Catawba County Board of Health
Minutes
March 08, 2021

The Catawba County Board of Health met on Monday, March 08, 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*  
Dr. Gale Hamilton-Brandon*  
Ms. Susan Knowles*  
Mr. William Pitts*  
Mr. Brian Potocki*

Members Absent: None

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. Megan 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

*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, and staff. 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 February 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. Austin Allran and seconded by Mr.
John Dollar. 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
Mr. Austin Allran, County Commissioner, stated he did not have anything to report this month.

MID-YEAR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH UPDATE
Ms. Megen McBride, Environmental Health Administrator, presented the Environmental Health Mid-Year update by starting with a mid-year snapshot. She stated that environmental health services have gone uninterrupted during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Ms. McBride reported that On-Site Water Protection (OSWP) applications had increased significantly compared to the same time last year. OSWP has received 314 new construction applications, 178 soil tests, 189 septic repairs, and 40 well permits. For Food, Lodging & Institution (FLI), Ms. McBride stated that there were 1,052 inspections and 163 visits thus far. There have been a total of 92 complaints (OSWP & FLI), and 192 water samples have been taken to date.

Ms. McBride continued with an update regarding the Clean Water for Carolina Kids. The Rule was amended on October 01, 2019. Ms. McBride stated that 40% of the child care centers in Catawba County had reported their testing results. If test results return positive, the center has 30 days to fix the issue(s). So far, most of the positive test results have come from ‘fixtures’ within the facility (i.e., faucets, pipes, etc.).

The Mid-Year Environmental Health Update PowerPoint slides are attached to the Minutes.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE AND TB ANNUAL REPORT
Ms. Sarah Rhodes, Clinical Services Nurse Supervisor, provided the Board with the annual Communicable Disease and TB Report. Ms. Rhodes stated that the Communicable Disease Report is created annually from data gathered and analyzed for the calendar year just ending and compared to the previous four years, generating a five-year view of communicable disease activity in Catawba County. Data is analyzed to guide staff in education and prevention messages in addition to outbreaks, trends, and projections. The staff also stay in contact with local providers as well as regional and State Communicable Disease staff.

Ms. Rhodes advised the Board that due to the coronavirus events over the past year, there have been a total of 13,970 communicable disease investigations. This is ten times the amount of investigations performed in 2019. Out of those who were tested for COVID-19, there were 12,211 positive cases reported in 2020, with the first case being reported on March 20th and the first death on April 3rd.
Cumulative data for any of the 78 reportable diseases that occurred in Catawba County was given for 2020 with a notation that there has been a dramatic increase in Hepatitis A. Ms. Rhodes also shared data regarding confinements and quarantines from animal bites to guard against rabies, as well as, increases in Chlamydia and Hepatitis C - Chronic. The communicable disease reports are followed closely to ensure proper testing, diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up by physicians, clinics, and Public Health.

The PowerPoint presentation, Communicable Disease Overview, and CD Annual Report are attached to the Minutes.

**OPERATING PROCEDURE ANNUAL REVIEW**

As 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.

Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Health Director, provided a summary of the proposed changes to the *Catawba County Board of Health Operating Procedures*.

The Nominations and Operating Subcommittee reviewed and discussed the proposed changes on February 26, 2021. The Board was also provided a draft copy of the document in their Board packet. Dr. Hamilton asked if there were any questions or considerations, and there being none; Dr. Matthew Davis, Chair of the Nominations and Operating Procedures Sub-Committee, recommended the adoption of the Operating Procedures as presented, with revisions as noted. Dr. Hamilton acknowledged that no motion was needed due to the subcommittee’s recommendation and called for a virtual vote of the Board members to accept the Operating Procedures. The Board voted unanimously, via virtual roll call, to adopt the Operating Procedures dated March 08, 2021.

**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 Positives</th>
<th>Catawba County Deaths</th>
<th>Catawba County Recovered*</th>
<th>County Residents 1st Dose*</th>
<th>County Residents Completing Vaccination Series*</th>
<th>CMS County Positivity Rate*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17,286</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>16,507</td>
<td>23,165 / 14.52%</td>
<td>14,752 / 9.25%</td>
<td>8.3%</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>874,906</td>
<td>11,535</td>
<td>10,562,491</td>
<td>1,126</td>
<td>28,771,749</td>
<td>522,973</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Where we are with COVID-19 response:

- Catawba County Public health began vaccination clinics on December 27, 2020.
- Data is continuing to trend in the right direction — downward
- 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.
• Four check-in stations and eight shot stations are set up at the clinic – vaccinating up to eight people every five minutes.
• Partnering with LRU -- nursing students are assisting with vaccinating and directing citizens
• Five Walgreens stores in Catawba County are now receiving the vaccine
• Currently vaccinating Groups 1, 2, and now all of Group 3. Group 3 was completely opened up a week earlier than planned. The Coronavirus Teams adapted quickly and started streamlining the registration and scheduling process with businesses to ensure a smooth process for large business groups.
• Individuals and businesses may also register for the COVID-19 shot at catalavbavaccine.org
• Public Health implemented a new COVID-19 information phone line to assist with the online portal, questions, scheduling, etc.
• NC has received approximately 80,000 doses of Johnson & Johnson vaccine. This first shipment went to large, special events throughout the State. Catawba County has not been notified as to when any J&J will be received.
• Continue to hold weekly partner meetings with the team at Public Health and biweekly meetings with local hospitals.
• Public Health continues to work with all three local school districts, CVCC and LRU.
• The one-year mark of COVID-19 Emergency Response is coming up on March 15th. Public Health is planning an employee recognition event that morning.

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. Dr. Matthew Davis so moved, and Dr. Dana Greene seconded the motion. Dr. Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

JFM: day

Approved by Board of Health: April 12, 2021