

# Henderson County Board of Health

## Minutes

Regular Meeting – November 8, 2022

Classroom of the Henderson County Department of Public Health  
1200 Spartanburg Highway Hendersonville, NC 28792

### I. Call to Order

The Henderson County Board of Health meeting was called to order by Dr. Maggie Hayes, Chairperson, at 6:01 p.m.

<b>Members Present</b>	Kathleen Baluha, Registered Nurse John Bryant, General Public Member Maggie Hayes, Physician – Chairperson Jennifer Hensley, General Public Member Bill Lapsley, County Commissioner Alison Reid, Dentist Kenesha Smith, Pharmacist – Vice Chairperson Scott Prechter, General Public Member Jeffrey Young, Professional Engineer
<b>Members Not Present</b>	Leslie Leidecker, Veterinarian Craig Poole, Optometrist
<b>Staff Leadership Present</b>	Steve Smith, Health Director Diana Curran, Medical Director Crystal O’Dell, Director of Nursing Stacy Taylor, Community Health Director

**Quorum Present**

### II. Approval of the Meeting Agenda

Dr. Hayes asked board members to review the proposed agenda and to approve if no changes were needed. **Motion:** Dr. John Bryant made a motion for the agenda to be approved and Ms. Kathy Baluha seconded the motion. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

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#### III. Approval of the September 13, 2022 Minutes

Dr. Hayes indicated the minutes for the September 13, 2022 meeting needed to be approved.

**Motion:** Ms. Baluha made a motion for the minutes to be approved as submitted and Dr. Bryant seconded the motion. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### IV. Public Comments

Dr. Hayes asked if anyone present wished to make public comments. There were none.

#### V. Presentations

##### **Outstanding Board of Health Award 2022**

Mr. Smith presented the award plaque that had recently been received from the Association of North Carolina Boards of Health acknowledging the Henderson County Board of Health's contributions to public health in 2022. It was also noted that the board of health had received the same recognition in 2015 and 2018. Mr. Smith thanked the board for their strategic leadership and engagement with community partners to tackle multiple community health priorities including mental health and substance use.

##### **Henderson County 2045 Comprehensive Plan**

Dr. Hayes recognized Ms. Autumn Radcliff, Henderson County Planning Director and Ms. Janna Bianculli, Senior Planner, for the presentation about the development of the 2045 Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Radcliff stated that the required plan centered on strategies to support 3 primary goals including intentional land use (guiding development and protecting natural resources), connectivity (transportation, communication and utility infrastructure) and opportunity (economic development, healthy and safe living).

Ms. Bianculli emphasized that a lot of time and effort had been dedicated to achieving public input with over 7,000 survey responses to date and additional input from public forums.

Mr. Lapsley added that the plan provided an important guide for decision making going forward and reminded board members that it was specific to the unincorporated areas of the county. He noted that municipalities develop their own individual plans.

Ms. Radcliff shared that many survey respondents felt that protection of open spaces and natural areas including farmland was a top priority. Improving access to the internet was identified as another priority. Ms. Radcliff also mentioned that several health-related recommendations like completion of the trail/greenway network and expansion of healthy

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food access would be included. Mr. Smith voiced his appreciation of these elements and stated that many of these strategies were an extension of the current community health assessment and resulting action plans.

Mrs. Radcliff concluded by thanking the board for its interest and that the proposed plan could be accessed through the Henderson County website. Mr. Lapsley added that the Commissioners will begin their deliberations soon about the final document and appreciated all of the data and effort to inform appropriate decisions for Henderson County.

#### VI. Reports

##### **Health Director's Monthly Report**

Mr. Smith provided general updates about a number of topics including the school health program and future request for sustaining school nurse positions; elevated concerns about an outbreak of Ebola in Uganda and monitoring of international travelers; flu immunization clinics at school sites; behavioral health summit and its recent newsletter and an update on receipt of the accreditation plaque for the department. Dr. Diana Curran, Medical Director, voiced her ongoing concerns about the collective impact of elevated cases for flu, COVID-19 and RSV and referenced her ongoing efforts to share timely information with the medical community. She acknowledged the number of cases were generating pressures on local practices and hospitals.

#### VII. Old Business

##### **Space Needs Assessment & Staff Perspective**

Mr. Smith referenced Mr. Steve Allan's prior presentation to the board about space needs within the department. Mr. Smith guided the board to the portions of the report that prioritized the greatest needs within clinic and immunization operational space. These findings were noted as being consistent with staff insights. Mr. Smith mentioned the remaining priority of creating an improved classroom environment since it was now being routinely used for board of health meetings and for a larger meeting space that would accommodate greater numbers of staff. That training room space could also serve as meeting space for DSS and community partners.

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#### Annual Review of Board of Health Policies

Mr. Smith updated board members that there had been an ongoing review of current policies by the Henderson County Attorney and staff. The recommendation was to proceed with the current policies and that no changes were needed. **Motion:** Dr. Prechter moved to approve the policies as presented and Ms. Baluha seconded the motion. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### VIII. New Business

##### Supporting Tailored and Responsive Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Research Initiative

Mrs. Crystal O'Dell, Director of Nursing, introduced an innovative research opportunity aimed at identifying and confirming best practices with pre-exposure prophylaxis (treatment) of sexually transmitted infections. Mrs. O'Dell explained the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill would serve as the host implementing agency and that participation by local health departments throughout the state was needed to accomplish the research. Patients would be given the opportunity to decide on enrollment and informed consent would subsequently be confirmed with university staff. The essence of the research seeks to determine if patients with STI's would achieve better outcomes if connected to a navigator and digital access to resources early in the intervention phase. Mrs. O'Dell recommended that the department participate to advance local practice for STI treatment and to pursue better outcomes for patients. **Motion:** Dr. Smith made a motion to participate with the research project and Dr. Bryant seconded the motion. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

##### Reaccreditation Site Visit Report

Dr. Hayes shared the report and highlighted the findings including only 4 activities that were deemed not met out of 147 activities. Mr. Smith added that this particular cycle was one of the strongest for the department to date and that it garnered a status of reaccreditation with honors for the department. Mr. Smith thanked the board for consistently supporting the delivery of essential public health services necessary to accomplish accreditation.

##### 4 Year Budget Plan Considerations

Mr. Smith provided the initial drafts of the 4 year budget plans for the Health and Environmental Health budgets. Mr. Smith believed these reflected the core needs of public health that had been identified through board and community discussions including sustaining school nurse and communicable disease positions that were currently linked to temporary funding streams. **Motion:** Dr. Bryant made a motion to adopt the 4 year plans as presented and Dr. Hensley seconded the motion. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

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#### December 13, 2022 Board of Health Meeting

Dr. Hayes relayed that staff had indicated there was no pressing business that warranted a December meeting. Given the challenge of meeting during the holidays, Dr. Hayes inquired about whether or not to move forward with the December meeting. **Motion:** Dr. Hensley made a motion to cancel the December meeting and Dr. Bryant seconded the motion.

**Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### IX. Discussion

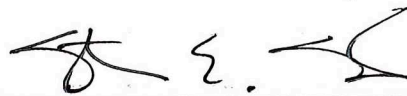
None.

#### X. Adjournment

**Motion:** Dr. Hensley made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Ms. Baluha.

**Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted:



Secretary to the Board/Health Director

1/10/2023

Date

*Approved by the Henderson County Board of Health at the January 10, 2023 meeting.*