

# Henderson County Board of Health

## Minutes

Regular Meeting – June 13, 2023

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 6:00 p.m.

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

### Quorum Present

### II. Approval of the Meeting Agenda

Dr. Maggie Hayes asked the board for its consideration of the proposed meeting agenda.

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

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#### III. Approval of the May 9, 2023 Minutes

Dr. Hayes requested approval of the May 9, 2023 meeting minutes if no changes were needed. **Motion:** Ms. Baluha made a motion for the minutes to be approved as presented and Dr. Jennifer Hensley seconded the motion. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### IV. Public Comments

Mr. Jason Greiner informed the board about his business which provided services like epoxy floor coatings and stated that he would be glad to assist with any future needs for the health department.

#### V. Presentations

##### Public Health Preparedness & Response

Ms. Victoria Cortes began by introducing herself and explaining that she represented a hybrid position within Emergency Services with a dual role of emergency management planner and public health preparedness coordinator. She shared that the CDC funding for this capacity started in 2002 and was intended to help health departments "...build and strengthen their abilities to effectively respond to a range of public health threats, including infectious diseases, natural disasters, and biological, chemical, nuclear and radiological events" (NC Division of Public Health Agreement Addendum).

Ms. Cortes then described some of her specific job duties which included development of required response plans like high consequence pathogens and all hazards; implementation of the respiratory protection program; facilitation of functional and tabletop exercises; and serving as an Epi-Team Co-Chair. Ms. Cortes also shared trend data specific to natural disasters across the United States which demonstrated an increased frequency for major impact events with billions of dollars in damages. That context was described as important for Henderson County since local first responders ranked natural disasters as the most likely large-scale threat for our area.

Dr. Hensley inquired about the funding and why it had been initiated with health departments. Mr. Smith responded that the 9/11 tragedy served as the catalyst for the program although earlier concerns like the threat of smallpox bioterrorism also elevated recognition of the necessity of public health preparedness.

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#### VI. Reports

##### Health Director's Monthly Report

Mr. Steve Smith informed the board that care management programs for high-risk pregnancies and at-risk children are being extended one year until June 2025. The extension will give health departments a right of first refusal for these programs. That policy decision was important since we have an experienced care management staff dedicated to the work. Pre-paid health plans in Medicaid Managed Care may continue to contract with local health departments for these programs after June 2025 if they continue to meet certain performance measures.

Mr. Smith also mentioned that board of health minutes were now being posted on the website and that a recruitment process was still underway to identify an optometrist candidate for the board's next organizational year.

#### VII. Old Business

None.

#### VIII. New Business

##### 2023-2026 Strategic Plan

Mr. Smith started by thanking the board for their input and guidance regarding priorities for the years ahead. The updated plan proposal reflects multiple objectives that are directly linked to the 3 core functions of assessment, policy development and assurance for public health. The commitments include ongoing work for formalized quality improvement/quality assurance, community health assessment, community partnerships including epi-team and local health information team meetings, implementation of a more public-friendly phone system and workforce investment. Mr. Smith stated the plan was an important tool for the department to ensure a shared focus on key deliverables and community health needs.

**Motion:** Ms. Baluha made a motion to approve the plan as submitted and Dr. Kenesha Smith seconded the motion. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

##### FY 24 Budget Ordinance and Public Health Budget Updates

Mr. Smith informed the board that the majority of public health budget requests had been approved by the Henderson County Board of Commissioners. Additionally, all personnel related requests had been approved with the exception of 1 new administrative assistant position for records management in the department. Those approvals included transitioning one school nurse position previously supported by COVID-19 funding to local funding.

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#### **Board of Health Meeting scheduled for July 11, 2023**

Dr. Hayes stated that she had inquired about the July meeting agenda and that staff had indicated there was no pressing business for that month. Dr. Hayes asked the board how they wished to proceed. **Motion:** Ms. Baluha made a motion to cancel the July meeting and Dr. Scott Prechter seconded the motion. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **Resolution in Honor of Dr. Craig Poole**

Dr. Hayes indicated that this would be the last board of health meeting for Dr. Poole since he had served the maximum number of terms by statute. She stated that his service had been invaluable and that she along with all board members would miss his input and guidance for public health in Henderson County. Dr. Hayes asked to read the proposed resolution to the board and audience (it is included below as part of the meeting record).

- see next page -

# Henderson County Board of Health

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### RESOLUTION of the Henderson County Board of Health

#### In Honor of Dr. Craig Poole 2014 - 2023

**WHEREAS**, the Henderson County Board of Health honors Dr. Craig Poole for his 9 years of service to promote, protect and advance the health and wellness of our community; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Poole provided leadership for several notable public health accomplishments including, but not limited to, achievement of reaccreditation with honors for the Department of Public Health, advocacy for local and state tobacco policy, establishment of additional school nurse capacity, implementation of a school-based influenza vaccination campaign, initiation of substance use prevention efforts, coordination of behavioral health services and engagement with elected officials, community leaders and members of the public to enhance community health strategies and public health outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Poole served as the Chairperson and participated with several committees which enhanced the work of the board and elevated the impact of public health services in the community; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Poole supported the expanded vision screening program in public schools and served as a model for local eyecare professionals by accepting Prevent Blindness NC vouchers and referrals from school nurses; and

**WHEREAS**, the leadership and contributions accomplished during his tenure led to several recognitions for the Henderson County Board of Health and the Henderson County Department of Public Health including the Outstanding Board of Health of the Year award from the Association of North Carolina Boards of Health in 2015, 2018 and 2022.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Henderson County Board of Health formally recognizes and honors Dr. Poole for his contributions to public health and service to the citizens of Henderson County.

Approved by the Henderson County Board of Health, this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of June 2023.

**Motion:** Dr. Hayes made a motion to adopt the resolution and Dr. Kenesha Smith seconded the motion. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

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Dr. Craig expressed his appreciation for the kind words and acknowledgement. He stated that he had truly enjoyed his time on the board and had learned so much about the importance of addressing community health needs and how the department contributed. Dr. Poole thanked board members for their fellowship and support during his tenure. Board members then provided Dr. Poole with a round of applause for his service.

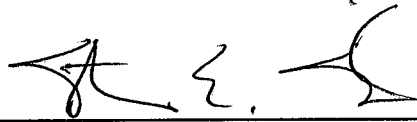
#### IX. Discussion

Dr. Reid inquired about the status of COVID-19 vaccinations in the department. Mr. Smith said he would bring that information back to the board at their next meeting.

#### X. Adjournment

**Motion:** Ms. Baluha made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Dr. Smith. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted:



Secretary to the Board/Health Director

8/8/2023

Date

*Approved by the Henderson County Board of Health at the August 8, 2023 meeting.*