

Henderson County Board of Health

Minutes

Regular Meeting – April 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.

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 John Bryant, General Public Member Scott Prechter, General Public Member Alison Reid, Dentist
Members Not Present	
Staff Leadership Present	Dave Jenkins, Health Director Camden Stewart, Administrative Officer Crystal O’Dell, Director of Nursing Seth Swift, Environmental Health Director Stacy Nash, Community 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: Dr. Smith 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 February 16, 2026 minutes. **Motion:** Dr. Bryant made a motion for the minutes to be approved. The motion was seconded by Dr. Roberts. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Dr. Hayes requested approval of the FY27 Consolidated Agreement. **Motion:** Ms. Baluha made a motion for the FY27 Consolidated Agreement to be approved. The motion was seconded by Dr. Roberts. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Dr. Hayes requested approval of the FY27 Fee Schedule for Health and Environmental Health. **Motion:** Mr. Young made a motion for the FY27 Fee Schedule to be approved. The motion was seconded by Dr. Smith. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

V. Presentations and Reports

Communicable Disease Annual Report

Ms. Kristina Henderson, Communicable Disease/Immunizations Nurse Supervisor, updated the board on communicable disease trends in 2025. Notable trends included an increased number of varicella cases, a decrease in pertussis and Group A Strep cases from 2024, and no reported flu deaths from 2025-2026 as of April 2026. Chlamydia cases remain high and continue to consume a great deal of the communicable disease staff time. Campylobacter infections were also noted as a disease that had been identified locally which required a disproportionate amount of work to investigate and address. Rabies was referenced with over 500 identified human exposures from domestic and wild animals over the year.

There has been no reported measles cases in Henderson County. This is especially notable given the proximity of Henderson County to the outbreak in Upstate SC and surrounding counties. The strong partnerships between the Health Department, local childcare providers, school system and community medical providers have benefited the county in preventing a measles case or outbreak.

Notably, Ms. Henderson relayed that the statewide benchmark was for 80% of communicable disease (CD) case investigations to be completed within 30 days. Henderson County's performance was 96.6% of CD case investigations completed within 30 days. This success is attributed to the work of the program staff and the budgetary investments supported by the Board of Health in the communicable disease program.

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Quarterly Fiscal Report

Mr. Jenkins, Health Director, provided the board with an updated quarterly fiscal report detailing department revenues and expenditures through March 2026. The department maintains favorable performance in both the Public Health and Environmental Health budgets. Total expenses including operating and personnel for both Public Health and Environmental Health were under 75%. Overall, Health revenues are at 60.38% with county appropriations at 70.89%. Environmental Health revenues are as expected. Both budgets operate within the limits of local appropriations provided.

Child Fatality Prevention Team Report

Mr. Jenkins reviewed the 2025 Local Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT) report with the board. The CFPT met four times in 2025 and reviewed 8 child deaths from 2024. Motor vehicle accidents and suicide were notable preventable causes of death in 2024. In response, the Health Department is facilitating and/or participating in a variety of teen suicide prevention activities including implementation of Sources of Strength within Henderson County Public Schools (HCPS), delivering QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) workshops for community members, providing comprehensive suicide intervention workshops with HCPS, MAHEC and community partners and embedding a Health Department social worker at East Henderson High School one day per week to increase teen access to counseling services. The department has also supported expansion of a Survivors of Suicide Loss support group, advocated for Zero Suicide with healthcare providers and community providers and participated in Safe September initiatives to promote firearm safety education and distribute gun locks.

There were no child deaths due to drug overdose in calendar year 2024.

The 2025 Henderson County Child Fatality Prevention Team recommendations include:

1. Increase access to Driver's Education classes through public schools.
2. Consider mandating a minimum road width and road shoulder to reduce accidents related to running off the road.
3. Recommend North Carolina to consider passing the "Hands-Free Act".
4. Continued community support for "Sources of Strength" initiative to prevent school-aged children to prevent suicide.
5. To determine if the state-lab turnaround time for newborn screens varies by distance from Raleigh. Additionally, antenatal maternal DNA testing could detect risks sooner and provide an opportunity to initiate care protocols until newborn screens results return.

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Health Director Report

The department acknowledged and celebrated National Public Health week during the first week of April. The Henderson County Board of Commissioners endorsed a Public Health Week resolution that was publicly shared during an early April BOC meeting.

Regions 1 and 2 of the NC Local Health Directors Association signed letters of support for both Vaya Health and Impact Health in their applications to be the ROOTS Hub for the Rural Health Transformation Grant. The Hub will be awarded to the selected organization in the coming weeks.

The Budget Office has recommended cutting the department's requested FY27 operational costs by \$127,000 across various line items. These cuts were suggested based on total expenses in prior years.

The No Show Fee and Policy discussed in a prior meeting did not advance to the Board of Commissioners. The fee could have been considered an "obstacle to care" for patients and thus was reconsidered. Instead, the department is implementing a policy which states if a patient misses three scheduled appointments within a six-month window, the patient will be moved to a walk-in only schedule. This will be evaluated for its impact on no show rates in the clinic.

The department's Accreditation Site Visit has been scheduled for Aug 27, 2026. Two board members are requested to attend the site visit during a blocked interview time. Mr. Jenkins will follow up with more specific details about this day in an upcoming meeting.

VI. Old Business

BOH Training – June 15th

Kirsten Leloudis, UNC Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government, will be conducting a Board of Health training during the June 15, 2026 meeting. Attendance is highly encouraged. Other agenda items will be kept to a minimum.

BOH Vacancy

One vacancy exists in the Optometrist position. By recommendation of the board and Chairman Lapsley, Mr. Jenkins reached out to Dr. Craig Poole to ask if he would be willing to serve again. Dr. Poole is considering and will follow up with Mr. Jenkins regarding his decision.

VII. New Business

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Institutional Review Board Research Project

Paige Prichard, Clinic FNP-C, will be conducting a pilot project at the Health Department as a part of her doctoral program titled, "Improving Childhood Obesity Outcomes in Henderson County: A Multidisciplinary, Family-Based Approach". This 12-week project involves team-based care embedded in the clinic including a medical provider, registered dietician, and behavioral health support with the intent of improving childhood BMI, blood pressure, nutrition habits, physical activity, and screen time of identified child health patients. Ultimately, Ms. Prichard intends for this project to improve attendance and retention of child health patients, promote family satisfaction and result in adoption by the clinic providers. This project will use existing staff and resources, aligns with Medicaid value-based care goals, is a minimal cost and is scalable if successful.

Motion: Dr. Bryant made a motion for approval to implement the pilot project as proposed. The motion was seconded by Dr. Smith. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

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 7:04 pm.

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

05/19/26
Date

Approved by the Henderson County Board of Health at the May 18, 2026 meeting.