

Henderson County Board of Health

Minutes

Regular Meeting – June 15, 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 6:07 p.m.

Members Present	Kathleen Baluha, Registered Nurse Jay Egolf, County Commissioner Maggie Hayes, Physician – Chairperson Kenesha Smith, Pharmacist – Vice Chairperson Samantha Roberts, Veterinarian John Bryant, General Public Member Alison Reid, Dentist Merry Guy, General Public Member
Members Not Present	Jeffrey Young, Professional Engineer Scott Prechter, General Public Member
Staff Leadership Present	Dave Jenkins, Health Director Camden Stewart, Administrative Officer 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: Ms. Baluha 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

Dr. Hayes requested approval of the consent agenda. **Motion:** Dr. Bryant made a motion for the consent agenda to be approved. The motion was seconded by Dr. Smith. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

V. Presentations and Reports

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Health Director Report

Mr. Jenkins shared the following updates with the board:

- Historic data released by the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) showed a significant drop in opioid-related deaths, alongside the lowest infant mortality rate in state history. However, child health death rates—which measure fatalities among older children and youth—have increased.
- Henderson County was one of the 39 local EMS agencies that was awarded funding through the NC Rural Health Transformation Program. The funds are for Mobile Integrated Health to strengthen and expand rural communities' access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment and services.
- NCDHHS has waited nearly a year for federal guidance on implementing the Medicaid work requirement approved last summer. The mandate, passed in the summer of 2025 as part of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, takes effect on Jan. 1 2027. It will force many of the more than 750,000 adults who became eligible through the state's expansion of the government-funded health insurance program to prove they are working, volunteering or attending school for at least 80 hours a month to retain their coverage.
- Nearly 150 NC medical examiners across 20 counties initiated an indefinite coordinated "vacation" starting June 15 to protest more than a decade of stagnant pay. They are advocating for increased compensation from \$200 to \$400 per case to cover rising out-of-pocket expenses and inflation. Delays in death certifications and field investigations are expected. There is NC proposed legislative action to address compensation.
- The Accreditation Site Visit is planned for August 27th. The BOH interviews are scheduled for 12:30 – 1:00pm. Two or three board members are requested to be present.

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

Member Roster/Terms/Nominations August

Ms. Baluha and Mr. Young's current service terms will expire on July 1, 2026. Both members are recommended for re-appointment to a third term. **Motion:** Dr. Bryant made a motion to recommend reappointment of both Ms. Baluha and Mr. Young to the Board of Health. Dr. Roberts seconded the motion. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote. This recommendation will be shared with the Board of Commissioners.

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Dr. Poole has been appointed to the optometrist position on the board. He was unable to attend the June meeting but will be sworn in at the board's next meeting.

Nominations will be made in August for the board's chair and vice chair positions.

Debt Setoff/Debt Write Off

Mr. Jenkins presented the debt set-off (\$188,675.29) and debt write-off (\$606,138.60) amounts that have been compiled from the previous eight years. Debt set-off and debt write-off are two different ways the health department handles unpaid clinical bills. Debt set-off actively recovers money by seizing state tax refunds. Debt write-off is an accounting step that officially cancels a debt that cannot be collected. **Motion:** Dr. Smith made a motion to approve the debt set off and debt write-off amounts as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bryant. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote. The department staff will take appropriate action to move the collection process forward. In future years, debt set-off and debt write-off will be reported to the board annually.

VIII. Board of Health Training

Kirsten Leloudis, UNC Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government, conducted a Board of Health training that focused on the roles and responsibilities of local public health governing boards in North Carolina. Kirsten discussed public health law, legal responsibilities and authority of public health in NC, the differences between the authority of the Board of Commissioners and Board of Health, rulemaking authority and governance strategies for serving as an effective board member. The board held discussion about local rules related to substance use in Henderson County and will discuss this further in the August meeting.

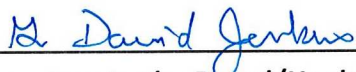
IX. Board Member Remarks

Board members thanked Mrs. Leloudis for her time and expertise.

X. Adjournment

Motion: Ms. Baluha made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Dr. Guy.

Vote: The motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted: 
Secretary to the Board/Health Director

08/18/26
Date

Approved by the Henderson County Board of Health at the August 17, 2026 meeting.