

Henderson County Board of Health

Minutes

Regular Meeting – October 20, 2025

I. Call to Order

The Henderson County Board of Health meeting was called to order by Dr. Maggie Hayes, Chairperson, at 6:08 p.m.

Members Present	Samantha Roberts, Veterinarian Kathleen Baluha, Registered Nurse Merry Guy, General Public Member Scott Prechter, General Public Member Kenesha Smith, Pharmacist – Vice Chairperson Jay Egolf, County Commissioner Maggie Hayes, Physician – Chairperson Jeffrey Young, Professional Engineer
Members Not Present	Alison Reid, Dentist 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 Stacy Nash, Community Health Director Seth Swift, Environmental Health Director Amy McCall, WIC Director

Quorum Present

II. Public Comments

Padma Dydine – inquired about both public and closed session board conversations. She also was curious about the Henderson County Board of Health's relationship with neighboring counties.

Paul Weichselbaum – expressed interest in learning more about the Measles outbreak and the Health Department's steps to handle and prepare for disease outbreaks now and in the future.

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III. Approval of the Meeting Agenda

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

IV. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Dr. Hayes requested approval of the September 15, 2025 minutes. **Motion:** Ms. Baluha made a motion for the minutes to be approved. The motion was seconded by Dr. Smith. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Dr. Hayes requested approval of the OSHR Delegation of Authority. **Motion:** Dr. Smith made a motion for the minutes to be approved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baluha. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

V. Presentations and Reports

Measles Update

Crystal O'Dell shared an update regarding the Measles outbreak in upstate South Carolina. Given the proximity of Spartanburg and Greenville counties, and the low K-5 vaccination coverage estimates in Henderson County, the department's Epidemiology Team has begun to plan for the potential of a case in the community. Ms. O'Dell explained the measles reporting and investigation process which would immediately begin if notified of a positive result. If necessary, the Epi Team is prepared to launch a call center, expand contract tracing abilities, set up a testing and vaccine site, and conduct routine community provider calls to give updates, provide guidance and respond to community concern.

Currently, the department is conducting ongoing surveillance of the outbreak in Upstate SC, monitoring NCEDSS for disease reports, attending state Epi Team calls, hosting quarterly Immunization Coalition meetings, coordinating with Henderson County Public Schools for response protocols, and conducting additional outreach to childcare providers to provide education and resources for measles response. The department is actively distributing public health information via social media to notify the community of the current risk and available resources.

Accreditation Update

Camden Stewart spoke with the board about the NC Local Health Department Accreditation (NCLHDA) program. All health departments in North Carolina are required to participate in the NCLHDA program on a four-year cycle. Accreditation involves submission of

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documentation as evidence of meeting required benchmarks and standards, an in-person site visit from an accreditation team, and presentation of accreditation status. Henderson County Department of Public Health was re-accredited with honors in 2022 and will complete accreditation again in 2026. Of note, the Rules Review Commission voted in September 2025 to reduce the number of accreditation rules in the NC administrative code, thus reducing the total number of activities and required documentation to meet the minimum accreditation standards. Mrs. Stewart is beginning to pull evidences now to meet the new accreditation standards and be prepared for the start of the reaccreditation process in early 2026.

Health Director Report

The department is evaluating the effect of Medicaid reduction rates on Health Department revenues and services. These rate reductions are subject to change if the NC General Assembly provides NC Medicaid with additional appropriations to support higher reimbursement rates for affected services programs.

The leadership team is monitoring the federal government shutdown and its possible effects on Health Department programs. There is potential for the WIC program to be impacted by the shutdown if the shutdown continues long-term. If a stop work order was to occur, salaries for WIC staff would continue to be supported by Workforce Development funds and employees may be asked to assist the department with tasks outside of the WIC division.

The clinical team is discussing the possibility of moving from CureMD to Athena for the department's electronic health record. They are evaluating the pros and cons of this decision.

Mr. Jenkins is still working to schedule a Board of Health Training through the UNC School of Government. He will let the board know if this training is confirmed for the November meeting.

Currently reviewing our Animal Services Ordinance for consistency with our communicable disease team, animal services committee, the Sheriff's Office, and the Animal Shelter staff.

The department hosted a Staff Appreciation Event in September. The County Manager, EMS Public Safety Director, Dr. John Bryant, and Commissioner Egolf attended in support of the department.

VI. Old Business

Public Health Service Award Update

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Mr. Bill Lapsley will be recognized for his 10 years of service to the Henderson County Board of Health in the November 3rd Board of Commissioners meeting. Board members are encouraged to attend if able.

VII. New Business

Support our Swimmers Letter of Support

Dr. Hayes asked board members for their approval to forward a letter of support for Support our Swimmers to the Board of Commissioners as the community explores the feasibility of a public swimming complex. **Motion:** Dr. Prechter made a motion in support of sharing the letter of support with the Board of Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Dr. Smith. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

VIII. Board Member Remarks

None.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: Dr. Prechter made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Dr. Smith **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Dr. David Jenkins
Secretary to the Board/Health Director

01/22/26

Date

Approved by the Henderson County Board of Health at the January 20, 2026 meeting.