

Harnett County Board of Health  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
July 16, 2026

The Harnett County Board of Health met in regular session on Thursday, July 16, 2026 in the Health Department Board Room, Harnett County Governmental Complex, 307 W. Cornelius Harnett Blvd., Lillington, North Carolina.

**Members present:** Dr. Brandon Washington, DDS, Chairman, Dr. Catherine Evans, DDS, Dr. Amanda Langdon, DVM, Commissioner Barbara McKoy, Ms. Betty Goodwin, Ms. Michelle Pleasant, Dr. Kim Fowler, PhD, Dr. Terrill Brown, DPM and Ainsley Johnson, Health Director.

**Others present:** Guests-Campbell Rouse and Dr. Serena Kankash, DMD, Natasha Johnson, Gail Hobbs, Melissa McLamb, Mary Jane Sauls and Belinda Rayner.

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**Chairman Washington** called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Announcements** – Ms. Johnson announced Dr. Terrill Brown, DPM, and Dr. Christopher Stewart, MD, have been appointed by the Board of Commissioners to serve on the Board of Health. Dr. Brown, DPM, was appointed on June 1, 2026, and serves as the public member position, he completed his Board of Health Orientation & Oath on June 25, 2026. Dr. Stewart, MD, was appointed on July 6, 2026, and serves as the physician position, he completed his Board of Health Orientation & Oath on July 15, 2026. Dr. Brandon Washington, DDS, was appointed to his second term on April 14, 2026, and Dr. Lori Langdon, MD, was not reappointed for her second term and completed her term at the end of May. Ms. Johnson will recognize Dr. Langdon's service and leadership on the board by presenting her with a plaque of appreciation at Campbell University on July 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. Board members are welcome to attend. Ms. Johnson introduced University of North Carolina Public Health intern Campbell Rouse and Dr. Brandon Washington, DDS, introduced guest Dr. Serena Kankash, DMD, who is attending tonight.

**Consent Agenda – Minutes** – Dr. Kim Fowler, PhD, moved to approve the minutes from our last board meeting with the following amendments: On page 2, section entitled financial reports.

- Addition of "of the estimated budget" after 73% in the first sentence.
- Addition of "of the estimated budget" after 47% in the second sentence.
- Addition of "of the total budgeted amount received" after 89% in the third sentence.
- Addition of "our estimate budget" after exceeded in the fourth sentence.

**Motion made by Dr. Catherine Evans, DDS, for the May 21, 2026, agenda and minutes with amendments to be approved and seconded by Dr. Kim Fowler, PhD, Motion Carried.**

**Consider additions and deletions to the published agenda – None made.**

**Public Comment – Period of up to 30 minutes for informal comments allowing 3 minutes for each presentation – Chairman Washington** opened the floor for informal comments by the public, allowing 3 minutes for each presentation up to 30 minutes. Seeing no one, Chairman Washington closed the informal comments.

**Nomination Committee Report** – Chairman Washington asked Dr. Amanda Langdon, DVM, to give the Nomination Report. Dr. Amanda Langdon submitted on behalf of the nominating committee; nominations are open for the Vice-Chair position, and the Board also has a vacant Optometrist position. The committee will report at the next regular meeting in September 2026.

**Debt Setoff** – Gail Hobbs reported that since the last meeting, the Debt Setoff program has collected \$1,280.33. So far for the calendar year, \$3,557.97 has been collected.

#### **Health Director's Report and Program Reports – Ainsley Johnson**

**Business Plan** – Ms. Johnson presented a power point presentation of the updated business plan for the Harnett County Health Department. She reviewed the 2026 outcomes and 2027 goals for the upcoming business plan. A copy of the presentation was available on the table for review and emailed to the members. No changes or recommendations by the board members were made.

**FY 2026-27 County/State Budget** - Ms. Johnson reported the FY 2026-27 county budget was finalized at the Board of Commissioners meeting on July 14, 2026. Senate Bill 474 was signed into law on July 7, 2026, and allowed the county to use the 2026 tax appraisal values. Due to this the county tax rate was set at .63 cents per \$100 of assessed property value. The final budget has been released online and can be viewed on the Harnett County webpage. On July 7, 2026, Governor Stein officially signed into law NC's 34-billion-dollar state budget. Ms. Johnson has met with NC ROOTS Hub Trillium to provide insight into community needs in the county. The NC ROOTS Hub was established to coordinate efforts to support medical, behavioral, and social health services to rural residents in using the Rural Health Transformation program funding. The hub is required to submit a needs report to the state in August 2026. Ms. Johnson will keep the board updated on the status of rural health transformation and impacts here in Harnett County.

Ms. Johnson updated the board on a recent contract change. On July 7, 2026, the Health Department received notification from Cape Fear Valley Harnett Health that they will be terminating the pediatric after hours call agreement. This is a long-standing service we have had in place with them; the contract will terminate on October 1, 2026. Ms. Johnson is currently working to find another healthcare vendor to provide this after-hours service, and she will keep the board updated as we enter into a new agreement.

**Clinical Report- Melissa McLamb**

- **Clinical** - The Child Health Clinic is preparing for the back-to-school season by ensuring capacity to provide school physicals, sports physicals, and required immunizations while continuing to offer routine primary care services. To support families during this busy time, the Health Department will host a three-day Back-to-School Vaccination Clinic on September 11th, 14th, 15th. The clinic will operate on a walk-in basis, and no appointments will be required. At the last Board meeting, Ms. McLamb shared that we were partnering with North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) Oral Health Section to host a week-long dental outreach event. During the event, our Regional Dental Hygienist utilized the Health Department's mobile unit to provide dental screenings, fluoride varnish applications, sealants, on-site oral health education, and referrals for additional dental care when needed. Over the course of the week, 51 children received dental screenings, and 146 sealants were placed on 40 children. Only four of those children were covered by Medicaid, meaning most families would have otherwise incurred out-of-pocket costs for these preventive services. The current Medicaid reimbursement rate for a sealant is \$29.89 per tooth and the typical out-of-pocket cost ranges from \$30 to \$60 per tooth. Based on the screening results, 26 children were referred to area dental providers for follow-up care, including seven children identified with urgent dental needs. The majority of participants were residents of Harnett County, children from Lee, Wake and Sampson counties also received services.

The Health Department is in the final stages of a Quality Improvement (QI) project that began in November 2025. A multidisciplinary QI team evaluated the patient experience from appointment scheduling through arrival at the clinic to identify opportunities for improvement. Based on the team's findings, the Clinical Billing and Registration staff were relocated to the front of the Health Department and integrated into a single team. In addition, processes and

procedures were standardized to improve efficiency, consistency, and the overall patient experience. The QI team will continue to monitor data and evaluate the effectiveness of these changes before formally closing the project.

- **Communicable Disease** - The Health Department continues regular communication with the NCDHHS Communicable Disease Branch to ensure we remain informed about current communicable disease situations across the state and nationally. Harnett County has monitored several low-risk travelers returning from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and performed Ebola screening. According to a memo received on July 1, 2026, the ongoing Ebola outbreak in the DRC requires continued attention however, the risk to the United States remains low. On June 25, 2026, we received notification of a Measles outbreak in Buckingham County, Virginia. This information was faxed to all county medical providers and hospitals. No Measles cases related to this outbreak have been identified in Harnett County. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory on July 14, 2026, regarding Cyclosporiasis cases occurring in multiple U.S. states. This advisory was also faxed to all county medical providers and hospitals. Harnett County has not had any reported Cyclosporiasis cases associated with this outbreak. We continue to monitor the situation and remain prepared to initiate an investigation if needed.
- **Environmental Health** – Ms. Johnson reported Logan Blackmon, Environmental Health Specialist, has received her authorization for Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention. This is a great asset for our Lead Program in the county. In the county budget we received one Onsite Registered Environmental Health Specialist position. This position has been posted on the county website.
- **Aging & Case Management** – Mary Jane Sauls reported The Senior Farmers' Market held on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, served a total of 253 participants. Eligible seniors redeemed 837 Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) vouchers, generating \$2,185.00 in sales for participating farmers. To date, 175 SFMNP voucher booklets have been issued to eligible seniors. The next market, scheduled for Wednesday, July 22, 2026, is expected to draw a larger crowd as two additional farmers will participate, bringing the total to nine farmers and seven vendors. Funding received from Mid Carolina was used to purchase fans for eligible residents. Fans are available to individuals age 60 and older who do not have a functioning air conditioning system. Individuals under age 60 may also qualify if they have a medical condition involving respiratory or breathing issues. In addition, Long Branch Baptist Church in Dunn donated 100 fans. These donated fans may be distributed without

eligibility restrictions, allowing additional community members to receive assistance during the summer months. The 2026 Mobile Free Pharmacy Event was held on June 5, 2026, with participation from the Harnett County Health Department/Aging Division. Hosted by NC MedAssist in partnership with Alliance Health, the event provided over-the-counter medications and health resources to local residents. A total of 1,168 individuals received services during the event, with 16.78% of participants reporting they were uninsured. The event demonstrated the continued commitment of community partners to improving access to medications, health resources, and supportive services for Harnett County residents.

- **Health Education/WIC/Community Events** – Belinda Rayner reported the Health Education Division recently completed *Bingocize®*, a 10-week, evidence-based program that combines bingo, gentle exercise, and health education to improve mobility, reduce fall risk, and promote social connection among older adults. The program was held at the Harnett County Public Library, with 17 people participating in the program. Due to its success, another *Bingocize®* program is planned for this fall at the Dunn Senior Center. A Matter of Balance Fall Prevention Program began on June 23, 2026, at the Johnsonville Nutrition Site. This eight-week, evidence-based program is being offered in collaboration with the Harnett County Division on Aging and helps older adults reduce their fear of falling, increase activity levels, and improve confidence. Seventeen participants are enrolled in the program.

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program continues to maintain its caseload while expanding services to support families. WIC recently started a Breastfeeding Support Group. The Breastfeeding Support Group meets twice a month in May, June, and July, providing breastfeeding education and peer support for pregnant and breastfeeding parents. Participants received guidance on breastfeeding techniques, discussed common challenges, and are connected with resources to help them meet their breastfeeding goals.

**Closed Session** – There was no need for closed session.

**New Business** – **Chairman Washington** opened the floor for New Business. Being none, Chairman Washington closed New Business.

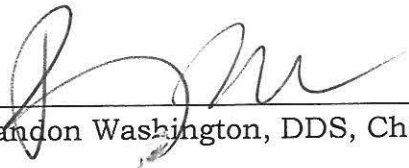
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**Chairman Washington adjourned the meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,



Ainsley Johnson  
Health Director



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Dr. Brandon Washington, DDS, Chairman