

# Henderson County Board of Health

## Minutes

Regular Meeting – September 13, 2022

Classroom of the Henderson County Department of Public Health  
1200 Spartanburg Highway Hendersonville, NC 28792

### I. Call to Order

The Henderson County Board of Health meeting was called to order by Dr. Maggie Hayes, Chairperson, at 6:04 p.m. Dr. Hayes welcomed Dr. Jennifer Hensley to the meeting as a newly appointed member.

<b>Members Present</b>	Kathleen Baluha, Registered Nurse Maggie Hayes, Physician – Chairperson Jennifer Hensley, General Public Member Bill Lapsley, County Commissioner Leslie Leidecker, Veterinarian Craig Poole, Optometrist Alison Reid, Dentist Kenesha Smith, Pharmacist – Vice Chairperson
<b>Members Not Present</b>	John Bryant, General Public Member Scott Prechter, General Public Member Jeffrey Young, Professional Engineer
<b>Staff Leadership Present</b>	Steve Smith, Health Director Crystal O'Dell, Director of Nursing Seth Swift, Environmental Health Director Stacy Taylor, Community Health Director

Quorum Present

### II. Approval of the Meeting Agenda

Dr. Hayes referenced the meeting agenda and asked board members to approve if no changes were needed. **Motion:** Dr. Poole made a motion for the agenda to be approved and Dr. Leidecker seconded the motion. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

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#### III. Approval of the August 9, 2022 Minutes

Dr. Hayes indicated the minutes for the August 9, 2022 meeting needed to be approved.

**Motion:** Ms. Baluha made a motion for the minutes to be approved as submitted and Dr. Poole seconded the motion. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### IV. Public Comments

Dr. Hayes inquired if anyone present wished to make public comments.

Mr. Paul Weichselbaum introduced himself and asked the board if they were anticipating any public health impacts related to the ongoing development of a new comprehensive plan. Mr. Smith noted that the board did not answer questions during the public comment period.

#### V. Presentations

##### Space Needs Assessment

Mr. Smith introduced Mr. Steve Allan with Solutions for Local Government, as the principal consultant for the physical space assessment of the Department of Public Health. Mr. Allan thanked the board for their time and reviewed several elements about the assessment process including the extensive interviews conducted with staff about operations and challenges with service delivery. Mr. Allan also shared some of the insights about population growth in the county over the next decade and how that would increase demand for various services. The report provided to the board prioritized space needs with Immunizations and Clinic qualified as critical; WIC and nutrition qualified as urgent; and Administration along with Community Health as important. Mr. Allan stated that tiered approach would allow for different phases of changes to meet space needs for those operations. Mr. Allan also advocated for a shift to active use of the warehouse space which would allow development of a large training room sufficient to accommodate public health staff and social services as needed. He recommended a multi-purpose room approach which could be used in a variety of ways including community meeting space. Mr. Allan stated that the warehouse space was also needed for a significant amount of storage and equipment staging for public health with particular respect to community or other large-scale events. Mr. Allan ended by complimenting the board on the existing building and grounds including how well they had been maintained. He emphasized that with an incremental building development plan, the department could continue to meet future public health needs for the community.

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#### VI. Reports

##### **COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments**

Dr. Reid shared several research articles related to COVID-19 vaccines including the higher risk of myocarditis evidenced in some studies, particularly for younger males in the 16-24 year old age range. Dr. Reid emphasized that a risk benefit analysis was important relative to the age and risk factors of the individual. Dr. Poole commented that he had reviewed the research and that the incidence of myocarditis in those particular groups was extremely low with some estimates in the range of 1 in 15,000. Dr. Reid expressed a concern that the number of cases of myocarditis might be underreported. Dr. Poole agreed that everyone needed to determine the benefit of vaccination vs the risk and was satisfied with the guidance individuals were receiving from their physician. Dr. Hayes stated that she was confident about the safety and efficacy of vaccinations in general based on the standard Food Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) review and approval processes. Mr. Lapsley stated that the board did not have any standing to interfere with the choices made about vaccinations by individuals and that it did not have a role in telling the medical community what to do with patient guidance. Dr. Reid stipulated she would bring back some additional research in the future that was related to the discussion.

##### **Health Director's Monthly Report**

Mr. Smith mentioned that the Annual Volunteer Banquet was scheduled for October 4, 2022 if board members were interested in attending. Mr. Smith also shared that new legislation regarding well grout inspections was in place and that additional information would be brought back at the October meeting. The board was also informed that the ordinance change for tobacco policy at the Human Services campus had occurred with support from the county commissioners. Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Lapsley for his assistance.

##### **Accreditation 2022 Preliminary Findings**

Mr. Smith shared the initial site visit evaluation which identified only 3 standards that likely weren't met among the 147 activities. It was further qualified that assessment would mean the department would achieve reaccreditation with honors. Mr. Smith thanks Dr. Hayes for her participation and all of public health staff for their efforts to provide evidence for the past 6 years which were part of the review. Mr. Smith stipulated the final assessment report would be brought back for review by the board.

#### VII. Old Business

None.



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### VIII. New Business

#### Annual Review of Board of Health Policies

Mr. Smith reminded the board that it was time to conduct an annual review of their policies which had been provided in their manual. Mr. Smith commented that based on recent updates, staff was only recommending some minor revisions to the operating procedures which would be coordinated with the County Attorney before bringing back a draft.

#### Request to Support Flu Vaccinations for Uninsured Adults

Mr. Smith shared that with upcoming flu clinics, the department was often asked by uninsured adults if they could be provided with a vaccination. Mr. Smith stated that the board had approved a limited amount of those vaccinations last year and that it would be beneficial to meet community need again this year. Mr. Smith qualified that he was making a request to provide up to 150 flu vaccinations for uninsured adults without the ability to pay.

**Motion:** Ms. Baluha made a motion to support the request and for the matter to be forwarded to the Henderson County Board of Commissioners for consideration and approval. Dr. Smith seconded the motion. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

### IX. Discussion

Dr. Hayes thanked board members for a productive meeting.

### X. Adjournment

**Motion:** Dr. Smith made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Dr. Leidecker.

**Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary to the Board/Health Director

11/8/2022

Date

*Approved by the Henderson County Board of Health at the November 8, 2022 meeting.*