

**Catawba County Board of Health  
Minutes  
April 11, 2022**

The Catawba County Board of Health met on Monday, April 11, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom and at Catawba County Public Health, 3070 11<sup>th</sup> Ave Dr. SE, Hickory, NC 28602.

**Members Present:** Mr. John H. Dollar, Chair\*  
Mr. William Pitts, Vice-Chair\*  
Mr. Austin Allran, County Commissioner  
Dr. Bruce Carlton  
Dr. Matthew Davis\*  
Dr. Dana H. Greene\*  
Dr. Gale Hamilton-Brandon\*  
Ms. Susan Knowles\*  
Dr. Joshua Millsaps  
Mr. Brian Potocki\*

**Staff present:** Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Health Director\*  
Mr. Jason Williams, Assistant Health Director\*  
Ms. Julie Byrd, Women and Children's Health Administrator\*  
Ms. Emily Killian, Community Engagement Specialist/PIO\*  
Ms. Chantae Lail, Medical Lab Manager/Preparedness Coordinator\*  
Ms. Jennifer Lindsay, School Health Nursing Supervisor\*  
Ms. Megen McBride, Environmental Health Administrator\*  
Ms. Sarah Rhodes, Clinical Services Nurse Supervisor\*  
Ms. Rhonda Stikeleather, Children's Services Nurse Supervisor\*  
Mr. Jeremy Stockton, WIC Director\*  
Ms. Debra A. Young, Administrative Assistant II\*

**Guests:** Honorable Nathaniel Poovey, Superior Court  
Ms. Debra Bechtel, Staff Attorney\*

\*Attended via Zoom meeting

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Mr. John Dollar, 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. Mr. Dollar 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.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

The Honorable Judge Nathaniel J. Poovey administered the Oath of Office for Catawba County Board of Health Member Dr. Joshua Millsaps.

Dr. Millsaps signed an Oath of Office, which is also part of the official minutes.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES**

Mr. John Dollar, Chair, stated that Board members had received the current meeting Agenda and the Board Minutes for February 14, 2022. Mr. Dollar 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. The Agenda and minutes were unanimously approved via an in-person and virtual roll call vote of the board members present.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Dollar asked if anyone presented to speak before the Board. Ms. Debra Young, Administrative Assistant II, stated that one citizen presented to speak to the Board this evening.

### **COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

Commissioner Austin Allran thanked all the Board Members for their continued service to the community and that he was looking forward to working alongside the new members.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH MONTH PROCLAMATION**

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

### **MID-YEAR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH UPDATE**

Ms. Megan 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 again compared to last year. OSWP has received 808 new construction applications, 402 soil tests, 69 septic repairs, and 259 well permits. For Food, Lodging & Institution (FLI), Ms. McBride stated that there were 1,301 inspections and 279 visits thus far. There have been a total of 80 complaints (OSWP & FLI), and 386 water samples have been taken to date.

Ms. McBride continued with an update regarding the adoption of the 2017 FDA Food Code. There is now an option for restaurant establishments to use a demonstration of knowledge in lieu of ServeSafe certification. ServeSafe is valid for five years, and one person at the establishment must be certified. It was noted that there are additional reportable illnesses for restaurants to report, and establishments must have written Procedures for clean-up of vomiting and diarrheal events. Most establishments already had a policy or procedure, but now it is required.

The Mid-Year Environmental Health Update 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 stays in contact with local providers and regional and State Communicable Disease teams.

Ms. Rhodes advised the Board that in 2021, COVID-19 reports accounted for 92.2 percent of Catawba County's communicable disease investigations, and Public Health administered more than 64,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses.

Cumulative data for any of the 78 reportable diseases that occurred in Catawba County was given for 2021 with a notation that for another year, 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, other reportable diseases and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). 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.

Dr. Matthew Davis, Subcommittee Chair, brought forth the proposed addition to the *Catawba County Board of Health Operating Procedures*.

The Nominations and Operating Procedure Subcommittee reviewed the proposed revision to the Operating Procedures on March 23, 2022. The Board was also provided a draft copy of the document in their Board packet. Mr. Dollar asked if there were any questions or considerations, and there being none, Dr. Matthew Davis, Chair of the Nominations and Operating Procedures Subcommittee, recommended the adoption of the Operating Procedures as presented, with the revision as noted. Mr. Dollar 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 to adopt the Operating Procedures.

#### **HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

- Postpartum Medicaid – The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 allowed states to increase coverage for 12 months. This extension is available to states for five years through March 2027.
- Avian Influenza – Cases have been reported in wild birds and commercial flocks in Eastern NC and in more than ten other states.

- Outreach to vulnerable populations – Has been an opportunity to strengthen existing partnerships and develop new ones.
- COVID-19 – Landscape looks different than two years ago. Vaccines and boosters are widely available, along with various treatments for those at higher risk of severe disease. Immunity in NC's population has increased dramatically both from vaccination and past infection.
- Moving forward – NC's plan for the next phase of COVID-10 response
  - Empowering individuals
  - Maintaining health system capacity
  - Collaborating with local partners
  - Prioritizing equity
- NACCHO Grant – Catawba County was one of 15 health departments selected in the US and the only one in the Southeast.
  - \$70,000 to increase COVID-19 vaccine confidence in the African-American population
  - Hiring vaccine coordinator and curating vaccine ambassadors

Ms. McCracken reminded the Board that the monthly flu infographic was included in the Board packet.

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

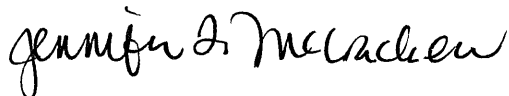
**OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. John Dollar asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Matthew Davis so moved. Accordingly, Mr. Dollar adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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

JFM: day

Approved by Board of Health: June 13, 2022