

Henderson County Board of Health

Minutes

Regular Meeting – September 15, 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 Mr. David Jenkins, Secretary to the Board, at 6:02 p.m. Mr. Jenkins would only preside until a new chairperson was elected as specified in the operating procedures.

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

Quorum Present

II. Nomination and Election of Chairperson

Mr. Jenkins opened the floor to board members for nominations of candidates to serve as Chairperson. Dr. Prechter nominated Dr. Maggie Hayes for Chairperson. Mr. Jenkins inquired if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, Mr. Jenkins closed the floor for nominations. **Motion:** Dr. Prechter made a motion for Dr. Hayes to serve as Chairperson for the FY 26 organizational year and Dr. Smith seconded. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

III. Nomination and Election of Vice-Chairperson

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In Dr. Hayes absence, Mr. Jenkins asked board members for nominations for the Vice Chairperson. Ms. Baluha nominated Dr. Kenesha Smith to serve as Vice Chairperson. Mr. Jenkins inquired if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, Mr. Jenkins closed the floor for nominations. **Motion:** Ms. Baluha made a motion for Dr. Smith to serve as Vice Chairperson and Dr. Bryant seconded. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Jenkins yielded the meeting to Dr. Smith as the newly elected vice-chairperson in the absence of the newly elected chairperson, Dr. Hayes.

IV. Public Comments

Padma Dyvine - expressed concerns about the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's role in guiding public health, especially with regards to vaccinations. She also commented on the board's next steps and recommendations following a statement from the Board of Health in May 2025.

Paul Weichselbaum – commented on the federal government's role in public health as opposed to the Board of Health's role in promoting evidence-based public health strategies. He requested further conversation about this topic by the board in a future meeting.

V. Approval of the Meeting Agenda

Dr. Smith asked board members if they were prepared to approve the proposed agenda.

Motion: Dr. Bryant made a motion for the agenda to be approved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baluha. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

VI. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Dr. Smith requested approval of the August 18, 2025 minutes. **Motion:** Ms. Baluha made a motion for the minutes to be approved. The motion was seconded by Dr. Perry. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

VII. Presentations and Reports

Support our Swimmers

Ms. Katie Breckheimer, representative of Henderson County Support our Swimmers, presented information about the need for a year-round aquatics facility in Henderson County. A swimming facility was assessed as a top five need in Henderson County in 2019 through the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. With Patton Pool now out of commission,

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this need has increased. Ms. Breckheimer shared examples of a few successful aquatics centers/recreation centers in Western NC as she discussed the desired facility and necessary features. As she highlighted, an aquatics center would serve all ages, benefit public health, and could allow for a positive economic impact on the community. Ms. Breckheimer suggested the board discuss this topic further in a future meeting and/or write a letter of support to Support our Swimmers as they gain public backing for this project.

End of Fiscal Year 24/25 Financial Report

Mr. Jenkins presented the FY25 End of Fiscal Year Report to the board, noting that the year ended in good standing related to personnel and operating expenses as well as revenues in both General Health and Environmental Health.

At the end of FY25, General Health expenses remained under at 78%. Non-county revenues were collected at 93%, and just over 68% of county appropriations were utilized with \$2,828,058.11 not needed within the department's budget.

Environmental Health expenses remained under at 97%. Non-county revenues were collected at just under 97%, and just over 97% of county appropriates were utilized with \$42,511.21 not needed within the department's budget.

Mr. Jenkins reviewed Medicaid revenues in detail with the board and answered questions regarding Medicaid Max and the department's restricted fund balance.

Health Director Report

NC legislature ordered a halt to the Medicaid provider rate reductions which were to go into effect October 1st.

We continue to monitor the \$319 million shortfall for Medicaid funding.

Governor Josh Stein directed the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to issue a Standing Order that makes it easier for adults in North Carolina to get their COVID-19 vaccines at pharmacies across the state without a prescription.

Pharmacies and health departments are convenient points of access to maximize opportunities for those who choose to get vaccinated. Pharmacies continue to play a vital role in vaccination efforts, with more than 70% of vaccinated North Carolinians receiving their COVID-19 shots at pharmacies during the last season. Most insurance plans cover the cost of the vaccine.

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Who is eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine at a pharmacy without a prescription?

- o Adults 65 years and older
- o Adults 18 to 64 years old with at least one high-risk health condition, such as: obesity, asthma, diabetes, smoking (current or former), pregnancy, depression, physical inactivity, and more. For the full list of qualifying conditions, visit the CDC's website.

After Hours Vaccine Clinic (4 Nights)

Total patients seen: 305 with 774 total vaccines administered

A few of the staff and I will be attending the NC Public Health Association annual meeting this week in Wilmington.

VIII. 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. Lapsley will likely be presented with this award at the October 6th Board of Commissioners meeting. Mr. Jenkins will follow up with the board when this date is confirmed.

Board of Health Training – Roles & Responsibilities of Local Public Health Governing Boards

Board members are required to complete annual training on the roles and responsibilities of Local Public Health Governing Boards. Mr. Jenkins is working with the UNC School of Government to schedule this training for the board in October. When the training is scheduled, all members are highly encouraged to attend.

IX. New Business

BOH Policy Reviews

The Board of Health is responsible for reviewing seven board policies annually. Of the seven policies, only one required revision during this annual review. Revisions to the Determining Costs and Setting Fees for Services Policy were discussed. **Motion:** Dr. Bryant made a motion to approve the seven Board of Health policies with revisions as discussed. Ms. Baluha seconded this motion. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

X. Board Member Remarks

None.

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XI. Adjournment

Motion: Dr. Prechter made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Dr. Perry **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.

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

10/20/25
Date

Approved by the Henderson County Board of Health at the October 20, 2025 meeting.