Catawba County Board of Health  
Minutes  
June 08, 2020

The Catawba County Board of Health met on Monday, June 08, 2020 at 7:00 pm via a Zoom meeting and at Catawba County Public Health, 3070 11th Ave SE, Hickory, NC 28602.

Members Present:  Dr. David C. Hamilton, Jr, Chair*  
Dr. Matthew Davis, Vice-Chair*  
Ms. Gloria Costin*  
Mr. John H. Dollar*  
Dr. Dana H. Greene*  
Dr. Gale Hamilton-Brandon*  
Mr. Dan Hunsucker, County Commissioner*  
Ms. Susan Knowles*  
Mr. William Pitts*  
Mr. Brian Potocki*

Members Absent:  None

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. Megen McBride, Environmental Health Administrator*  
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 meeting of the Catawba County Public Health Board to order at 7:00pm. 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  
Dr. David Hamilton, Chair, stated that Board members had received the agenda. Dr. Hamilton asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There being none, Dr. Hamilton asked for a motion to accept the agenda as submitted, Mr. John Dollar made the motion and Mr. Dan Hunsucker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously via a virtual vote.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES
The minutes for May 11, 2020, were included in the Board packet that the Board members received via email. Dr. David Hamilton, Chair, asked if there were any corrections. There being no corrections, Mr. Dan Hunsucker made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Mr. John Dollar seconded the motion. The May minutes were unanimously approved via a virtual vote.

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. Dan Hunsucker, County Commissioner, gave a brief update from the County Commissioners meeting as follows:

- The Board of Commissioners maintained the current property tax rate of $0.575 per $100 of valuation
- The Catawba County Board of Commissioners and the Hickory City Council partnered with Stonemont Financial Group to build a 192,000 square foot speculative industrial building at the Trivium Corporate Center. Completion is expected around April of 2021.
- The jail expansion is expected to be completed by September 2020
- Mr. Hunsucker commented on all of the protests around the Country and how proud he is of our local citizens who have peacefully marched for what they believe. He stated that it is a true testament to the character of the citizens of our County.

2020-2021 MEETING DATES
A slate of dates for the fiscal year 2020-2021 was presented as the meeting dates for the Catawba County Board of Health. The proposed dates are as follows: no meeting July 2020; August 10, 2020; September 14, 2020; October 12, 2020; November 09, 2020; December 14, 2020; January 11, 2021; February 08, 2021; March 08, 2021; April 12, 2021; May 10, 2021; and June 14, 2021, with all meetings to begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Catawba County Public Health Boardroom and/or via Zoom Meeting. Ms. Gloria Costin made a motion to set the aforementioned dates for fiscal year 2020-2021, Dr. Dana Greene seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously voted their approval via a virtual vote.

The 2020-2021 meeting schedule is also attached to the Minutes.

FARMERS MARKET KICKOFF / WIC UPDATE
Ms. Julie Byrd, Women and Children’s Health Administrator, gave an update on the Catawba County Public Health Farmers Market kickoff for the 2020 season.

- This is the 8th season for the Catawba County Public Health Farmer’s Market
- The market will be open from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm from June 18th through September 24th
  - The market was delayed a week due to additional planning due to the pandemic
- Five farmers are confirmed for this market season – Two farmers are new to the market this year
- Additional measures are being taken at this year’s market due to COVID-19
Customers are encouraged to ‘shop with their eyes’ and allow the farmer to bag their produce.

Customers and farmers are encouraged to use hand sanitizer that will be located at the market manager/money handler tent.

Customers and farmers are encouraged to wear a face covering, if desired.

The market will be one-way – and have a one-way entrance and exit.

Additional signage will be at all market tables encouraging customers to social distance, form a line and shop quickly.

Farmers will be provided with sanitizing wipes throughout the market to wipe down high touch surfaces at their tent.

Ms. Byrd continued with a WIC program update:

- All services and appointments are completed over the phone. No in person appointments are currently being scheduled.
- WIC is working with medical providers to fax needed information.
- Participants are encouraged to email their required documentation.
- WIC certifications have been extended for three months.
- WIC Food Waivers – certain food lists have been adjusted to allow other approved types of foods due to the shortage of WIC approved food items.

The Farmers Market/W/C update presentation is attached to the Minutes.

**DRIVE-THRU TESTING UPDATE**

Ms. Kim Spaulding, School Health Nurse Supervisor, gave an update on the drive-thru testing events that are being held weekly at Catawba County Public Health. Ms. Spaulding stated that citizens with positive results will receive a phone call and all negative results are mailed a letter via regular mail.

Ms. Spaulding continued with additional updates regarding testing:

- School Nurses and other Public Health Nurses continue to assist with contact tracing.
- Other Public Health staff can be trained to help with contact tracing as well. It does not have to be a Registered Nurse in all scenarios.
- School nurses will help when they return to school this fall as well since there may be clusters of testing/symptomatic within the schools.
- Several State trainings have been sent to public health agencies. Staff are completing the various software trainings, contact investigation and contact tracing trainings along with assisting in the roll out various levels of Microsoft training.

The Drive-Thru Testing update slides are attached to the Minutes.

**HEALTH DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Ms. Jennifer F. McCracken, Health Director, stated she had a few additional items to report on regarding COVID-19 response and other various topics:
• Public Health continues Unified Command with Emergency Management. Emergency Management is working alongside Public Health each and every day helping provide resources, case investigation, data and contact tracing.
• The Public Health Epi Team continues to be the leaders within this pandemic.
• Current Catawba County COVID-19 case numbers: 310 positive cases; 9 hospitalized; 2,479 negative cases – this number is not reflective of all test results as Public Health does not know all negative cases from private practices, outside testing sites, etc.; 13 deaths; and 98 recovered.
• Catawba County Public Health is encouraging facilities that don’t have a contract with a lab to begin that process as it will be beneficial to them and very helpful to Public Health when it comes to testing.
• The drive-thru testing has been a great resource for public health and contract tracers as it is also being used to refer citizens that are contacts to positive cases for testing.
• The nurse triage line continues to be a significant part of the connection to the community.
• Public Health has been in a consultant role with many businesses and institutions as they plan to open back up to the community.
• Public Health continues to work with local hospital partners – continuing to meet every other week. CVMC and FRMC are testing in-patient patients and both hospitals are providing pre-cp testing on patients.
• CVS Pharmacy is now offering drive-thru testing across the State at specific locations. There is one CVS in Catawba County (on Highway 321) that is offering local testing. Each location will provide up to 50 tests per day by appointment only. Various other urgent care centers and private practices are offering testing as well.
• Will continue to send a weekly update to Board of Health members. Please advise of any specific topics you would like covered in the weekly update.
• Updated regarding various situations at long term care facilities (LTCF), local processing plants/food distributors, businesses and school districts in the community.

Gilling School of Public Health – Internship Practicum at UNC for Masters of Public Health students. Many students were planning to go out of the country or to various on-site locations all over the United States. A Practicum Internship will be offered by Catawba County Public Health to a MPH student in the very near future – this student will work via zoom regarding data and research.

Dr. Matthew Davis and Ms. Susan Knowles are up for reappointment to the Board of Health. Bthr have graciously accepted the renewal term and the Board of Commissioners has received the renewal information.

Budget update – The Board of Commissioners passed the 2020-2021 County budget
• Public Health budget updates:
  o Included school health conversion to new medical health records
  o Increased utility funds approved
  o Two school nurse positions were not funded at this time. Board of Commissioners stated they will be reconsidered after January 2021.
  o Facility improvements and education were not approved this year but will look at these items again for next year’s budget (2021-2022)
Ms. McCracken gave a reminder that the monthly infographics were included in Board packet.

OTHER BUSINESS
Dr. Hamilton mentioned that Ms. Jennifer McCracken was appointed as Health Director in March but since the April meeting was cancelled, it was not mentioned. Dr. Hamilton congratulated Ms. McCracken on the appointment. Dr. Hamilton also commended Ms. McCracken and all of Public Health for all that is being done during these difficult times.

ADJOURNMENT
Dr. Hamilton reminded the Board that there will be no meeting in July. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, August 10, 2020, at 7:00 pm. Dr. 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 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

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

JFM: day

Approved by Board of Health: August 10, 2020