Catawba County Board of Health
Minutes
October 12, 2020

The Catawba County Board of Health met on Monday, October 12, 2020 at 7:00 pm 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*
                  Dr. Matthew Davis, Vice-Chair*
                  Mr. Dan Hunsucker, County Commissioner*
                  Ms. Gloria Costin*
                  Mr. John H. Dollar*
                  Dr. Dana H. Greene*
                  Ms. Susan Knowles*
                  Mr. William Pitts*
                  Mr. Brian Potocki*

Members Absent:   Dr. Gale Hamilton-Brandon

Staff present:    Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Interim Health Director*
                  Mr. Jason Williams, Assistant Health Director*
                  Ms. Julie Byrd, Women and Children’s Health Administrator*
                  Ms. Honey Estrada, Public Health Strategist*
                  Ms. Emily Killian, Community Engagement Specialist
                  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:           Mr. Mick Berry, County Manager*

*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 7:00pm. 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 September 14, 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 prior meeting Minutes by Mr. William Pitts and seconded by Mr. Dan
Hunsucker. 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

HEALTH DIRECTORS EVALUATION
Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6), Mr. Mick Berry, County Manager, requested the Board go into closed session to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee.

Mr. Dan Hunsucker made the motion and Dr. Matthew Davis seconded. A virtual roll call vote was taken and the motion to go into closed session was unanimously approved at 7:07 p.m.

A motion to adjourn closed session and move back into open session was made by Mr. Dan Hunsucker and Mr. John Dollar seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved via a virtual roll call vote and the Board returned from closed session at 7:47 p.m.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH – YEAR-END REPORT
Ms. Megen McBride, Environmental Health Administrator, provided the Environmental Health Year-end Report stating that Environmental Health’s response to COVID-19 has been focused on uninterrupted service delivery, providing a socially distanced application process, having modified restaurant inspections and a continuous connection with the EPI Team.

Ms. McBride provided some other key highlights:

- In September 2020, the applications for septic and well permits were higher than in the last ten years
- Food service inspections were 1,006 while visits were up to 419 (usually at 50-60 visits)
- Food service and septic complaints were in the typical range of 95 and 73 respectively
- Swimming pools inspections - 147; Child Care Center inspections - 108 and Tattoo Artist/parlor inspections - 64.

The following Health Director outcomes covering Environmental Health were achieved.

- Staff development – additional staff authorized in food and water – lead and tattoos.
- Quality Improvement – staff are looking at all permits before they go out to the customer.
- Improve Data Systems – new report for on-site teams’ workload distribution. Also, making sure the team’s inspection standards are consistent across the board.

The Environmental Health Year-End Report is attached to the Minutes.
PUBLIC HEALTH PREAREDNESS UPDATE
Ms. Chantae Lail, Lab Manager/Preparedness Coordinator, gave an update on Public Health Preparedness in which she elaborated on the Public Health Network and the Foundation of Public Health Response. Ms. Lail also discussed COVID-19 Testing — PCR, Antigen and Antibody testing.

The presentation slides are attached to the Minutes.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE - FY2020-2021 OFFICERS
Dr. Matthew Davis, Chair of the Nominations and Operating Procedures Subcommittee stated that the committee had not received any nominations for the vacant Vice-Chair position. Dr. Hamilton asked for the Chair position to be reappointed and for the Committee to reconvene in November with nominations for the Vice-Chair position at that time.

With that being said, the slate of officers for fiscal year 2020-2021:

For Board of Health Chair — Dr. David Hamilton, Jr.
For Board of Health Vice-Chair — Hold for November meeting

There being no further nominations from the floor, Dr. Davis made a motion to close the nominations and accept the nomination for Chair as presented. Mr. John Dollar seconded the motion. Dr. Davis asked for a vote and via a virtual roll call vote, the Board unanimously voted to accept Dr. David Hamilton, Jr. as Chair of the Catawba County Board of Health for the fiscal year 2020-2021.

HEALTH DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Health Director, stated that Mr. Jason Williams, Assistant Health Director, would give a brief update on School Nurse positions.

Mr. Jason Williams, Assistant Health Director, thanked the Board again for the Environmental Health position that was previously approved. Mr. Williams then stated that during the current year budget process the Board had approved two School Nurse positions. These positions were placed on hold by the County during the budget process. Recently, Catawba County Public Health (CCPH) was approached by Catawba County Schools with funding for hourly and then full-time School Nurse positions. The County approved CCPH to move forward with the two full-time positions. Catawba County Schools will cover the cost for the current school year and have agreed to cover approximately $100,000.00 for the 2021-2022 school year as well.

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

- As seen in the weekly update, the numbers in Catawba County are on an upswing again. It is state and nationwide though. There is also an increase in people being tested. Last Friday the drive-through event at CCPH was back up to mid-August numbers. Our current percent of positivity rate was back up to mid-August range as well at about 12%.
- Contact tracers are also referring close contacts to the Public Health drive through so this does add to the amount of people being tested.
- Covid-19 fatigue is happening with staff
• Public Health has assisted ALFA with establishing a contract with Lab Corp. ALFA will be going out into the community in some of the hard to reach community areas to complete COVID-19 testing.
• On Tuesday and Thursday, Catawba County Schools will be hosting a town hall meeting for parents. It will be held in a Google meet online format. Ms. McCracken has been asked to participate in both of those meetings.
• Public Health continues to work with all 3 local school districts, CVCC and LRU.
• Drive-thru testing continues at Catawba County Public Health two times a week
• The triage line continues to remain active 7 days a week.
• Public Health continues planning for the upcoming COVID-19 vaccine release. The planning committee is drawing from prior H1N1 knowledge and is also researching the potential for vaccine hesitancy.
• Reminder that the monthly infographics were included in Board packet.

OTHER BUSINESS
None

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business, Dr. David Hamilton asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Dan Hunsucker so moved and Mr. John Dollar seconded the motion. Dr. Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

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

JFM: day

Approved by Board of Health: November 09, 2020