

# Henderson County Board of Health

## Minutes

Regular Meeting – January 21, 2025

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>	Jay Egolf, County Commissioner Haley Perry, Optometrist John Bryant, General Public Member Samantha Roberts, Veterinarian Scott Prechter, General Public Member Jennifer Hensley, General Public Member Maggie Hayes, Physician – Chairperson Jeffrey Young, Professional Engineer
<b>Members Not Present</b>	Alison Reid, Dentist Kathleen Baluha, Registered Nurse Kenesha Smith, Pharmacist – Vice Chairperson
<b>Staff Leadership Present</b>	Dave Jenkins, Health Director Crystal O’Dell, Director of Nursing Camden Stewart, Administrative Officer Dr. Diana Curran, Medical Director Seth Swift, Environmental Health Director Amy McCall, WIC Director

**Quorum Present**

### II. Oaths of Office for Commissioner Jay Egolf

Mrs. Camden Stewart, Notary Public, completed the Oaths of Office with Commissioner Jay Egolf to swear him in as a Henderson County Board of Health member effective January 21, 2025.

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#### III. Public Comments

A representative from the League of Women Voters explained the purpose of and her role within the League of Women Voters.

A community member spoke to changes being made at the national level related to public health and its impact on local public health.

#### IV. Approval of the Meeting Agenda

Dr. Maggie Hayes asked board members if they were prepared to approve the proposed agenda. **Motion:** Dr. Hensley made a motion for the agenda to be approved. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bryant. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### V. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Dr. Hayes requested approval of the consent agenda. **Motion:** Dr. Bryant made a motion for the consent agenda to be approved. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hensley. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### VI. Presentations and Reports

##### State of Environmental Health Report

Seth Swift, Environmental Health Director, shared an annual report regarding the role of Environmental Health as well as staffing and performance over the past year. Notably, staff retention has improved since 2019 in response to the support and advocacy of the Board of Health related to Environmental Health positions. This has allowed the department to return to meeting 100% of the required food and lodging inspections as well as improved response to septic inspections/applications and permitting. Mr. Swift also spoke about the impact of Hurricane Helene on the community and noted specific challenges the department is facing related to installing and repairing systems that are in disrepair due to hurricane damage.

##### Health Director Report

Mr. Jenkins shared that the CDC has issued a [health advisory](#) recommending **subtyping all influenza A positive specimens from hospitalized patients, particularly those in an intensive care unit (ICU), as soon as possible after admission and ideally within 24 hours** to detect avian influenza (H5N1). Some animal to human infections in the U.S.

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Mr. Jenkins shared communication with the board from County Manager John Mitchell in which the County Manager requested that departments implement cost-saving measures to reduce potential ramifications of Hurricane Helene on the County's operations and budget. These measures are to include avoiding unnecessary purchasing/expenditure, reducing employee overtime and temporary staffing, renegotiating or reducing contractor and vending services, and reviewing upcoming projects.

The NC Multi Agency Warehouse has been receiving a high volume of donations for impacted Western NC people and has been sending the items out as requested to nonprofit agencies. The requests for these donated items have decreased and the Warehouse is targeting closure at end of March. Mr. Jenkins made the board aware of this resource and requested board members reach out to him should they know of an agency that could distribute these resources.

#### VII. Old Business

None.

#### VIII. New Business

##### AA 121 ARPA Public Health Services

AA 121 ARPA Public Health Services funding was accepted by the Board of Health and Board of Commissioners in prior meetings. Mr. Jenkins updated the Board on the plans to use these funds to scan medical records as well as improve office space and storage throughout the Health Department. The remaining allocation of these funds must be spent by May 31, 2025.

##### AA 122 Hurricane Helene Essential Functions Support

The NC Department of Health and Human Services has allocated \$1,064,970 to Henderson County to provide necessary and appropriate relief and assistance from the effects of Hurricane Helene. Mr. Jenkins shared plans with the Board to use these funds to improve the Health Department facilities, but more significantly, to improve the designated shelter facility (Athletics and Activities Center) to be better prepared to provide for families and individuals in future sheltering events.

Mr. Jenkins requested approval to accept the AA122 Hurricane Helene Essential Functions Support funds. **Motion:** Dr. Prechter made a motion to accept the AA 122 Hurricane Helene Essential Functions Support funds. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bryant. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### Formation of Budget Review Committee

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Dr. Hayes inquired if any board members were willing to serve on the budget review committee to assess the budget requests with staff before the final proposal came back to the board. Dr. Roberts, Mr. Young and Dr. Prechter volunteered. Dr. Hayes appointed these members for the committee and reminded the remaining board members that anyone could participate.

#### IX. Board Member Remarks

Dr. Bryant thanked Mr. Swift for his annual presentation and expressed support related to the challenging decisions the department will have to make regarding hurricane damage and response.

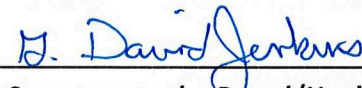
Dr. Bryant spoke about Pardee UNC Health Care's expansion to the southern part of Henderson County, which is to include a 40,000sqft build on Spartanburg Hwy that will house clinical services, primary care, physical therapy, laboratory and pharmacy services.

Commissioner Jay Egolf introduced himself and expressed his appreciation for being included in the Board of Health.

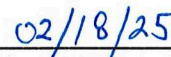
#### X. Adjournment

**Motion:** Dr. Prechter made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Dr. Roberts. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.

Respectfully submitted:



Secretary to the Board/Health Director



Date

*Approved by the Henderson County Board of Health at the February 17, 2025 meeting.*