

**Catawba County Board of Health
Minutes
April 14, 2025**

The Catawba County Board of Health met on Monday, April 14, 2025, at 7:00 pm at Catawba County Public Health, 3070 11th Ave Dr. SE, Hickory, NC 28602.

Members Present: Mr. William Pitts, Chair
Dr. Bruce Carlton, Vice-Chair
Mr. Austin Allran, County Commissioner
Dr. Hannah Glenn
Ms. Susan Knowles
Ms. Rebecca McLeod
Dr. Eugene Modlin
Dr. Steven Sanderson
Ms. Janice Walker
Mr. Shad Walters

Members Absent: Mr. Vidal Sipe

Staff present: Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Health Director
Ms. Julie Byrd, Assistant Health Director
Ms. Emily Killian, Community Engagement Specialist/PIO
Ms. Melissa Kirkpatrick, Operations Administrator
Ms. Chantae Lail, Medical Lab Manager/Preparedness Coordinator*
Ms. Jennifer Lindsay, Health Services Manager
Ms. Megen McBride, Environmental Health Administrator*
Ms. Sarah Rhodes, Clinical Services Nurse Supervisor
Mr. Jeremy Stockton, WIC Director
Ms. Marianne Vogel, School Health Nursing Supervisor*
Ms. Debra A. Young, Administrative Assistant II

Guest: Mr. Zack King, DellaRe Consulting

*Attended via Zoom meeting

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mr. William Pitts, 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.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES

Mr. William Pitts, Chair, stated that Board members received the meeting agenda and the Board minutes for February 10, 2025, in the Board packet that the Board members receive via email. Mr. Pitts asked if there were any changes to the Agenda or corrections to the prior meeting Minutes. There being none, Mr. Pitts motioned to accept the agenda and previous meeting minutes as presented, and Dr. Steven Sanderson seconded the motion. The agenda and minutes were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Pitts asked if anyone presented to speak before the Board. Ms. Debra Young, Administrative Assistant II, stated that no one had presented to speak to the board this evening.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Austin Allran, County Commissioner, stated that the Board of Commissioners recently met and presented Catawba County Public Health with the Public Health Month Proclamation for April. The Board also had its first fiscal year budget review earlier today.

PUBLIC HEALTH MONTH PROCLAMATION

Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Health Director, read the Public Health Month Proclamation for the Board of Health. Mr. Bill Pitts, Chair, signed the Proclamation.

STATE OF THE COUNTY HEALTH REPORT (SOTCH)

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE / COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP) UPDATE

Mr. Zack King, Managing Director of DellaRe Consulting, updated the Board on the 2024 State of the County Health Report (SOTCH). He began with an update on the 2024-2027 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), stating that this has been a collaborative process that involves many different community members and partners. Mr. King reiterated what the CHIP is and reviewed the three 2024-2027 health priorities that were identified: (1) access to healthy food, (2) brain health, and (3) safe, engaging, and active spaces. Mr. King reviewed the strategy priorities for each health priority as well.

Mr. King gave a live demo of the 'Scorecard' information for Catawba County. The link and QR code are listed below. He further stated that the SOTCH is an annual update on priority data and CHIP strategies, allowing for the opportunity to address any emerging issues that occur between other assessments.

The SOTCH Strategy Priorities were reviewed, and information was given regarding the upcoming 'Walk your Block', which engages the community mobility assessments piece.

Mr. Bill Pitts asked if there were any questions regarding the SOTCH as presented. There being no further discussions, Mr. Pitts motioned to accept the SOTCH update as presented. Ms. Rebecca McLeod seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved the SOTCH 2025 update.

Mr. Zack King continued with an update to the Strategic Plan, giving an overview of the strategic directions and objectives for each.

The SOTCH and additional data are available on the Catawba County Public Health website. <https://www.catawbacountync.gov/county-services/public-health/news-publications/community-health-data/>

The Presentation slides are attached to the Minutes.



OPERATING PROCEDURE ANNUAL REVIEW

As it is best practice and required by State Accreditation standards, the Board of Health annually reviews the Board's Operating Procedures to ensure they are current and inclusive of all appropriate items.

The Nominations and Operating Procedure Subcommittee reviewed and approved the Operating Procedures on April 14, 2025. The Board was also provided with a draft copy of the document in their Board packet. Mr. Pitts asked if there were any questions or considerations, and there being none, Dr. Steven Sanderson, Chair of the Nominations and Operating Procedures Subcommittee, recommended the adoption of the Operating Procedures as presented, with no revisions recommended. Mr. Pitts acknowledged that no motion was needed due to the subcommittee's recommendation and asked for a vote from the board members to accept the Operating Procedures. The Board members voted unanimously to adopt the 2025-2026 Operating Procedures.

CREDIBLEMIND UPDATE/DEMO

Ms. Jennifer Lindsay, Health Services Manager, reviewed the new *CredibleMind* resource that was launched in Catawba County in February 2025. This resource is available, free of charge, and ensures all people in Catawba County have access to 'brain health' services. The website is a one-stop shop for mental well-being resources. Ms. Lindsay stated that currently, there are 1,199 total users, and 1,452 sessions have been completed.



Link for *CredibleMind*: <https://catawbacountync.crediblemind.com/>

HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Health Director, stated she had a few updates to report for the Health Director's report.

- Respiratory illnesses are winding down. COVID, flu, and RSV activity are all on the decline. There were fewer Emergency Department visits for all three this year, and Catawba County also had slightly fewer influenza deaths.
- More states are reporting cases of measles. The national total of cases has exceeded 600, and this is the worst outbreak since 2019.
 - Measles is highly contagious and can cause serious health implications, especially in children under five.
 - Public Health has been preparing for potential cases and has plans for response in the event there are local cases.
- Public Health participated in the Appalachian State University College of Health Sciences Leadership Forum. Ms. McCracken was a panelist at the forum, which focused on leading with compassion.
- Public Health has office space being utilized by members of the new PORT (Post Overdose Response Team) known as REACH (Resource for Addiction and Community Health) Team.

This ties in with Public Health's Brain Health and Resilience work that has been outlined in the Catawba County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

- Mr. Bill Pitts spoke on behalf of the Board of Health and encouraged community agencies to leverage NC Care 360 as a collaboration tool at the April LiveWell Coalition meeting.
- Public health celebrated National Public Health Week by holding a recognition luncheon for all staff on April 11. At the luncheon, Public Health also recognized four nominees for Employee of the Year. The 2024 Public Health Employee of the Year is Ms. Karely Chavez-Callejas. Congratulations, Ms. Chavez-Callejas.

The Health Director's presentation slides are attached to the Minutes.

OTHER BUSINESS

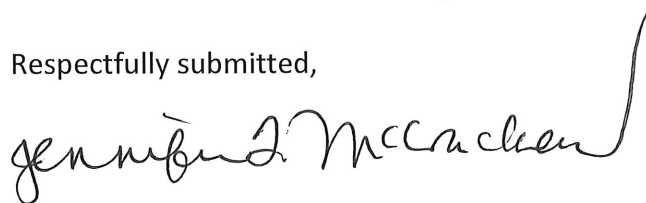
Mr. Pitts reminded the Board Members that Nominations will be needed for the upcoming Officers' appointments in August for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. William Pitts motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Rebecca McLeod so moved. Mr. Pitts adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

The next Board of Health meeting will be on June 09, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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

JFM: day

Approved by the Board of Health: June 09, 2025