

**Catawba County Board of Health
Minutes
December 14, 2020**

The Catawba County Board of Health met on Monday, December 14, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via a Zoom meeting and at Catawba County Public Health, 3070 11th Ave Dr. SE, Hickory, NC 28602.

Members Present: Dr. David C. Hamilton, Jr, Chair*
Mr. John H. Dollar, Vice-Chair*
Ms. Gloria Costin*
Dr. Matthew Davis*
Dr. Dana H. Greene*
Dr. Gale Hamilton-Brandon*
Ms. Susan Knowles*
Mr. William Pitts*
Mr. Brian Potocki*

Members Absent: County Commissioner

Staff present: Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Health Director*
Mr. Jason Williams, Assistant Health Director*
Ms. Julie Byrd, Women and Children's Health Administrator*
Ms. Honey Estrada, Public Health Strategist*
Ms. Chantae Lail, Medical Lab Manager/Preparedness Coordinator*
Ms. Jennifer Lindsay, WIC Director*
Ms. Megen McBride, Environmental Health Administrator*
Ms. Sarah Rhodes, Clinical Services Nurse Supervisor*
Ms. Kim Spaulding, School Health Nurse Supervisor*
Ms. Rhonda Stikeleather, Children's Services Nurse Supervisor*
Ms. Debra A. Young, Administrative Assistant II

Guests: Ms. Emily Phipps, Public Health School Nurse
Ms. Holli Jenkins, Public Health School Nurse

*Attended via Zoom meeting

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Dr. David Hamilton, Jr., Chair, called the meeting of the Catawba County Public Health Board to order at 7:00 p.m. He welcomed Board members, Public Health managers, staff and guests. Dr. Hamilton instructed the Board Members on the virtual meeting roll call and voting process. There were no questions regarding roll call or the voting process instructions.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES

Dr. David Hamilton, Chair, stated that Board members had received the current meeting Agenda and the Board Minutes for November 09, 2020. Dr. Hamilton asked if there were any changes to

the Agenda or corrections to the prior meeting Minutes. There being none, a motion was made to accept the Agenda and previous meeting Minutes by Mr. Bill Pitts and seconded by Dr. Matthew Davis. The Agenda and minutes were unanimously approved via a virtual roll call vote of the board members present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Hamilton asked if anyone presented to speak before the Board. Ms. Debra Young, Administrative Assistant II, stated that no one had presented to speak.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

No report

NEW EMPLOYEES

Ms. Emily Phipps is a Public Health School Nurse serving Riverbend Middle School and Bunker Hill High School. Ms. Phipps graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Wingate University. She came to Public Health from Catawba Valley Medical Center, where she worked as a Critical Care Nurse providing care for critically ill patients.

Ms. Holli Jenkins joined Public Health as an hourly School Nurse and was recently selected as a new full-time Public Health School Nurse in November. Ms. Jenkins serves Catawba Elementary and Mill Creek Middle School and is currently enrolled to complete her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. Before coming to Public Health in August, Ms. Jenkins was employed at Catawba Valley Medical Center on the PACU/Day Surgery unit.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT (CHA) AND COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP)

Ms. Honey Estrada, Public Health Strategist, gave an annual update regarding the current Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), stating that this has been a collaborative process that involves several different community members and partners.

- Public Health is charged with conducting the CHA every three years, and this part of the process was wrapped up earlier this year.
- The group had a strong focus on equity, which is central to all of Public Health's work.
- The overall goal is to improve health outcomes differences for community members.
- The CHA leadership team voted on three health priorities: chronic disease, behavioral health, and healthy foods & healthy weight.
- Have strong partnerships within Healthy North Carolina (HNC) 2030, the State's roadmap for Public Health. Lots of focus on equity and structural racism.
- In the HNC 2030 plan, there are overarching "big buckets" with 21 different health indicators that will guide the work.

Ms. Estrada continued with the introduction to a new framework that is being guided by the State. Results Based Accountability (RBA) uses data to drive decision making and is how one can achieve a desired result. RBA starts with the end in mind and works backward to achieve the outcome.

For all three health priority groups:

- Work group members rated all of the strategy ideas as high, medium or low based on criteria of leverage (short-term: 3 years, intermediate: 3 to 5 years, and long-term: 10 years), feasibility, values, and specificity.
- Work group then reviewed the rating survey results, discussed each strategy, identified the overarching strategies based on related themes of the strategies selected.

Overview of the three Health Priority groups:

Chronic Disease

- Desired result - All Catawba County community members live in communities that support tobacco and e-cigarette free lifestyles.
- Group focal area – tobacco policies and lung cancer screening to support tobacco and e-cigarette free lifestyles. Focusing on 28601 zip code area, adults aged 45-64.
- Action planning is underway and will continue into 2021.
- Work group big ideas – for worksites to adopt tobacco/e-cigarette policies for their campus and to leverage health insurance for preventive screenings.

Behavioral Health

- Desired result – All Catawba County community members have access to equitable and affordable care that incorporates behavioral health.
- Group focal area - preventing anxiety, mood disorders, and psychotic disorder relapses, 28609 with focus on rural community and working with churches, adults 19 to 44.
- The Behavioral Health Work Group will be planning for action steps for each of the selected strategies at their work group meeting this month.
- Big ideas – integrated and holistic care, technology supported care, behavioral health first aid training to help reduce stigma.

Healthy Foods & Health Weights

- Desired result - All Catawba County community members have equitable access to healthy foods.
- Group focal area – census tracts 103 / 104 / 106 / 107 / 109 / 110 / 113, parents and/or caregivers of children ages 2 through middle school.
- The Healthy Foods & Healthy Weight Group selected the overarching strategies of community gardens and farmer's markets.
- The Healthy Foods & Healthy Weight Work Group will be planning for action steps for each of the selected strategies at their work group meeting in December 2020.
- Big ideas – expansion of farmers markets, community gardens and grocery stores into identified food deserts

The PowerPoint presentation is attached to the Minutes.

COUNTY ALERT SYSTEM

Ms. Sarah Rhodes, Clinical Services Nurse Supervisor, updated the Board regarding the new NC Department of Health and Human Services County Alert System.

The COVID-19 County Alert System gives individuals, businesses and community organizations, and public officials a tool to understand how their county is faring and to make decisions about actions to take slow the spread of the virus. The COVID-19 County Alert System uses metrics informed by North Carolina's key metrics to categorize counties into three tiers:

1. Yellow: Significant Community Spread
2. Orange: Substantial Community Spread
3. Red: Critical Community Spread

Because no one metric provides a complete picture, the COVID-19 County Alert System uses a combination of three metrics: case rate, the percent of tests that are positive, and hospital impact within the county.

Communications update

- Public Health continues to test in the agency's back parking lot on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Continue to work with businesses, schools, private agencies, congregate care, childcare centers, etc.
- Watching for clusters (5 students if connected) in school settings.
- Have been in preparation for vaccine distribution from the State.

The PowerPoint presentation is attached to the Minutes.

HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Health Director, thanked the Board members for providing lunch to all Public Health staff in November. Ms. McCracken showed the thank-you cards via Zoom that the staff signed.

Ms. McCracken stated that Mr. Jason Williams, Assistant Health Director, had a brief update on testing at Public Health and Ms. Julie Byrd had an update regarding Antigen Testing.

Mr. Williams shared a graph representing total tests conducted by Public Health. On December 1, 2020, 392 people were tested that day, which is a record high for one day of testing. The total tests completed to date in Catawba County are 16,586. Public Health will continue testing into the future as it is needed. Emergency Services continues to be a great partner, and they always have staff assisting with testing.

Ms. Julie Byrd, Women and Children's Health Administrator, stated that Catawba County is a recipient of antigen tests and is working with community partners to distribute the antigen tests (working with ALFA, CCM, some providers, the jail and school districts) as the tests expire in March of 2021. Public Health began meeting with school superintendents and principals to determine

the best way to distribute the antigen tests to schools. The planning process included testing athletes and the tests would be completed at Public Health and by athletic directors. The athletic trainers will perform tests at high school and school nurses will perform tests at middle school. Testing will begin in early January, 2021. School nurses are also using antigen tests for students and staff that are symptomatic in the schools.

Antigen test are supposed to be used with those that are symptomatic and works best between days 5-7. There are false positives and negatives so if the test is negative it should be followed-up with a PCR test to confirm the person is negative.

Ms. McCracken stated that she had a few additional brief comments:

The State notified Public Health that Pfizer vaccine will be shipped first and that a larger amount than expected will be received in the latter part of December. Catawba County Public Health is one of three counties that will be receiving Pfizer. The agency's ultra-low cold storage capability should be available by time the vaccine arrives.

Catawba County Public Health has a vaccine prioritization list and will be focusing on healthcare providers that are not associated with the hospital practices. Meetings are continuing with local providers to discuss the vaccine rollout. Dr. Billy Price, Medical Consultant for Public Health, spoke with his peers to encourage them to sign up to be a vaccine provider as well.

Public Health will be using the State's registration/tracking system called COVID-19 Vaccine Management System (CVMS).

Long term care facilities and assisted living centers will have outside vendors who will go to their locations and provide vaccinations.

Other notable items:

- Public Health continues to receive brief COVID vaccine updates each week from the State.
- Currently holding weekly partner meetings with the team at public Health and with local hospitals.
- COVID-19 fatigue continues with staff
- Public Health continues to work with all 3 local school districts, CVCC and LRU.
- Drive-thru testing is ongoing at Catawba County Public Health on Tuesday and Friday
- The triage line remains active 7 days a week.
- A reminder that the monthly infographics were included in the Board packet.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Dr. David Hamilton asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bill Pitts so moved, and Dr. Matthew Davis seconded the motion. Dr. Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer F. McCracken". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jennifer" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "McCracken".

Jennifer F. McCracken
Secretary to the Board of Health
Health Director

JFM: day

Approved by Board of Health: February 8, 2021