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Pamlico County Citizens form COVID-19 Community Task Force

Volunteers needed to support the County's COVID-19 efforts

The COVID-19 Community Task Force (CCTF) formally kicked off operations with a presentation to the Pamlico County Commissioners on April 6. Dr. Diana Silimperi formed the CCTF; she lives in Pamlico County and is a global health physician with over 30 years living and working in low resource countries in Africa and Asia, including experience as a prior Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer (EIS Officer) at the CDC. Dr. Silimperi is now on the County's Health Advisory Board.

Dr. Silimperi told the Commissioners "As the enormity of the COVID-19 pandemic became clear, I reached out to the Health Dept Director and the leader of Emergency Management, as well as the County Manager – to offer my support and share the best practices I have learned from my experience. They encouraged me to introduce a proven approach - the development of a community response network, to enhance the work of the County Health Dept."

After the presentation to the Commissioners, Pat Prescott said "The County is fortunate to have someone with Diana's experience in the County. The COVID-19 Community Task Force will be an excellent resource to support our County's effort to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 for our citizens."

The goals for the CCTF are to assist the County to mitigate or slow the spread of COVID-19 and to support the County to prepare for an infection surge. The CCTF will achieve these goals in two ways:

1. By mobilizing a COVID-19 Community Task Force to advise, make recommendations, and increase support for the Health Department, Emergency Management, and County Commissioners by harnessing the full range of community resources.
2. By creating two major volunteer efforts in the County: a COVID-19 Community Response Network of existing community organizations (churches, social organizations, nonprofits), and a second effort focused on developing voluntary Medical Surge capacity to support the Health Dept to better undertake its responsibilities such as contact tracing

Please be part of this effort! We need volunteers with medical training, public health or epidemiology experience. We also need people to keep in touch with friends and neighbors, and relay any needs identified back to the Task Force. Let the Task Force know how you can help: email PCCCTaskForce@gmail.com, phone 252-228-9788.

Dr. Slimperi said “One of the most common phrases we are hearing is: We are all in this together. The COVID-19 Community Task Force provides a way for each citizen of the County to be part of helping us get to the other side of this trying time.”