

# Henderson County Board of Health

## Minutes

Regular Meeting – May 19, 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 6:06 p.m.

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

### Quorum Present

### II. Board of Health Statement

Dr. Hayes presented a statement on behalf of the Board of Health expressing the board's awareness of changes at the federal level that have impacted or may impact the department locally, especially related to funding. The statement voiced an understanding of the community's concerns. As stated, the board will continue to advocate for policies that aim to promote, protect and advance the health and wellness of Henderson County residents.

### III. Public Comments

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Paul Weichselbaum shared a history of the changes in federal funding, priorities and support for public health over multiple administrations.

Padma Dyvine, a member of the Progressive Alliance of Henderson County, spoke regarding the accuracy of accessible health information and articulated a need to understand the most appropriate venue/outlet to express related concerns.

#### IV. Approval of the Meeting Agenda

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

#### V. Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

#### VI. Presentations and Reports

##### Community Health Assessment

Juliana Whitaker, Community Health Strategist and Partnership for Health Coordinator, provided a high-level overview of the primary and secondary data compiled to inform the 2024 Community Health Assessment. Ms. Whitaker noted that a community form was held in early May which provided the opportunity for community members and leaders to prioritize and weigh in with their opinions about Henderson County's most significant health priorities.

Following review of the data, the community selected Chronic Disease, Affordable Housing and Mental Health as the top three health priorities for the next three-year Community Health Assessment cycle. Next, the Community Health Assessment (document) will be created and distributed followed by the establishment of action teams and action plans to address the selected health priorities over the next three years.

##### Care Management Presentation

Olga Escobar, Care Management supervisor, updated the board on activities of the care management team. Mrs. Escobar detailed the purpose and referral guidelines of both the

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CMHRP and CMARC programs. She also described a more recent initiative of the department, the Newborn Home Visiting Program, aimed at supporting mothers and babies during the post-partum period and improving post-partum health outcomes. This program is available to all mothers in Henderson County with infants up to age one, regardless of income, health insurance status, location, etc.

#### **Health Director Report**

The Health Department participated in the community's Mental Health Awareness activities and social media campaign during the month of May.

There are now four certified rabies vaccinators in Henderson County, two with Blue Ridge Humane Society and two with Henderson County Animal Center, the latest being Kaley Griggs.

The department will be conducting a HIPAA Security Risk Assessment with TEGO to ensure proper handling and processing of protected health information across programs.

Federal cuts related to tobacco funding have impacted our county's Regional Tobacco Coordinator who has been furloughed. We are pursuing alternative options for funding this position with DPH by utilizing pass-through funding and Juul settlement funds. This will allow for a regional tobacco coordinator to maintain tobacco prevention and cessation efforts across regions 1 and 2 (western counties).

Mr. Jenkins will be attending the Board of Commissioners budget workshop on Wednesday, May 21. He will update the board on the status of the department's budget and any initial considerations in the June board meeting.

The NC Association of Local Health Directors continues to advocate for additional reoccurring funding with state leaders and legislature. There has been very little change to the annual reoccurring amounts local NC Health Departments receive from the state and feds over the past decade.

#### **VII. Old Business**

None.

#### **VIII. New Business**



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### Adopt BOH Meeting Calendar for FY 25/26

Dr. Hayes requested approval of the meeting calendar for FY25/26. **Motion:** Dr. Smith made a motion for the consent agenda to be approved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baluha.

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

### IX. Board Member Remarks

Dr. Hensley informed the board that she will be rolling off as a member at the end of June 2025. She thanked the other members for their dedication and commitment to serving on the board and expressed her gratitude for participation in recent years.

Dr. Smith thanked the community members who spoke during public comment.

### X. Closed Session

Dr. Hayes indicated that the board needed to go into closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a)(6) to "...consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee...". **Motion:** Dr. Hayes made a motion to go into closed session for the stated purpose. **Vote:** The board unanimously agreed to go into closed session. Dr. Hayes further stated to all those in attendance that the board would take no further action once it came back into open session and would immediately adjourn. Dr. Hayes excused all present except for board members and Mrs. Stewart.

The board concluded the closed session at approximately 7:26 p.m. **Motion:** Dr. Hayes made a motion to exit the closed session. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

### XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: M David Jenkins  
Secretary to the Board/Health Director

08/25/25  
Date

*Approved by the Henderson County Board of Health at the June 16, 2025 meeting.*