

Henderson County Board of Health

Minutes

Regular Meeting – August 18, 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 6:07 p.m.

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

Quorum Present

II. Public Comments

None.

III. Approval of the Meeting Agenda

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

IV. Approval of the Consent Agenda

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Dr. Hayes requested approval of the June 16, 2025 minutes. **Motion:** Mr. Young made a motion for the minutes to be approved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baluha. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Dr. Hayes requested approval of the Sport Physicals Flat Fee - \$45. Mr. Jenkins explained that there is need for sports physicals to be offered more readily in the community. This would allow the Health Department to offer sports physicals without also requiring the patient to transfer care and complete a full physical at the Health Department. Insurance would not be billed. **Motion:** Mr. Egolf made a motion for the sports physicals flat fee to be approved. The motion was seconded by Dr. Reid. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Dr. Hayes requested approval of the 2025 Bringing Value Home Innovation Funding – Community Care of NC. This grant is offered in the amount of \$15,316.26 and can be used to improve clinical practice in some manner. The department's practice management team is considering options for the best use of these funds. **Motion:** Mr. Egolf made a motion for the funds to be access and approved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baluha. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

V. Presentations and Reports

Health Director Report

Mr. Jenkins asked Crystal O'Dell, Director of Nursing, to speak about the rabies vaccine and requirements. Over the summer, 16 bats were captured and tested for rabies, resulting in two bats positive for rabies. Currently, patients can only be treated for rabies at the hospital as hospitals have the rabies post-exposure prophylaxis treatment and rabies immunoglobulin. The Health Department is working with the hospitals to meet community need to provide rabies vaccine and treatment following exposure.

Five reclassifications were approved in the FY26 Health Department budget, including one Account Specialist I, two Environmental Health Supervisor II positions, Environmental Health Director I, and an Environmental Health Programs Coordinator. These positions were necessary to acknowledge an increased workload and complexity of job duties amongst staff.

Mr. Jenkins shared a presentation published by NCDHHS regarding the impact of federal Medicaid changes on NC Medicaid state funding. Federal changes will add work requirements and limit provider taxes, both of which threaten to end Medicaid expansion unless the General Assembly acts otherwise. Currently, NC Medicaid provides affordable health coverage to 3.1 million North Carolinians. The addition of work requirements may cause as many as 255,000 North Carolinians to lose coverage. The board discussed provider taxes

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noting that a significant share of provider taxes is paid by hospital, long-term care facilities and other healthcare providers. These taxes help sustain and enhance the Medicaid program without raising general taxes. The proposed changes would reduce the 6% provider tax cap to 3.5%. The reduction in the provider tax and other Medicaid cuts could result in \$49.9 billion being taken out of the NC economy over the next ten years. Additionally, without a statutory change, new administrative costs will likely trigger the NC law that ends Medicaid expansion resulting in coverage loss for 671,476 people, 5,000 Henderson County residents. Mr. Jenkins will continue to explore the impact of these changes on our department and community. There will be continued discussion in future board meetings.

VI. Old Business

Public Health Service Award Discussion

The board would like to honor Mr. Bill Lapsley for his 9+ years of service to the Board of Health. Mr. Egolf will contact Mr. Lapsley to inquire about where/when the board could acknowledge his contributions.

VII. New Business

Support Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Melissa Witmeier, Public Health Strategist- Behavioral Health, spoke to the group about Suicide Prevention Month in September. She acknowledged the hard work and contributions of the Behavioral Health Summit, Behavioral Health Community Engagement Committee, Partnership for Health and others in supporting and promoting mental health awareness in Henderson County. Ms. Witmeier presented a Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Resolution to the board. If approved, the resolution will be carried forward to the Henderson County Board of Commissioners for a presentation in their early September meeting. **Motion:** Ms. Baluha made a motion in support of the resolution and agreed to forward the resolution to the Board of Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Dr. Roberts. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Records Destruction

Health Department staff dedicated time in July to purging records from the department's records storage room following the approved NC Local Health Department Records Retention schedules. Records that are unable to be discarded may be stored offsite and scanned to clear out space for other potential uses. Mr. Jenkins provided the board with a Destruction Log for approval. **Motion:** Ms. Baluha made a motion to approve the Destruction Log. The motion was seconded by Mr. Young. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

AA122 Hurricane Helene Essential Functions Support

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Mr. Jenkins reminded the board about AA122 Hurricane Helene Essential Functions Support, an agreement addendum in the full amount of \$1,064,970. These funds are available to public health departments that were most impacted by Hurricane Helene. Mr. Jenkins shared his thoughts about the use of these funds including updating department furniture, records scanning, potential construction of a new classroom space and updates to the county's Athletics and Activities Center which serves as the county's designated shelter, amongst other ideas. Dr. Roberts agreed with the idea of updating the county's shelter facilities. Discussion was held around other Helene funding received by the county to support rebuilding structures and investing in the recovery of the community's famers.

Board of Health Training – Roles and Responsibilities of Local Public Health Governing Boards, UNC

Board members are required to complete annual training on the roles and responsibilities of Local Public Health Governing Boards. The board will complete this training in the October 2025 meeting. All members are highly encouraged to attend.

VIII. Board Member Remarks

None.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: Ms. Baluha made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Dr. Reid **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

D. David Jenkins

Secretary to the Board/Health Director

09/22/25

Date

Approved by the Henderson County Board of Health at the September 15, 2025 meeting.