

Expand

from page A1

Up until this summer, the program was mostly funded by a five-year grant from Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust that's come to an end. This summer, Forsyth County commissioners approved \$338,000 for the program, which is expected to be reoccurring annual funds. The state approved grant funding for the program with \$608,000 for this fiscal year and about \$503,000 for subsequent years. Health Department Director Marlon Hunter said he's hopeful that Reynolds will also commit to two more years of funding.

"It speaks to the value of our nurses and the type of work they're doing in our community," said Hunter about the fiscal support for the program.

This expansion comes after the county saw a rise in 2016 infant mortality, which is when a baby less than 1 year old dies. When the Nurse Family Partnership began, the county had a rate of 10.2 deaths per 1,000 live births. Since then, it's dropped to a historically low 6.4 in 2014 and 7.1 in 2015. Hunter said that programs like Nurse-Family Partnership, Pregnancy Care Management, Care Coordination for Children and Healthy Start/Baby Love Plus have played a large part in that.

"It's had a huge impact," said Hunter. "I really feel like that is why we're seeing a decline in the African-

American infant mortality rate from first-time moms, it's because of some of those case management programs we now have in place."

The infant mortality rate for 2016 was 9.3 deaths per 1,000 live births. Hunter said that while the African-American rate has been falling, the rate in the Hispanic community has increased to 13.0 and is a big part in the overall countywide increase.

"The same type of outreach we did in the African-American community, we're going to have to do a better job in the Hispanic community," Hunter told county commissioners in a briefing last month.



Photo by Tevin Stinson

More than a dozen teachers and administrators attended the legislature forum hosted by the Forsyth County Association of Educators last week.

Gaps

from page A1

happens," Terry continued. "We have to be deliberate about closing these gaps."

Before taking questions from teachers, administrators, parents, and others with invested interest in the future of the local education system, Terry also discussed proposed cuts to the number of TA (teacher assistance) positions, the average class size mandate, and the local bus driver shortage.

Following the meeting, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County parent involvement coordinator Denise McCoy said she was excited to hear an elected official openly discuss about what's going on in our schools. Earlier this year, McCoy was appointed to Gov. Roy Cooper's Teacher Advisory Committee.

This is the second legislature forum the FCAE has hosted. President Ronda Mays said the organization plans to host the event again later in the school year.



N.C. Rep. Evelyn Terry shares her thoughts on the Every Student Succeeds Act on Thursday, Nov. 2, at the Central Library.

Contracts

from page A1

individuals to improve their quality of life and the communities where they live," N.C. Department of Administration Secretary Machele Sanders said. "I have directed the HUB Office team to explore new and improved ways to deliver effective and efficient services that will spur economic growth. Most importantly, we will foster meaningful and substantive inclusion of historically underutilized business across North Carolina to strengthen our state."

Per the Governor's Advisory Council on Historically Underutilized Businesses, among the 21-members appointed by Cooper were Cornelius Lambert of Greensboro, the former owner and executive vice president of CoMor Corporation, an IT and computer networking firm, and a Board Member for the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce; Iris Reese of Durham, the president of Fusion Multicultural Marketing; and Andrea Harris of Raleigh, the founder of, and a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Minority Economic Development. At the age of 23, Harris became the executive director of a community organizing group in Henderson, and she was the youngest community action agency director in the nation at the time.

Have an Opinion?
 Let us Know letters@wschronicle.com

www.wschronicle.com

**HARRY VETERANS 10TH ANNUAL
 "AFTER THE PARADE OPEN HOUSE"
 LUNCH AND GIFT BAGS**

HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED IN OUR ARMED SERVICES
 Saturday, November 11th -12 NOON - 4 P.M.
 897 PETERS CREEK PARKWAY
 "PROOF OF SERVICE REQUIRED"



WINSTON SALEM VETERANS DAY PARADE

DATE: Saturday, November 11, 2017

TIME: 10 A.M.

WHERE: The parade will proceed down 4th Street from Poplar and take a right on Liberty to 1 Triad Plaza.

