

**Catawba County Board of Health
Minutes
October 14, 2019**

The Catawba County Board of Health met on Monday, October 14, 2019 at 7:00 pm at Catawba County Public Health, 3070 11th Ave Dr. SE, Hickory, NC 28602 in the Boardroom.

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

Members Absent: Dr. Dana H. Greene

Staff present: Mr. Douglas Urand, Health Director
Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Assistant Health Director
Ms. Julie Byrd, WIC Nutrition Director
Ms. Honey Estrada, Public Health Strategist
Ms. Emily Killian, Community Engagement Specialist/PIO
Ms. Megen 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
Mr. Jason Williams, Operations Administrator
Ms. Debra A. Young, Administrative Assistant II

Guests: Ms. Debra Bechtel, County Attorney
Mr. Dewey Harris, Assistant County Manager
Ms. Kellie Mooe, Certified Nursing Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

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, staff and guests.

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 and upon hearing none, he asked for approval of the agenda. Mr. William Pitts, made a motion to accept the agenda as presented and Mr. John Dollar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for September 09, 2019, 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. John Dollar made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Ms. Gloria Costin seconded the motion. The September minutes were unanimously approved.

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, reported that there will be new voting machines for the 2020 elections.

Mr. Hunsucker expressed great appreciation for what Mr. Doug Urland has done while he has been at Catawba County Public Health, stating that he has developed a lead agency and has great staff in place. The Board of Commissioners truly appreciate his leadership and wish him the best.

NEW EMPLOYEES

Mr. Jason Williams, Operations Administrator, stated that there are two new employees to introduce to the Board this month.

Ms. Kellie Mooe joins Catawba County Public Health as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) in the Adult Health Clinic. Ms. Mooe has 7 years of CNA experience and comes to Public Health from Iredell Memorial Hospital.

Ms. Honey Estrada joins Public Health as the Public Health Strategist and comes to us from Catawba Valley Medical Center with over 14 years of community health experience. This position has responsibilities related to health promotion and strategy section including public information requests, strategic planning, quality improvement, and guidance and leadership responsibilities within LiveWell Catawba, along with other job duties. Ms. Estrada holds a Bachelor's degree in Human and Community Services as well as a Master's degree in Public Health, both of which were earned at Lenoir-Rhyne University.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE – FY 2019-2020 OFFICERS

Dr. Matthew Davis, Chair of the Nominations and Operating Procedures Subcommittee stated that the committee met October 14, 2019, and makes the motion to accept the following slate of officers for fiscal year 2019-2020:

For Board of Health Chair – Dr. David Hamilton, Jr.

For Board of Health Vice-Chair – Dr. Matthew Davis

Dr. Davis thanked the subcommittee for its work and asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Dr. Davis made a motion to close the nominations and accept the nominations as presented by the committee. Mr. William Pitts seconded the motion. Dr. Davis asked for a vote and the Board unanimously voted to accept Dr. David Hamilton as Chair and Dr.

Matthew Davis as Vice-Chair of the Catawba County Board of Health for their third year, for the fiscal year 2019-2020.

SEPTAGE COLLECTION, TRANSPORTATION AND DISPOSAL RULE REVISION

Ms. Megen McBride, Environmental Health Administrator, brought forth a request for the Board of Health to amend the Septage Collection, Transportation, and Disposal Rules and further recommend the Board of Commissioners amends related ordinances.

In 1996, Catawba County Board of Health enacted a Rule regulating septage management, which included Catawba County Environmental Health's inspection of pumper trucks.

Effective July 1, 2019, the County is no longer a member of the Regional Sludge Management Facility Consortium. The Consortium was originally formed as a partnership for municipal sludge handling. With the move out of the consortium, this is an appropriate time to reevaluate the County's permitting of these pumper trucks.

In effect the Rule amendment removes Catawba County Environmental Health from pumper truck permitting and inspecting, but because the State requires permitting, the public's health and safety are still protected.

There being no further discussion, Mr. Dan Hunsucker made a motion to amend the Septage Collection, Transportation, and Disposal Rules as previously stated and to further recommend the Board of Commissioners amend the related ordinances. Mr. William Pitts, seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

The Septage Rule: Recommended Changes Summary (fact sheet), revised Rules & Memorandum were sent to the Board of Health in their monthly packet and are attached to the minutes.

APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM HEALTH DIRECTOR

Dr. David Hamilton, Jr., Chair, stated that Ms. Jennifer F. McCracken has been recommended for appointment to the position of Interim Catawba County Health Director. Ms. McCracken is married and has two children. She has held the position of Assistant Health Director for Catawba County since October 2016 and has been employed by Catawba County Public Health since 1998. Ms. McCracken has a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from UNC – Chapel Hill and is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Public Administration from Appalachian State University.

Ms. McCracken would transition to the Interim Health Director position effective October 24, 2019. Mr. Urland and Ms. McCracken have had a transition period of several weeks since the announcement of Mr. Urland's departure. His last day will be October 24, 2019.

Dr. David Hamilton, Jr., Chair, requested a motion to appoint Ms. Jennifer F. McCracken as Interim Health Director of Catawba County. Mr. William Pitts moved that the Catawba County Board of Health approve the appointment of Ms. Jennifer F. McCracken as Interim Health Director effective October 24, 2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dan Hunsucker, and was unanimously approved by the 9 members of the Catawba County Board of Health present.

VAPING/ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES UPDATE

Ms. Kim Spaulding, School Health Nurse Supervisor, brought additional information regarding electronic cigarettes.

Ms. Spaulding gave an overview of how electronic cigarettes work and what they consist of along with the different types and styles that are on the market today. She reported how these products can be hidden inside various items such as in clothing, hollowed out books, inside highlighters, pens, sharpies, and pencil cases. There are even websites that instruct a person how to vape with expelling minimal aerosol.

It has been reported that since brain development is still occurring during adolescence and continues until around the age of 25, nicotine use during this time can cause addiction and harm to the brain. It can rewire the brain and predispose youth to nicotine addiction for their lifetime. The CDC states that nicotine addiction is the most common form of chemical dependence in the US.

As of October 3, 2019, there have been 1,080 confirmed/probable cases of lung illness that have been associated with the use of e-cigarettes. 48 states and the US Virgin Islands have reported cases and there have been 18 deaths from these illnesses in 15 states, including NC. Vaping devices retrieved from patients have tested positive for nicotine and/or THC. Catawba County Public Health will be notified if a case is confirmed in our county.

Catawba County Public Health is being proactive with school principal education, school staff education, using the Catch My Breath program and the Stanford Medicine Tobacco Prevention Toolkit. School nurses are also available to work with students addicted to e-cigarettes and are staying up to date on the progression of lung illnesses occurring across the country.

The PowerPoint presentation is attached to the minutes.

HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Douglas Urland, Health Director, stated he had a few additional brief comments to report:

- State budget – to date, no budget has been approved
- Medicaid Transformation – implementing February 2020. If there is not a state budget by November that date will have to change again.
- Medicaid contracts have been reviewed by Catawba County Public Health staff and the County Attorney. Discussions have been held with the 5 different health insurance agencies. No contracts have been finalized as of yet.
- Facility updates – immunizations, clinical areas, and adult health – improvements have included new flooring, painting and countertops. If the updates have been completed by the November Board meeting, a walk-thru could be scheduled for Board members.
- Communicable Disease – update regarding measles outbreaks. There has been a case reported that is not associated with NC but it is someone that traveled through Piedmont

Triad International Airport in Greensboro. Information was received today and is being sent out to local physicians.

Ms. Jennifer McCracken reported on the Injury & Violence Prevention Branch grant “Community Linkages to Care for Overdose Prevention and Response”. The purpose of this grant is to recruit and fund local health departments to implement community-based strategies to prevent fatal and non-fatal opioid overdoses, increase access and linkages to care services for the most vulnerable populations, and build local capacity to respond to the overdose crisis in NC.

Catawba County Public Health will partner with AIDS Leadership Foothills-Area Alliance (ALFA) to increase their syringe exchange program to increase service provision in Catawba County as well as work with justice involved population upon release to assist in linking them to harm reduction resources and necessary testing.

ALFA has been serving the community providing services for people living with or at risk of HIV for over 30 years and currently serves 9 counties, with their main office being located in Catawba County.

This grant project will focus on expanding the syringe exchange programs by hiring a dedicated staff person; expand syringe access services to rural areas of Catawba County; provide trainings in first aid, wound care, etc. to all staff; provide overdose prevention education in the community; develop a more robust referral network to Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder and other community resources; implement and promote a Harm Reduction support group, and; provide harm reduction resources to those suffering a non-fatal overdose via first responders.

The Grant application due date is October 25, 2019.

- Mr. Urland reminded the Board of the monthly infographics that were included in the Board packet.

OTHER BUSINESS

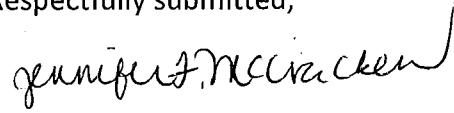
Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6), Dr. David Hamilton, requested the Board go into closed session to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee.

Mr. William Pitts, made the motion that the Catawba County Board of Health adjourn regular session and for the Board to go into closed session to review the Health Director’s job description and conduct his annual evaluation. Dr. Matthew Davis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved at 7:51pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board returned from closed session at 8:19 pm. With a reminder that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 11, 2019, Mr. John Dollar asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Dan Hunsucker seconded the motion and Dr. Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer F. McCracken". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

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

JFM: day

Approved by Board of Health: Monday, November 11, 2019