

# SC DHEC Pee Dee COVID-19 – Regional Community Assessment Review and Equity Panel (CARE Panel)

## Initial Virtual Meeting Agenda

April 16, 2021

10:00 am – 11:00 am

### Present:

Jim Bruckner, SCDHEC-Pee Dee Region Health Director  
Bruce Bailey, Alliance for Healthier SC, President and CEO, Tidelands Health  
Tom Crawford, MUSC, Interim CEO of Florence Division  
Sandra Gilliard, St. James Health & Wellness, CEO  
Ann Lewis, CEO, CareSouth Carolina  
Lesli McGee, McLeod Health, Senior VP Care Coord. and Home Care Services  
Adam Parsons, Executive Director, Access Health Pee Dee  
Madie Robinson, SC Chapter of the NAACP  
Dana Rogers, SCDHEC-Pee Dee Region  
Brian Sponseller, MD, CMO, Carolina Pines RMC  
Sheila Welch, Director, Vantage Point, SC Department of Aging

### Special Guest:

Dr. Edward Simmer, SCDHEC Agency Director  
Ruthie Odom, Director of Covid Operations, SCDHEC Pee Dee Region  
Greg King, SCDHEC-Pee Dee Region IT  
Johdania Brown, SCDHEC IT

### Absent:

Katie Dorrell, Williamsburg Rural Health Clinic, Practice Manager  
Tim DuBose, Lee County EMS, Director  
Chris Hardy, Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce, President and CEO  
Dr. Nancy Ofendo Reyes, Nursing Professor, SC Commission for Minority Affairs  
Heather Shelton, MD, SC Medical Association

## 1. Welcome & Introductions– Jim Bruckner, Regional Public Health Director, Pee Dee Region

- a. Comments of Dr. Edward Simmer, SCDHEC Agency Director:
  - i. Thank you to everyone for volunteering time, energy, efforts and expertise to help get every S. Carolinian who wishes to have the vaccine vaccinated. Important mission we all share, your help and advice will be crucial to meeting the goals...
  - ii. Pee Dee a very diverse area, some areas with excellent Healthcare access and others with not so excellent. Has locations that are difficult to access the vaccine. This group will help identify areas where we need to get the vaccine to, areas where there are a lot or few people that want/need the vaccine...by bringing mobile units, working with individual providers, or having one of hospital / pharmacy partners send a team to location.
  - iii. Open to ideas of who to address vaccine hesitancy, already seeing a drop off, doing more walk-in events, but clearly concerned if people will take vaccine when offered.
  - iv. Very important what this panel will do and your efforts to support.
- b. Panel Introductions:
  - i. Ruthie Odom - Director of Operations for COVID, SCDHEC Pee Dee
    - 1) Are very committed to addressing the vaccine
    - 2) Working hard to make the testing, Case Investigation, Vaccine efforts positive and progressive process
    - 3) Wish and desire to vaccinate as many as possible to get beyond the pandemic
    - 4) Started mass vaccination in large areas and has since scaled down to smaller sites, going to rural areas. Most of the Pee Dee has a lot of area to target
    - 5) Going into large & small places, seeking vendors to provide the vaccine opportunity
    - 6) Done over 30,000 vaccinations in the Pee Dee Region - Jim will share stats
    - 7) Partnered with Hospitals, FQHC's, and others
  - ii. Bruce Bailey- CEO, Tidelands Health representing Alliance for Healthier SC
    - 1) Pleased to work with DHEC during the pandemic in testing / vaccine efforts
    - 2) Currently Co-chairing a committee on equity, diversity and inclusion for SCHA

- i. Ann Lewis- CEO, CareSouth Carolina, FQHC
  - 1) In Pee Dee area, C'field, D'ton, Lee, Marlboro & Dillon counties
  - 2) 16000 vaccinations, started in January
  - 3) Have 13 locations in small rural areas, have 1 large location in every county
  - 4) Offer events on a routine schedule (roughly 2000 vaccines / week)
  - 5) Expanded testing capacity - moved to mobile clinics by purchasing Moby's (like and ambulance) and equipped for vaccinations as well.
  - 6) Finding a major demand for Moderna (2 shot) - seeing a vaccine hesitancy with the J&J vaccine hold
  - 7) Humbling opportunity and look forward to working with everyone
- ii. Sandra Gilliard, CEO, St. James Santee Health and Wellness, FQHC
  - 1) Serve Georgetown county
  - 2) Have 6 locations, all are in rural areas
  - 3) Concern - getting into those small pockets out in the community, have not been able to take vaccination efforts offsite due to resources
  - 4) Continue to provide vaccine at all sites on a weekly basis
  - 5) Getting out in the community for more outreach, certainly can partner, not able to reach everyone onsite
  - 6) Vaccinated a little over 3000, primarily doing 2 sites, have expanded to 3 other locations
  - 7) Looking into purchasing a minivan to go out in the community
  - 8) Receiving calls from community leaders as to how to get vaccine to the community.
  - 9) Look forward to working with the panel.
- iii. Adam Parsons, Director of Care Transitions for McLeod Health, representing Access Health Pee Dee (Director)
  - 1) Work with FQHC's, hospitals and clinics across the Pee Dee to provide services
  - 2) Partnering with McLeod Hospital with vaccine clinics at hospitals, partnering with rural school systems for vaccine clinics (Johnsonville, Lake City, Pamplico)
  - 3) Look forward to working with everyone
- iv. Dr. Brian Sponseller, CMO, Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center
  - 1) Started with mass vaccine events, transitions to mobilizing to smaller communities, churches in hard to reach areas.
- v. Madie Robinson, Healthy Start, representing SC State Conference NAACP
  - 1) Concern is to make sure that appropriate and culturally competent education is given to areas in communities to try to increase the # of individuals vaccinated.
  - 2) Will be able to go into smaller communities, smaller populations that would not be targeted by larger entities, collaborate with all parties involved
  - 3) President Murphy would like to see through this effort collaboration among all entities present to make sure all citizens are educated and properly vaccinated
- vi. Tom Crawford, MUSC, Interim CEO of Florence Division
  - 1) Vaccination response team has vaccinated over 200,000 individuals across SC
  - 2) Happy to be part of the panel
- vii. Sheila Welch, Triple A director, Pee Dee Region
  - 1) Provide service in Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion & Marlboro counties
  - 2) Here to learn and provide as much information as can
- viii. Lesli McGee, Senior VP for continue of care for McLeod Health
  - 1) Working with testing and vaccine teams as Incident Commander for McLeod systems for last 400 days..
  - 2) Asked to represent the large hospital for Pee Dee Panel
  - 3) Looking forward

## 2. Introduction to CARE Panels:

- a. Panel meetings fall under the State's Open Meeting Rules - FOIA requests applies
  - i. They are open to the public – since these are virtual meetings audio only access will be granted to those wanting to listen to the meeting;
  - ii. Meeting agenda must be posted 48 hrs. prior to a meeting on DHEC's website;
  - iii. Meetings minutes will be taken and must be posted on DHEC's Website within 48 hrs. after meeting finalized
- b. Purpose and scope of the Panels - What you are being asked to do:
  - i. identify gaps in vaccine allocation and utilization and make recommendations to DHEC from the regions for deploying resources to fill those gaps;
  - ii. offer recommendations on how to best engage underserved communities;
  - iii. assisting in connecting community groups and leaders with vaccine providers within the region

- c. Format of Panel Recommendations to DHEC: (4 parts)
  - i. Identify or describe gaps in either vaccination allocation or utilization in the region
  - ii. Identify or describe where resources may best be deployed to fill the identified gaps
  - iii. Describe any recommendations may have as to how DHEC may best engage underserved communities in the region
  - iv. Additional comments or suggestions
- d. Panel Recommendations will be reviewed and if feasible used by DHEC in determining and coordinating future vaccination sites – DHEC review criteria includes:
  - i. assuring equitable access – meaning rural/underserved communities are priority;
  - ii. vaccines availability; - Janssen is a hiccup right now, hope to have a decision and are able to use
  - iii. which providers are best equipped to handle specific vaccines; (refrigerated & frozen vaccine)
  - iv. using the most current/comprehensive data available e.g. Vaccines administered, vaccination rates by geography, race, age, income, etc....
- e. DHEC representative Responsibilities
  - i. Non-voting member of Panel
  - ii. Assist the Chairperson w/facilitation the meetings
  - iii. Will be transmitting Panel recommendations from panel to DHEC

### **3. Pee Dee Regional COVID Testing and Vaccination Partnership**

- a. Has been meeting for over a year – Over 400 days in the response
- b. Membership includes: Representatives from DHEC, Hospitals (McLeod, MUSC, CMC, Tidelands, Carolina Pines, PRISMA, Lake City, & Williamsburg Regional), FQHC/Look-A-Likes (CareSouth, Hope Health, Little River, Care Team Plus), Free Clinic of Darlington County, Provider Offices (Dr's Care, Scotland Health, & St. James Health), SCNG, and SCHA...
- c. Have been identifying and addressing equity and disparities specifically the need for testing and vaccination clinics...Sites include Churches, Community Centers, Parks & Recreation Facilities, Schools, and Parking lots in tents....
- d. Pee Dee region seems to be doing well with getting far out in the communities (the whole partnership), very active and currently chair that partnership

### **4. Access to Data Review / Update**

- a. Regional Data available on the SC DHEC Website ... Link: [scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-vaccination](https://scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-vaccination) and click on – Vaccination Dashboard
  - i. Includes: Heat maps; county and zip code level data; and other relevant factors
  - ii. Requests for additional data can be made through the DHEC Panel Representative
- b. Where We Are as a Region Regarding Vaccinations:
  - i. Population of Pee Dee is approx. 942,238 - of which approx. 716,094 are eligible for the COVID vaccine
  - ii. DHEC Pee Dee Region & partner agencies have administered 493,942 COVID vaccinations
  - iii. 286,717 (40%) PD residents have received at least one dose (Moderna & Pfizer); and,
  - iv. 207,225 (29%) PD residents are fully vaccinated (Moderna, Pfizer & Janssen)
  - v. Trying to point out we still have a long way to go to get to Herd Immunity
    - 1) Question from Lesli - what % of PD residents have been vaccinated across any location (fully or partially)?
      - a) 29% vaccinated in Pee Dee

### **5. Chairperson and Secretary - These are Voluntary Roles:**

- a. Secretary – Someone to take Meeting Minutes and send to DHEC for Posting
  - i. Dana Rogers, SCDHEC, Pee Dee Region
- b. Chairperson - Point person for the region panel – Lead Panel Meetings – Spokesperson for the Panel (Sets the Agenda, Conducts/Manages the Meetings (help navigate the issues/tease out the recommendations of the panel) (could also have an alternate)
  - i. Brian Sponseller, MD, Carolina Pines RMC
- c. Backup Chairperson
  - i. Jim Bruckner, SCDHEC-Pee Dee Region Health Director

### **6. Next meeting:**

- a. Friday, April 23rd @ 10:00
- b. Dana will send a doodle poll out to get an idea of best time for panel calls

### **7. Adjourn**