He introduced Division Chief Michael Shawn Bradsher, who fills the Fire Marshal position and advised they are currently looking to fill the vacant position of Deputy Fire Marshal.

Division of Community Risk Reduction

PERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
NOVEMBER 6, 2023

Department of Emergency Services



November 6, 2023

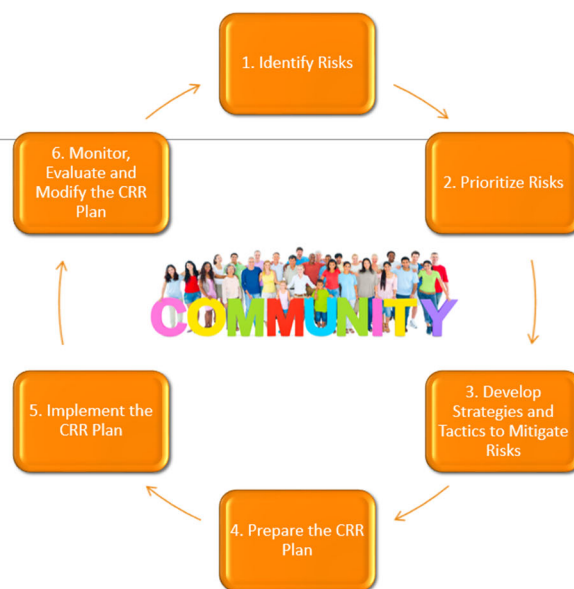
Community Risk Reduction

NFPA 1300 – “A program that identifies and prioritizes local risks, followed by an integrated and strategic investment of resources to reduce their occurrence and impact.”



Community Risk Assessment

A Collaborative Approach



5 E's for Community Risk Reduction Strategies



Education
Engineering
Enforcement
Economic Incentive
Emergency Response

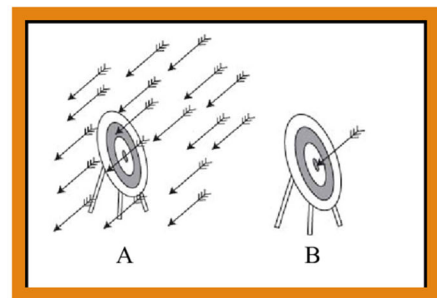
New Leadership for a Targeted Approach

Division Chief Michael Shawn Bradsher

A Targeted Approach

- Fire Prevention vs Community Risk Reduction

Next Steps



Thank you.



November 6, 2023

OPTIONS FOR ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNANCE OF HUMAN SERVICES AGENCIES

County Manager Katherine Cathey presented, per the Boards request, more information for further discussion on Governance of Human Services Agencies as a follow-up from the October 16, 2023 meeting. Cathey advised the Board that within their agenda packet, she has included an outline of various options that could be considered within Person County Government. She stated there is an interest in the Board to be more involved with the governance structure of Person County Social Services.

Options For Human Services Agency Organization And Governance

A. Separate Agencies with Appointed Governing Boards

Organization. Human services agencies (such as a local health department and county department of social services) remain separate.

Governance. Local appointed governing boards oversee the county's local human services agencies (i.e. local board of health and county board of social services).

B. Separate Agencies with Partial or Full BOCC Governance

Organization. Human services agencies (such as a local health department and county department of social services) remain separate.

Governance. The BOCC directly assumes the powers and duties of one or more of the governing boards responsible for overseeing a local human services agency (i.e., local board of health and/or county board of social services).^a

C. CHSA with Appointed CHS Governing Board

Organization. The BOCC creates a new CHSA by combining two or more human services functions, departments, or agencies.

Governance. The BOCC appoints a new consolidated human services ("CHS") board that serves as the CHSA's governing board.

D. CHSA with BOCC Governance

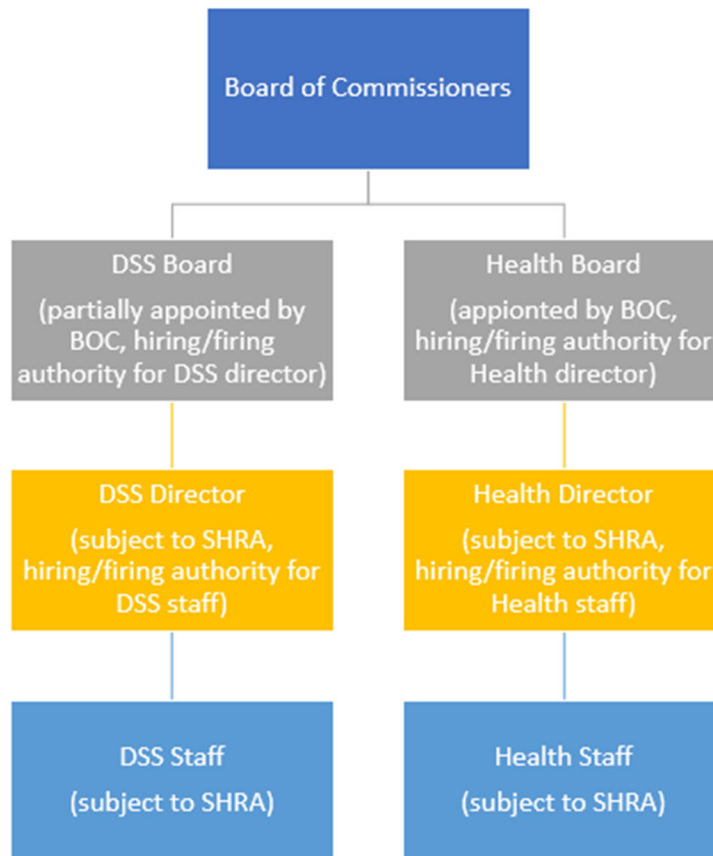
Organization. The BOCC creates a new CHSA by combining two or more human services functions, departments, or agencies.

Governance. The BOCC becomes the CHSA's governing board when it directly assumes the powers and duties of the CHS board.

a. In some counties, the BOCC governs all human services agencies, while in others, the BOCC has only assumed governance of one agency while leaving another under the control of an appointed governing board.

Option A (Current Model)

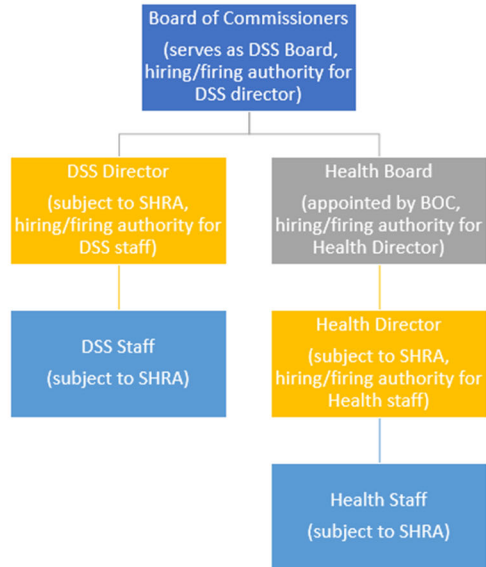
Separate Agencies with Appointed Governing Boards



Cathey advised Option A is the model currently used by Person County Government. She explained the options listed and how each would affect county employees and the governing body and answered questions received from the Board. Cathey advised the Board if they decide to move forward with restructuring and reorganization, a Public Hearing would need to be held to obtain feedback from the public prior to a final decision being made. Hankins advised the Board it is his recommendation that they make a decision on how to proceed with the option they are leaning towards.

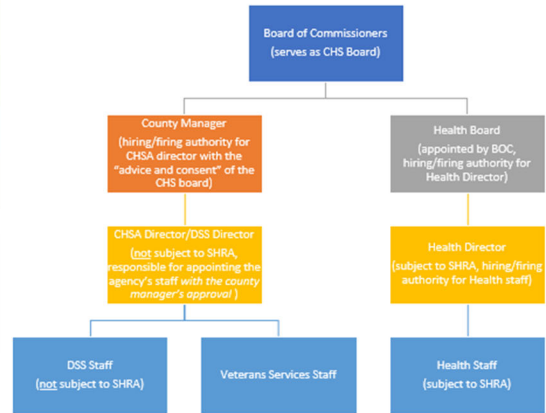
Option B

Separate Agencies with Partial BOC Governance



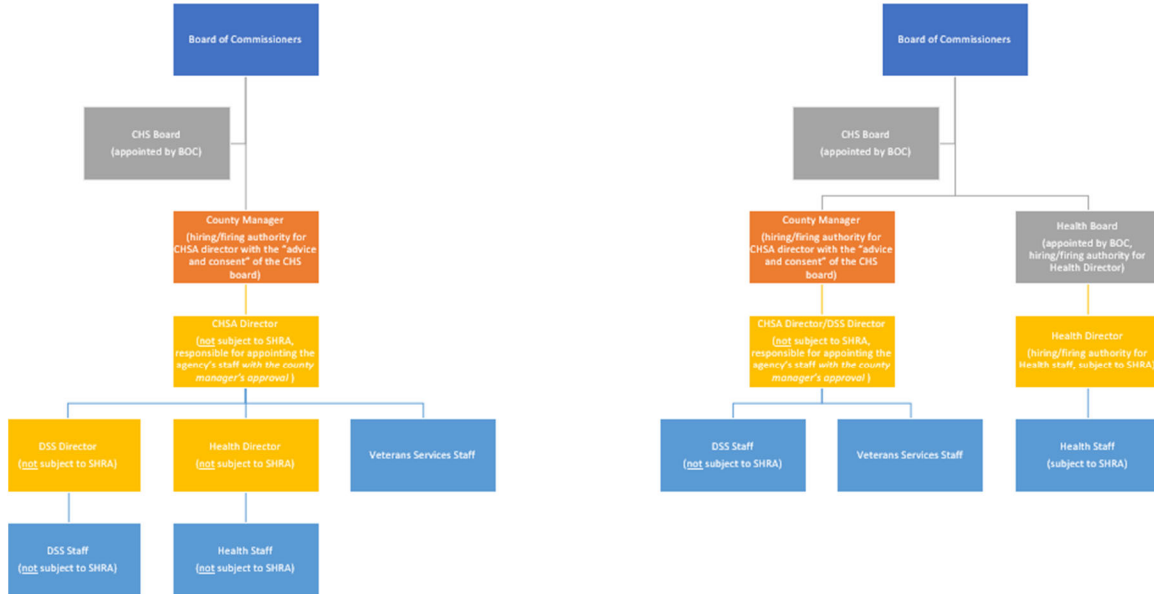
Option D

CHSA with BOC Governance



Option C

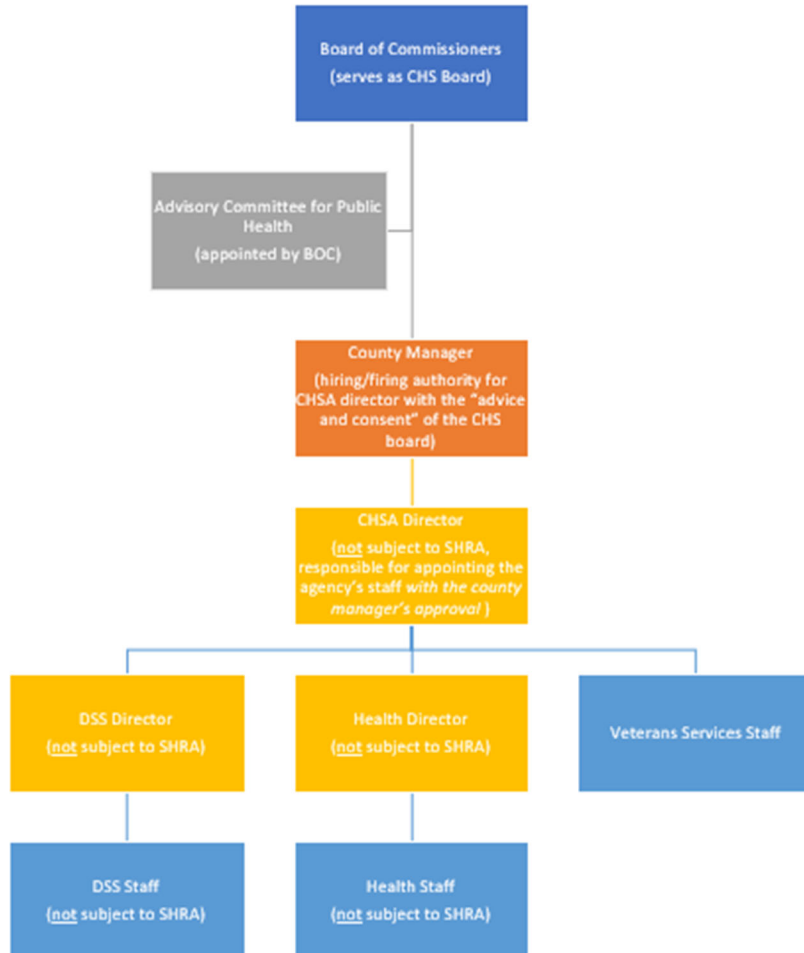
CHSA with Appointed CHS Governing Board (2 choices represented below)



November 6, 2023

Option D

CHSA with BOC Governance



It was the consensus of the Board to consolidate DSS with PATS (Person Area Transportation System), rather than with the Health Department or Veterans Services. The Board agreed to move forward with a public hearing for Option D; in which the Board of Commissioners serves as the Consolidated Human Services Board, and employees are not subject to State Human Resources Act (SHRA). The public hearing will be set for the earliest possible date allowing for a 30-day notice, subject to the adoption of the BOC 2024 Meeting Schedule.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Sims and **carried 5-0** to schedule a Public Hearing at the earliest date allowable by a 30-day notice to obtain feedback from the public.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Powell reported that he attended the VAYA Health Board Meeting and one topic of discussion was statewide issues of children in foster care.

Powell reported that he attended the Charters of Freedom Dedication Ceremony on November 2 and urged all to please go see the precious documents related to our Country. He stated it is educational for children. Powell expressed thanks to all involved.

Powell reported he attended the Person County Museum Brick Dedication Ceremony on November 4, and there was a great turnout.

Powell provided a public announcement in reference to Republic Services Landfill. He advised the public that the landfill is owned and operated by Republic Services. Person County has no control over the landfill, as it is private property. Powell stated citizens using the landfill have become disrespectful to employees and have even threatened them. He pleaded to citizens to respect the landfill and employees and to abide by their rules and regulations.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

County Manager Katherine Cathey reported she received word today that all permits have been issued for the County Farm Park project and the next step would be to begin work on Stormwater Control Measures with the anticipation of moving forward with construction of the project.

COMMISSIONER REPORT/COMMENTS:

Vice Chairman Sims reported that he had the privilege to attend the Disabled Veterans Ball at Antioch Baptist Church on November 4.

Sims reported that he attended the Charters of Freedom Dedication Ceremony and gave props to Commissioner Puryear for leading the National Anthem.

Sims reported that he attended the Food Truck Rodeo on November 5, and it was a great event, well attended with 24 Food Trucks.

Commissioner Palmer reported that he attended the Charters of Freedom Dedication Ceremony, and it was emotional. He stated that it was great asset to Person County.

Palmer reported that he attended the Person County Museum Brick Dedication on November 4.

Commissioner Puryear reported he attended the Charters of Freedom Dedication Ceremony, and it was an emotional ceremony.

Puryear reported he attended the Brick Ceremony at the Museum, and there was a large crowd, and he was happy to be there to be part of the experience.

Puryear thanked Person County staff for the Trick or Treat event that was hosted by most County departments. He enjoyed it.

Commissioner Thomas thanked everyone in attendance for coming out to the meeting and for voicing his or her opinion. Thomas stated he looks forward to the public hearing and hopes that it will be a huge turnout from the citizens. He urged citizens to support Operation Green Light in support of Veterans.

CLOSED SESSION #1

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Sims and carried **5-0** to enter into Closed Session #1 at 8:22 p.m. per General Statute 143-318.11(a)(5) to establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease; or (ii) the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract with the following individuals permitted to attend: County Manager Katherine Cathey, Clerk to the Board Michele Solomon, County Attorney Ellis Hankins, Finance Director Amy Wehrenberg, PCC President Pamela G. Senegal, and PCC Trustee Phillip Allen.

Chairman Powell called the Closed Session # 1 to order at 8:24 p.m.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Sims and carried **5-0** to return to open session at 9:41 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Palmer and **carried 5-0** to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 p.m.

Michele Solomon
Clerk to the Board

Gordon Powell
Chairman

November 6, 2023