Catawba County Board of Health
Minutes
June 14, 2021

The Catawba County Board of Health met on Monday, June 14, 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. Dana H. Greene*  
Dr. Gale Hamilton-Brandon  
Ms. Susan Knowles*  
Mr. William Pitts  
Mr. Brian Potocki

Members Absent:  
Dr. Matthew Davis

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. Rhonda Stikeleather, Children’s Services Nurse Supervisor*  
Ms. Debra A. Young, Administrative Assistant II

Guests:  
Ms. Marissa Castillo, WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor*

*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 May 10, 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. Bill Pitts and seconded by Mr. John
Dollar. The Agenda and minutes were unanimously approved via an in-person and 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 is one new employee to introduce to the Board this month.

Ms. Marissa Castillo joined the Public Health team at the beginning of May as a bilingual WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor. Prior to joining the WIC program, Ms. Castillo worked at the front desk at Unifour Pediatrics, where she handled check-in/check-out, insurance, appointment scheduling, and more. Ms. Castillo has her Associate's degree from CVCC in Medical Office Administration

COUNTY COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS
Mr. Austin Allran, County Commissioner, was pleased to announce that Dr. Dana Greene and Dr. Gale Hamilton-Brandcn were both reappointed to the Board of Health for an additional 3-year term. Dr. Bruce Carlton, retired Veterinarian, has been appointed to the Board for his first 3-year term. He will be present at the August meeting.

2021-2022 MEETING DATES
A slate of dates for the fiscal year 2021-2022 was presented as the meeting dates for the Catawba County Board of Health. The proposed dates are as follows: no meeting July 2021; August 09, 2021; September 13, 2021; October 11, 2021; November 08, 2021; December 13, 2021; January 10, 2022; February 14, 2022; March 14, 2022; April 11, 2022; May 09, 2022; and June 13, 2022, with all meetings to begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Catawba County Public Health Boardroom or via Zoom. Ms. Susan Knowles made a motion to set the dates mentioned above for the fiscal year 2021-2022, Mr. William Pitts seconded the motion. The board unanimously voted for their approval via a combined in-person and virtual vote.

The 2021-2022 meeting schedule is also attached to the Minutes.

WIC PROGRAM UPDATE/FARMER’S MARKET
Ms. Julie Byrd, Women and Children’s Health Administrator, provided the Board with an update on the Catawba County Public Health Farmers Market kickoff for the 2021 season.
- This is the 9th season for the Catawba County Public Health Farmer’s Market
- The market will be open from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm from June 3rd through September
- Five farmers are confirmed for this market season
- Double Bucks and SNAP Dollars are being offered this year to WIC participants and SNAP/EBT participants.
- The Library-to-Go will be at the market every other week
- Additional measures are being taken at this year’s market again 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.

Ms. Byrd continued with a WIC program update:
- Services and appointments are completed both in-person and via phone.
- State assisted issuance has been extended through September 2021.
- Federal WIC waivers continue.
- Cash value benefits have increased to $35.00 from June to September 2021.
- P-EBT (Pandemic EBT) benefits for children under the age of 6.

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

**CARE MANAGEMENT FOR AT RISK CHILDREN (CMARC) AND CARE MANAGEMENT FOR HIGH-RISK PREGNANCIES (CMHRP) UPDATE**

Ms. Rhonda Stikeleather, Children's Services Nurse Supervisor, gave an update on the Care Management for High-Risk Pregnancies (CMHRP) and Care Management for High-Risk Pregnancies (CMHRP) programs at Public Health.

CMHRP is outcome-focused and has an emphasis on improving birth outcomes. It focuses on reducing the rate of preterm and low birth weight births. The outcome measures are to decrease low birth weight births in the county and State, include the timeliness of prenatal care by having the first visit within the first 12 weeks, include postpartum care after delivery, and provide referrals back into the community for a primary care physician.

CMARC is care management for at-risk children who are birth to five years and have Medicaid that has long-term medical conditions, are in long-term stressful situations, including children in foster care and/or were in Neonatal Intensive Care. The outcome measures include well-child visits in the first 30 months of life, the rate of well-child visits for children 3-5 years of age, and the percentage of children 2 years of age who have received their recommended vaccinations.

Ms. Stikeleather continued with an update regarding Medicaid Transformation, which will take effect in North Carolina on July 1, 2021. There will be five different medical plans that participants can choose from. If a plan is not selected, the State will assign the participant to a plan. Catawba County Public Health assists participating families with referrals to the WIC Program and other county/regional resources.

The PowerPoint presentation is attached to the minutes.

**HEALTH DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Ms. McCracken stated that Ms. Sarah Rhodes, Clinical Services Nurse Supervisor, had a brief update on the Vaccination of Homebound Individuals.
Ms. Sarah Rhodes stated that there have been 65 requests for homebound vaccinations, with half coming from the vaccine line from the patient or caregiver and half from community partners. There have been 35 completed series and 18 who have received their first dose. The homebound team consists of 7 nurses, 1 paramedic, and additional support staff who assist with phone calls, scheduling, mapping out resident locations, etc. Some residents had declined the vaccination when they were called back, and some declined once staff arrived at their home for the scheduled appointment, but the majority have been very thankful for the service.

Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Health Director, stated she had a few brief updates. Where we are with COVID-19 response:
- Most of the vaccination appointments currently scheduled are for 2nd doses.
- Catawba County has given over 57,000 doses of vaccine.
- Public Health continues to work with StarMed on community events.
- Continue to hold bi-weekly partner meetings with the team at Public Health and other community partner meetings as needed.

Ms. McCracken reminded the Board that the monthly infographics were included in the Board packet.

OTHER BUSINESS
Ms. McCracken announced that this is the last Board of Health meeting for Dr. David Hamilton, who has been with the Board since 2013. Ms. McCracken and Mr. John Dollar, along with other Board members, expressed their sincere gratitude to Dr. Hamilton and wished him the best in his future endeavors.

Dr. Hamilton was presented with a custom-made piece of pottery with the Catawba County logo hand etched on it. The piece was made by Connections Pottery, located in Newton.

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business, Dr. David Hamilton asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bill Pitts so moved, and Commissioner Allran seconded the motion. Accordingly, Dr. Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

JFM: day

Approved by Board of Health: August 9, 2021