

**SC DHEC Pee Dee COVID-19  
Regional Community Assessment Review and Equity (CARE) Panel  
Virtual Meeting: September 14th, 2021  
1:00 – 2:00 PM  
AGENDA**

**Present:**

Bruce Bailey, Alliance for Healthier SC, President and CEO, Tidelands Health  
Jim Bruckner, SCDHEC-Pee Dee Region Health Director  
Kelly Eaddy, Director of Covid Operations, SCDHEC Pee Dee Region  
Greg King, SCDHEC-Pee Dee Region, IT  
Suzette McClellan, SCDHEC- Pee Dee Region Community Systems Director  
Lesli McGee, McLeod Health, Senior VP Care Coord. and Home Care Services  
Adam Parsons, Executive Director, Access Health Pee Dee  
Dana Rogers, SCDHEC-Pee Dee Region, Secretary  
Sheila Welch, Director, Vantage Point, SC Department of Aging

**Absent:**

Tom Crawford, MUSC, Interim CEO of Florence Division  
Katie Dorrell, Williamsburg Rural Health Clinic, Practice Manager  
Tim DuBose, Lee County EMS, Director  
Sandra Gilliard, St. James Health & Wellness, CEO  
Chris Hardy, Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce, President and CEO  
Ann Lewis, CEO, CareSouth Carolina  
Rebecca Leach, SC Retail Association, Executive Director  
Dr. Nancy Ofendo Reyes, Nursing Professor, SC Commission for Minority Affairs  
Monty Robertson, SCHA Representative  
Madie Robinson, SC Chapter of the NAACP  
Heather Shelton, MD, SC Medical Association  
Brian Sponseller, MD, CMO, Carolina Pines RMC,  
Emily Way, SCDHEC- Pee Dee Region, Covid Vaccination Lead  
John Williams, SCHA Representative

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**1. Welcome**

- a. Jim Bruckner, SCDHEC-Pee Dee Region Health Director

**2. Region Pee Dee CARE Panel Comments:**

- a. CARE Panels were established in recognition of the urgent need to vaccinate as many people as possible in our state.
- b. Panel members were asked to identify gaps in statewide vaccination delivery and as vaccine supply increases, that all South Carolinians had equitable access to vaccine with deliberate emphasis on vulnerable populations and rural and underserved communities.
- c. Currently there are vaccination sites in all 12 Pee Dee counties (some on a rotating basis); however, vaccine demand is no longer there.
- d. The guidance document establishing the CARE Panels indicated that they would no longer remain active once the supply exceeded demand for vaccine.
- e. In addition, the original document establishing the CARE Panels included a section as to when they would no longer need to come together as a group. It states:

- a. COVID-19 CARE Panels may remain in effect even after a determination by the Director of DHEC that demands for the vaccine no longer exceed supply, but no later than when South Carolina is no longer under a declared public health emergency concerning COVID-19 or, whichever is earlier.
- b. The Governors Executive Order declaring a state of emergency has expired...
- c. This doesn't mean that DHEC (the Pee Dee Region) will not continue to take recommendations locally through other means as we have since the start of the COVID Pandemic.
- d. It just means this group will no longer come together monthly and recommendations can come directly to me or Kelly Eaddy the Pee Dee Region COVID Response Branch Director.
- f. I will have Dana send you our contact information.
- g. I don't require a motion and vote; however, I am asking the membership to consider a motion and vote regarding this matter.
  - a. Bruce Bailey made the motion
  - b. Motion was second by additional members
- h. We will continue to take recommendations.... Vaccine demand is pretty close to non-existence. Demand is just not there at the moment, if the demand changes we will take any recommendations that anyone has. We will keep the door open and welcome thoughts and ideas.

### 3. Panel Discussion:

- a. Bruce: Suggest we be careful about any optics that may come out of this disbanding this group in the face of the surge that is going on now.
  - a. Jim: Stating the purpose of the group and what established for. We have several other members out in the community that is not part of this group making/giving us recommendations and working with us very closely to make sure we get the vaccines where they are needed. As things pick up the Pee Dee Partnership for Vaccinations are meeting regularly and having several side conversations on where to vaccinate. Also talking with our partners that are vaccinating in addition to DHEC about long term plans beyond this surge into the Fall and winter months and how to take vaccinations to a higher level.
- b. Lesli: Recommendation would be to meet through the regional group and dissolve the CARE panel.
- c. Suzette: Agree with Lesli and suggest offering anyone that is part of the CARES panel to join the Pee Dee Coalition.
- d. Request for a vote to disband the CARES Panel calls and invite the members to join the Coalition call and re-enact this meeting in the future if needed.
  - a. 5 in favor
- e. Dana will send Jim and Kelly's contact information out and a request for anyone that would like to join the Partnership call.

### 4. Closing:

- a. Jim - Appreciate everyone, all recommendations sent to DHEC Central Office were looked at and implemented in the region. We have made a great impact in many of the counties in our Region as far as vaccine rates. We have a long way to go and the only way we can get there is by changing folks' minds about the vaccine and getting it. We hope that all join on our Thursday Partnership calls.

### 5. Adjourn