

# Henderson County Board of Health

## Minutes

Regular Meeting – January 20, 2026

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

### Quorum Present

### II. Public Comments

None.

### III. Approval of the Meeting Agenda

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

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

### IV. Approval of the Consent Agenda

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Dr. Hayes requested approval of the consent agenda including the October 20, 2025 minutes and the November 17, 2025 minutes. **Motion:** Dr. Prechter made a motion for the agenda to be approved. The motion was seconded by Dr. Roberts. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### V. Presentations & Reports

##### Federal Funding 2026

Mr. Jenkins shared slides from DPH with the board regarding changes to federal public health funding which is experiencing significant uncertainty due to federal budget actions, regulatory changes, and workforce reductions. Key developments include:

- new grant termination authority effective October 1, 2025 (transitioning from 45 CFR 75.372 to 2 CFR 200.340)
- revised Notice of Award terms tying continued funding to appropriations, performance, compliance, and alignment with federal priorities
- restrictions under the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2026 that limit early or full obligation of grant funds through January 30, 2026.

As a result, grant awards may be delayed, partially funded, or revised, particularly for programs with budget or performance periods near January 30, 2026. Operational responses include gated funding aligned with federal award periods, centralized fiscal documentation via SmartSheet, and updated Agreement Addendum language allowing DHHS to recoup funds if federal or state funding is reduced or withdrawn. The board discussed the impact of these changes on staffing, budgeting, and delivery of services.

##### CMARC/CMHRP Discussion

Mr. Jenkins provided an update to the board regarding changes to the department's Care Management program. The Health Department currently provides care management services through Care Management for At-Risk Children (CMARC) and Care Management for High-Risk Pregnancies (CMHRP), serving child and maternal health populations with a department budget of just over \$1 million. These programs serve primarily Medicaid patients while also supporting uninsured clients and average ~200 distinct maternal health patients and ~900 distinct child health patients per month. Ongoing changes to Medicaid Managed Care may shift care management away from health departments, potentially eliminating certain funding streams and requiring negotiation through Prepaid Health Plans or Clinically Integrated Networks. Planning efforts to address these changes include staffing reductions (8 full-time employees to 4 full-time employees), evaluating contracting options, securing care management software, and determining future service models to continue care for children and pregnant women. Conversations are ongoing between the NC Local Health Directors Association and the Department of Health Benefits for further clarity about these changes.

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#### **Approval of Foreign Language Interpreter II**

Camden Stewart, Administrative Officer, shared information with the board about a proposed Foreign Language Interpreter II (FLI II) project position. There is currently a FLI II on the Care Management team. The staff member in this role serves a dual function as both a FLI for the department and the referral coordinator for Care Management. Given the discussed changes to the Care Management program, this position will end at the conclusion of this fiscal year. There is high need in the Health Department for FLIs. The department is recommending utilizing Workforce Development funds to support one full-time project FLI II through June 2027 to provide interpreting services across the department. With justification, the department would request a county-supported full-time position in the FY28 budget.

**Motion:** Dr. Bryant made a motion to support the Foreign Language Interpreter II project position. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Baluha. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **Measles Update**

Crystal O'Dell, Director of Nursing, discussed the status of measles in surrounding counties and the Health Department's actions to prepare for measles case(s) in our community. As of Jan 20, 2026, there are 646 measles cases reported in Upstate SC with community spread confirmed by SC DHHS. Nearby cases have also been reported in Buncombe (6), Polk (2) and Rutherford (1) counties. Henderson County has three verified contacts to cases in Buncombe and Polk counties. One contact has completed quarantine, and additional contacts are being monitored. One contact received post-exposure Immune Globulin to boost immunity and decrease risk of serious illness. A Public Health response trailer has been placed on the Human Services campus to provide a designated area away from routine patients for measles response. The department has ongoing coordination with daycares, schools, pediatricians, and EMS to provide education, testing, vaccines and other support as needed.

#### **Health Director Report**

Mr. Jenkins mentioned the inclement winter weather predicted to arrive over the weekend. Emergency Management is hosting a shelter coordination call later in the week to discuss sheltering operations in advance of the storm.

## **VI. Old Business**

#### **No-Show Fee Approval**

Crystal O'Dell, Director of Nursing, shared the results of a quality improvement project related to STI appointment scheduling. Staff noted that patients scheduled for STI appointments were consistently not showing for their appointment even when appointments were made in the previous 24 hours. From July 2024-April 2025 the average no-show rate for

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STI appointments was 35%. The quality improvement team implemented same day only STI appointment scheduling in attempt to improve the STI appointment no-show rates. Following implementation of this change, the average no-show rate from June 2025 to October 2025 was 11%. In response, the policy and procedure have been updated to indicate that all STI appointments are available by same-day appointment only. Ms. O'Dell also discussed implementation of a no-show fee policy. This policy would allow patients to miss up to three scheduled appointments in a 12-month period. After the third no-show, a \$35 fee will be applied to any further missed appointments in the 12-month period. Patients will not be dismissed for non-payment of the no-show fee. This is a similar policy utilized by other local health departments in North Carolina. **Motion:** Dr. Roberts made a motion to approve the no-show fee of \$35. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bryant. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

### BOH Training – March 16<sup>th</sup>

The board will participate in a Board of Health training led by the NC School of Government during its regularly scheduled March meeting. If there is additional business, this may be conducted following the training.

## VII. New Business

### Approval of AA130 Management of Chronic Illness in Pregnancy

AA130 provides one-time funds (\$12,000) for the Local Health Department to buy medical supplies to support the management of hypertension, diabetes, or other chronic disease during pregnancy or the postpartum period. Health Department clinic staff are participating in a quality improvement project to improve postpartum care and health outcomes. The team intends to purchase digital blood pressure monitors with these funds to support positive outcomes related to this initiative. **Motion:** Ms. Baluha made a motion to accept the AA130 Management of Chronic Illness in Pregnancy funds. The motion was seconded by Dr. Prechter. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

### Major Expenses Budget Discussion

Department staff are reviewing and preparing the department's FY27 budget requests, due to county leadership in early February. Mr. Jenkins shared that many outstanding expenses have been taken care of in the current fiscal year with Hurricane Helene funds (AA 122). Other notable projects include a small expansion of the parking lot, design/planning for a larger classroom space utilizing a portion of the black hole, and an upfit of the current Classroom kitchen. A final budget presentation will be shared in the February meeting.

## VIII. Board Member Remarks

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None.

### IX. Adjournment

**Motion:** Dr. Prechter made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Dr. Bryant. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted: David Jenkins 02/17/26  
Secretary to the Board/Health Director Date

*Approved by the Henderson County Board of Health at the February 16, 2026 meeting.*

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