

**Catawba County Board of Health  
Minutes  
December 09, 2019**

The Catawba County Board of Health met on Monday, December 09, 2019. Preceded by holiday refreshments, the regular meeting of the Board of Health convened at 7:00 pm at Catawba County Public Health, 3070 11<sup>th</sup> Ave Dr. SE, Hickory, NC 28602 in the Boardroom.

**Members Present:** Dr. David C. Hamilton, Jr, Chair  
Dr. Matthew Davis, Vice-Chair  
Dr. Dana H. Greene  
Dr. Gale Hamilton-Brandon  
Mr. William Pitts  
Mr. Brian Potocki  
Ms. Susan Knowles

**Members Absent:** Mr. Dan Hunsucker, County Commissioner  
Ms. Gloria Costin  
Mr. John H. Dollar

**Staff present:** Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Interim Health Director  
Ms. Julie Byrd, WIC Director  
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. Sarah Rhodes, Clinical Nurse Supervisor  
Ms. Kim Spaulding, School Health Nurse Supervisor  
Mr. Jason Williams, Operations Administrator  
Ms. Debra A. Young, Administrative Assistant II

**Guests:** Ms. Amanda Bowman, WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor  
Dr. William Donigan, DDS – Dental Director, Gaston Family Health Services

**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 Dr. Matthew Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes for November 11, 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, Dr. Matthew Davis made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Mr. William Pitts seconded the motion. The November 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**

No comments

### **NEW EMPLOYEES**

Mr. Jason Williams, Operations Administrator, stated that there is one new employee to introduce to the Board this month.

Ms. Amanda Bowman joined the WIC Program as a WIC Peer Breastfeeding Counselor. She has several years of experience serving as a Certified Nursing Assistant with local hospital systems, but most recently served as a Phlebotomist in the Emergency Department at Frye Regional Medical Center. In addition to Ms. Bowman's Phlebotomy certification and Certified Nursing Assistant licensure, she also holds her Pharmacy Technician certification.

### **GASTON FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES ANNUAL UPDATE**

Dr. William Donigan, DDS, Dental Director for Gaston Family Health Services, updated the Board of Health on Catawba Family Dentistry, the Dental Practice housed at Catawba County Public Health. He gave a brief history of the practice, support and referrals from community partners as well as the dedicated staff that keep the practice operating.

The Child Health Outreach Program (CHOP) served 266 children through WIC and 156 pregnant women via the Navigator that both WIC and CVMC Maternity Services share. A total of 4,145 patients came through Catawba Family Dentistry by way of the Navigator housed at Public Health.

The Mobile Dental Unit (MDU) provides preventive services to children in Catawba County. The MDU has three chairs, a digital panoramic machine, dedicated staff and has regularly scheduled care in all three Catawba County school districts. All services that are available in a dental office are available on the MDU. A second Navigator contacts parents within 24 hours to attempt to schedule their child an appointment.

The dental practice has 1.6 full time providers, 4.4 full time dental assistants, .8 full time dental hygienists, 3 clinical support staff and 2.0 full time patient navigators. The clinic operates full days Monday thru Thursday and a partial day on Friday.

Dr. Donigan stated his staff spend a lot of time with education – teaching parents and caregivers how to take care of their teeth and overall dental health. The practice, as a whole, believes that education is key and the earlier good dental hygiene is taught, the better the outcome is.

In 2019 there were 1,448 children seen on the MDU and 4,669 patients seen in the dental clinic.

Dr. Donigan closed out his presentation with an announcement of the forthcoming name change that will be effective April 1, 2020. The name will be changing to *Kintegra*, which comes from kin and integrity. Stay tuned for more information, logo change, etc.

The Dental Update PowerPoint presentation is attached to the Minutes.

**NEW PROGRAM FEES CONSIDERATION**

Mr. Jason Williams, Operations Administrator, reviewed a Request of Fee Changes to meet new regulatory requirements, as well as offer cost savings to citizens of Catawba County who utilize these services, which are Hemoglobin A1c; Herpes Simplex Virus 1&2 IgG (HSV-1 & HSV-2), and; QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus. The attached Memorandum requesting the fee changes was emailed to the Board in their monthly Board packet along with a copy of the attached PowerPoint slides.

It is being requested that the Board of Health approve the fee changes as discussed and as outline below in the Summary of Request.

*Summary of Request:*

<b>Test Name</b>	<b>Current Fee</b>	<b>Proposed Fee/Outcome</b>
Herpes Simplex Virus II IgG	\$17.00	Terminate fee – remove from schedule
Herpes Simplex Virus I & II	\$28.00	Terminate fee – remove from schedule
Hemoglobin A1c	n/a – new test	Current Medicaid reimbursement rate + 25% administrative rate, rounded to the next whole dollar (currently \$15)
Herpes Simplex Virus 1 & 2 IgG (HSV-1 & HSV-2) - Reflex	n/a – new test	Current cost of the test + 25% administrative rate, rounded to the next whole dollar (currently \$106)
QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus	n/a – new test	Current cost of the test + 25% administrative rate, rounded to the next whole dollar (currently \$69)

The aforementioned changes would be effective upon approval by the Catawba County Board of Commissioners.

There being no further discussions, Mr. William Pitts made a motion to approve the fee changes as presented and Dr. Matthew Davis seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the fee changes.

**SCHOOL HEALTH ANNUAL UPDATE**

Ms. Kimberly Spaulding, School Nurse Supervisor, provided an annual update regarding the School Health Program for 2018-2019. There are currently 24 school nurses with 23 serving the 44 public schools in Catawba County. This equals out to a ratio of 1:990. Most school nurses cover two schools.

For the 2018-19 school year, Ms. Spaulding stated the overall number of school nurse visits was 35,176. Of those nurse visits, there were 33,000 students that were seen and sent back to class, 46 medical emergencies resulted in a call to 911 there were and 2,130 students were sent home after being seen by the school nurse. In addition to assessments, the school nurses also provide various health screenings including dental, vision and hearing along with case management to over 4,555 students with chronic health conditions. The American Academy of Pediatrics now recommends one school nurse per school.

Other school health initiatives provided includes Mental Health, LiveWell Schools, e-cigarette education and Mobile Dental Services. In collaboration with LiveWell Catawba, LiveWell Schools supports a culture of health for students, staff and families across the County. School nurses are key partners in this initiative and continuously work to support their schools as they achieve goals related to health and wellness.

Dr. Hamilton praised the school nurses along with the Mobile Dental Unit and requested the school nurse initiative of one school nurse per school become a high priority in Catawba County.

The complete PowerPoint presentation is attached to these Minutes.

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

Ms. Jennifer F. McCracken, Interim Health Director, stated she had a few additional brief comments to report:

- State Budget – no additional news at this time. No budget has been approved.
- Medicaid Transformation has been suspended. NC Medicaid will continue to operate as it had previously in the fee for service model.
  - The State is encouraging agencies to continue reviewing and signing their contracts with the PHP's – Public Health is still working with the County Attorney to finalize the contracts.
- Opioid Grant – received more funding than had anticipated - \$248,602.00 over 3 years. This grant will help with the Syringe Exchange, harm reduction, etc.
- TB Annual Assessment - Report was received from the State and Catawba County Public Health passed in all performance areas.
- Staffing – due to the temporary vacancy of the Assistant Health Director position Ms. McCracken, Interim Health Director, has been working with the Assistant County Manager and Human Resources, to temporarily move a small number of staff to other Managers to help with coverage. Mr. Jason Williams and Ms. Julie Byrd took on additional staff to help with that coverage.
- Reminder that the monthly infographics were included in Board packet.

Dr. Hamilton thanked the staff, the Board of Health and the agency as a whole for stepping up during this transition period.

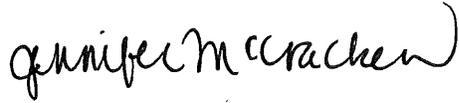
#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Hamilton reminded the Board of the next meeting on Monday, January 13, 2020, at 7:00 pm and asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. John Dollar so moved and Dr. Matthew Davis seconded the motion. Dr. Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Jennifer McCracken  
Secretary to the Board of Health  
Interim Health Director

JFM: day

*Approved by Board of Health: January 13, 2020*