

Henderson County Board of Health

Minutes

Regular Meeting – February 16, 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 6:02 p.m.

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

Quorum Present

II. Public Comments

Paul Weichselbaum – commented on the federal government’s impact on public health and the role of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services in promoting local public health.

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

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IV. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Dr. Hayes requested approval of the consent agenda including the January 20, 2026 minutes.

Motion: Dr. Roberts made a motion for the agenda to be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Egolf. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

V. Presentations and Reports

Health Director Report

Winter Storm Fern impacted Henderson County in late January causing power outages and unsafe road conditions. In preparation for this weather event, on Saturday, January 24th, Henderson County opened a shelter to provide safety for those who needed a warm space or who had concerns about losing power. Health Department nurses staffed the shelter to monitor the medical needs of shelter residents. The shelter population peaked at 24 residents during the storm, many of whom were unhoused. The shelter was closed on Wednesday, January 28th.

The measles outbreak in Upstate South Carolina continues to grow. As of February 13, 2026, there were 950 measles cases in Upstate SC with most cases occurring in the ages 17 and under population. In North Carolina, there have been 21 cases total since December 2025 with a few cases in surrounding counties including Polk, Rutherford and Buncombe. There are currently no diagnosed cases in Henderson County. The department is continuing to communicate relevant information with local pediatricians and providers, daycare centers, and the public school system to be prepared for the potential of cases in our community.

The NC Association of Local Health Directors and NC Association of Health Plans jointly sent a letter to the Department of Health Benefits to request a six-month extension to the current structure of Care Management programs (CMARC and CMHRP). This extension would allow time to resolve outstanding questions related to funding and clinical policy, and to develop new contracting arrangements once these issues are decided.

Mr. Jenkins will be attending the NC Association of Local Health Directors meeting in Durham, NC this week to continue to advocate for local public health and discuss emerging topics.

VI. Old Business

BOH Training – March 16th

The board will participate in a Board of Health training led by Kirsten Leloudis, Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government with NC School of Government, during its regularly scheduled March meeting. Any additional business will be kept brief.

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VII. New Business

Budget Considerations/Approval

Mr. Jenkins outlined the FY 27 (July 1, 2026–June 30, 2027) public health budget considerations for the Henderson County Board of Health. He emphasized statutory budget requirements, the Board’s policy and accreditation responsibilities, and how the budget translates public health priorities into action. The department is in good standing with expenses and revenues six months into the current FY 26 budget. The proposed FY 27 public health budget (Health + Environmental Health) totals \$13,695,414, a modest increase from FY 26, with Health expenditures rising slightly and revenues decreasing due to changes in the Care Management program. The Environmental Health FY 27 budget remains very steady, projecting only a \$34,222 increase from FY 26. Other notable requests include an upgrade of the classroom kitchen and potentially transitioning to Athena, a new electronic health record. The department continues to discuss recruitment and retention challenges with Human Resources including salary compression and market competition. The Board was asked to approve the proposed budgets, with fee schedule updates to follow.

Motion: Dr. Smith made a motion for the FY 27 General Health and Environmental Health proposed budgets to be approved and for them to be submitted for consideration to the Henderson County Board of Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baluha. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

BOH Vacancy

Due to a change in her profession that requires travel 3-4 days/week, Dr. Haley Perry has voluntarily resigned from her position with the Board of Health effective February 10, 2026. A notice of this vacancy will be shared on the March 2, 2026 Board of Commissioners agenda.

VIII. Board Member Remarks

None.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: Ms. Baluha made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Dr. Guy. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm.

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Respectfully submitted: _____
Secretary to the Board/Health Director

Date

Approved by the Henderson County Board of Health at the March 16, 2026.