Catawba County Board of Health
Minutes
April 12, 2021

The Catawba County Board of Health met on Monday, April 12, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom 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*
Mr. Austin Allran, County Commissioner
Ms. Gloria Costin*
Dr. Matthew Davis*
Dr. Dana H. Greene*
Ms. Susan Knowles*
Mr. William Pitts*
Mr. Brian Potocki*

Members Absent: Dr. Gale Hamilton-Brandon

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. Emily Killian, Community Engagement Specialist/PIO
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. Getzemani (Getzi) Tiscareno, Administrative Assistant II*
Ms. Bryanna Barkley, PH School Nurse*
Ms. Maria Lemus, Program Assistant – Adult Health Clinic*

*Attended via Zoom meeting

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
Dr. David Hamilton, Jr., Chair, called the Catawba County Public Health Board meeting 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 March 08, 2021. 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. John Dollar and seconded by Ms. Gloria Costin. 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.

NEW EMPLOYEES
Mr. Jason Williams, Assistant Health Director, stated that there are three new employees to introduce to the Board this month.

Ms. Getzemani (Getzi) Tiscareno was recently promoted into a full-time Administrative Assistant II role at Catawba County Public Health (CCPH). In this role, Ms. Tiscareno supports the Women and Children's Health Administrator, the WIC Director, the School Health Nurse Supervisor, and the Children's Services Nurse Supervisor. Ms. Tiscareno holds a Bachelor's degree from Lenoir-Rhyne University in Instructional Studies.

Ms. Bryanna Barkley is a Public Health School Nurse serving the Hickory City Schools system (Grandview & Oakwood). Ms. Barkley has an Associate's Degree in Nursing (ADN) from Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC) and a Bachelor's Degree in School Nursing from Lenoir-Rhyne University.

Ms. Maria Lemus is a Program Assistant serving in the Adult Health Clinic. Ms. Lemus received her Phlebotomy certification from CVCC. Ms. Lemus comes to CCPH from Orthocarolina, where she served as a Patient Service Coordinator.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS
Mr. Austin Allran, County Commissioner, stated that the Health Director and Assistant Health Director were present at the last Board of Commissioners meeting to receive the Proclamation for Public Health Month. Mr. Allran commended Public Health for all that they continue to do during these difficult times.

PUBLIC HEALTH PROCLAMATION
Ms. McCracken read the Public Health Month Proclamation for the Board of Health.

HISTORICALLY MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS (HMP)
Ms. Honey Estrada, Public Health Strategist, presented on Historically Marginalized Populations (HMPs).

- Healthy North Carolina 2030 (HNC2030) was released in January of 2020.
- The HNC2030 is the overarching framework for NC – it includes the pathways towards achieving community health.
- There are 21 indicators to address the many drivers of health
Ms. Estrada stated that HNC2030 specifically calls out structural racism as a root cause for the health disparities we see, especially in populations of color. These structural policies pose challenges to achieving optimal health. There are numerous impacts – unemployment, fewer educational resources, harsher punishments in schools, intergenerational poverty, and accumulated physiological stress of discrimination regardless of socioeconomic status.

Community Health Assessment (CHA) 2019
- It has been identified that disparities exist
- The data paints a very stark picture – chronic disease, teen pregnancy, and infant mortality rates are higher in African Americans, while life expectancy is lower in African Americans.

The PowerPoint slides are attached to the Minutes.

CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION TEAM (CFPT) ANNUAL UPDATE
Ms. Rhonda Stikeleather, Children's Services Nurse Supervisor, shared an Infographic covering the Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT) annual report, which included what the CFPT is responsible for and how it is a State-mandated team. The CFPT is a multidisciplinary team from all around the county, and this team works with the State Child Fatality Task Force to help improve system issues.

Ms. Stikeleather noted that Catawba County had the same amount of deaths in 2019 as in 2018 (16). She stated that due to a delay in fourth-quarter cases not being received from the State, seven cases were not reviewed until the first quarter of 2021. These cases will be reported on next year's annual report. Of the nine cases reviewed in the current calendar year, four of the deaths reviewed involved children under the age of one, while five of the deaths were between the ages of five and seventeen. Safe sleep is the team’s primary focus. It is sometimes difficult to ensure that infants have a safe sleep environment and an appropriate sleeping arrangement. The CFPT found that some infants sleep in an adult’s bed, on a couch, or in a crib or bassinet but with many blankets and other items that may cause suffocation or entanglement. Unfortunately, it is becoming more challenging to adequately categorized these cases by the State Medical Examiner’s Office.

As a multidisciplinary team, the CFPT will continue to support the education of parents and pediatric offices regarding safe sleep and the importance of early prenatal care. The Child Fatality Prevention Team will also encourage and educate practices and agencies to discuss drug dependency with their mothers.

The CFPT infographic is attached to these minutes, and additional information on the NC Child Fatality Prevention Team is available at https://www.ocme.dhhs.nc.gov/nccfpp/

SCHOOL REOPENING/SCHOOL HEALTH RESPONSE
Ms. Kimberly Spaulding, School Health Nurse Supervisor, gave an update on Schools Re-opening and School Health Response to COVID-19.

Ms. Spaulding shared information on the School Nurse’s involvement in COVID-19 and their involvement in schools reopening in August of 2020.
• School nurses participated in a NC DHHS pilot project administering rapid antigen tests. The schools have been participating in this program for the past 3-4 months.
• School nurses assist in staffing vaccine clinics while still serving in their schools

Ms. Spaulding finished the update with an overview of what's next
• During the week of April 12th – All K-12 students return to classrooms four days a week
• Continue to integrate school health assistants
• School Nurses will continue to assist with testing

The PowerPoint presentation is attached to the minutes.

HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Health Director, stated that she had a few additional brief comments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catawba County Positive Cases</th>
<th>Currently Hospitalized Positive</th>
<th>Catawba County Deaths</th>
<th>Catawba County Recovered*</th>
<th>County Residents Partially Vaccinated*</th>
<th>County Residents Fully Vaccinated*</th>
<th>CMS County Positivity Rate*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18,058</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>17,419</td>
<td>37567 / 23.5%</td>
<td>27,998 / 17.5%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC Cases (per NCDHHS website)</td>
<td>NC Deaths (per NCDHHS website)</td>
<td>NC Tests Completed (per NCDHHS website)</td>
<td>NC Currently Hospitalized (per NCDHHS website)</td>
<td>US Cases (per CDC website)</td>
<td>US Deaths (per CDC website)</td>
<td>NC DHHS County Positivity Rate**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>935,061</td>
<td>12,290</td>
<td>11,734,653</td>
<td>904</td>
<td>30,965,577</td>
<td>558,843</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Numbers updated weekly on Wednesdays **Numbers updated biweekly on Wednesdays

FOC Status: Open 08:00 – 17:00 State of Emergency: Yes Declared: 03/18/2020 08:00

Where we are with COVID-19 response:
• Updates on the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine concerns – CDC recommends continuing to administer the vaccine
• Catawba County Public health began vaccination clinics on December 27, 2020.
• Current trends have plateaued - Variants have been found in the US and NC
• Mostly younger people are the cases that are driving the metrics now.
• Testing numbers continue to decrease in Catawba County and surrounding counties.
• Continue to operate vaccine clinic at the Hickory Metro Convention Center 4 days a week, 12 hours a day, in addition to other special event clinics.
• Continue to hold weekly partner meetings with the team at Public Health and biweekly meetings with local hospitals.
• State call last week – Mr. Jason Williams, Assistant Health Director, was a guest speaker on how Public Health has a paperless process
• Completed shots for school staff, LRU, and CVCC staff
• LRU students – first round of shots completed
• Held a clinic with Johnson & Johnson vaccine last week – the rest of the vaccine is being transferred to StarMed to use in some of the more vulnerable populations in our county.
• This week Catawba County Public Health is temporarily changing how appointments are scheduled. Due to the number of vaccines being receiving this week and next, Public Health has notified people in the 'portal' to call in for an appointment.
• Public Health continues to work with all three local school districts, CVCC and LRU.

Ms. McCracken reminded the Board 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. Ms. Susan Knowles so moved, and Mr. John Dollar seconded the motion. Dr. Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

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

JFM: day

*Approved by Board of Health: May 10, 2021*