

Harnett County Board of Health  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
March 6, 2025

The Harnett County Board of Health met in regular session on Thursday, March 6, 2025 in the Health Department Board Room, Harnett County Governmental Complex, 307 W. Cornelius Harnett Blvd., Lillington, North Carolina.

**Members present:** Dr. Laura Smith, OD, Chairwoman, Dr. Amanda Langdon, DVM, Dr. Brandon Washington, DDS, Dr. Lori Langdon, M.D., Vice Chairwoman, Ms. Amy Brown, Dr. Catherine Evans, DDS, Ms. Stacie Hogan, RPH, Commissioner Barbara McKoy, Ms. Kandi Tudor, Ms. Laurene Maki and Ainsley Johnson, Health Director.

**Others present:** Belinda Rayner, Oliver Tolksdorf, Melissa McLamb, Gail Hobbs and Natasha Johnson.

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**Chairwoman Smith** called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Announcements** – Ms. Johnson stated no announcements for tonight's meeting.

**Consent Agenda – Minutes - Motion made by Commissioner Barbara McKoy for the January 16, 2025, agenda and minutes to be approved and seconded by Dr. Lori Langdon, M.D., 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 – Chairwoman Smith** opened the floor for informal comments by the public, allowing 3 minutes for each presentation up to 30 minutes. Seeing no one, Chairwoman Smith closed the informal comments.

**FY 2025-2026 Budget Proposal** – Ms. Johnson discussed the overall budget proposal and fee schedule for FY 2025-2026 budget. The Health Department and Aging make up forty-three programs with thirty-five in Health and eight in Aging. Each department has its own individual column to show budgeted amounts per line item. For the Health budget, we are proposing a budget of \$8,149,723 dollars for the next fiscal year. This is a decrease of \$844,568 or 9.39%. This decrease is due to no longer having COVID-19 or ARPA funding in our budgets. All current COVID-19 or ARPA funding will be stopped at the end of this fiscal year. Total proposed revenues for the next fiscal year are \$3,867,769 from state, federal fees and grants. Total proposed local county appropriations are \$4,281,954. Overall, this is a decrease and we have asked the county for \$48,374 or 1.12%. This decrease is due to the end of COVID-19, ARPA funds, AA funds and the increase in fees and increase in WIC allocated funding. In regards to the Employee Clinic, we are asking for \$242,406 with a requested increase of \$12,505. The board reviewed the fiscal reports noting the provision of public health

essential services are being provided. Equipment needs for FY 2025-2026 were addressed during the budget process and are reflected in the budget. In our Employee Health Clinic, we have budgeted funding for our CBC machine in the event a new one is needed. The Aging budget proposes a budget of \$1,870,115. This is a decrease by \$24,773 or 1.13%. The decrease reflects the end of COVID-19 and ARPA funding. Aging's Community Alternatives Program (CAP) was able to increase revenues while not requiring an increase in overall expenses; this also changed the overall appropriations. No reclassifications, new positions or new programs are requested for the upcoming year, and we have increased allocations for contract staff to increase hours in certain programs and will monitor outcomes and data from this work. This information will be re-evaluated for the need of additional positions throughout the year. Currently we do not anticipate any additional federal or state funding. North Carolina Department of Health Human Services (NCDHHS) continues to monitor any changes with the federal budget, and federal funding has continued as expected. March 14, 2025 is the deadline for federal funding or continuing resolution. Ms. Johnson will continue to keep the board updated with any federal funding changes.

Ms. Johnson requested that we be allowed to purchase influenza vaccine using one vendor for adults. Henry Schein continues to be the Health Department's vendor for flu vaccine, the Health Department pre-books before March with Henry Schein and we are guaranteed the influenza vaccine. Ms. Johnson announced the fee schedule including Clinical and Environmental Health fees have been reviewed during the annual budget process. The recommended fee increases were included in the Board of Health packet for review and approval.

**Motion made by Dr. Amanda Langdon, DVM, to adopt proposed budget FY 2025-2026 which includes the fee schedule as presented and seconded by Dr. Brandon Washington, DDS, Motion Carried.**

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

- **House Bill 197** – Ms. Johnson discussed House Bill filed on February 25, 2025 for Local Communicable Disease Funds and Program. This bill will allocate \$25,000,000 in recurring funds to local health departments across the state. These funds can be used to prepare for emerging and reemerging public health threats, retain and hire staff, and expand public health programs and services. Ms. Johnson asked for the support of the board to submit a letter of support to Senator Burgin, co-chair of the Senate Health Committee, the board approved.
- **Training** - Ms. Johnson reported the management team completed the Leadership coaching with Continuum Consulting Services.

The management team was able to participate in a leadership retreat last month and were able to discuss their shared vision for the health department and how to support and grow our staff to improve health outcomes in Harnett County.

- **Agreement Addendum (AA) 123** – Ms. Johnson announced the Health Department has received a new AA from NCDHHS, AA 123- Investment in Performance Management. This AA can be used to enhance and strengthen performance management and quality improvement. Work may include investments in accreditation, performance management systems, quality improvement (QI), and workforce development. I would like to accept this funding of \$12,190 with the support of the board, the board supports. The funds will be used this fiscal year, and will be presented to the Board of Commissioners on March 11, 2025.
- **Women Infant & Children (WIC) site update** - DUMA food pantry location in Dunn will be opening a medical clinic which is partnered with Campbell University. The site has offered a spot for the Health Department to house the WIC Dunn location. We are looking to get this process underway during the summer 2025 months. More information to come.

#### **Clinical Report- Melissa McLamb**

- **Clinical Update** - The total number of Child Health sick visits did decrease some in February 2025 but overall are as expected. The Health Department lab performed the following respiratory testing in February 2025: 136 flu test performed with 26% positive, 22 COVID test performed with <1% positive, and 22 RSV test performed with 0% positive. The NCDHHS Respiratory Dashboard is showing a decrease in number of respiratory related Emergency Department visits across the state over the last few weeks. There have been 362 statewide flu-related deaths this season and four of those were Harnett County residents. State deaths in people 65 and older are 73%. Two long-term care facilities in Harnett County have flu outbreaks and two other facilities have current COVID-19 outbreaks.
- **Communicable Disease Update** - Currently there are two cases of tuberculosis in the county. The cases are epi linked and directly observed therapy is being performed without problems. The Health Department epi team was activated to review the cases and management. There are two other tuberculosis cases that Harnett County is doing directly observed therapy on; these cases originated in Wake County but moved to Harnett County before treatment was completed.

North Carolina State Epidemiologist sent a memo on March 3, 2025 regarding an increase in measles cases in the United States. The memo was faxed to all county medical providers and contained information on when to consider testing and how to perform testing if needed. The Health Department has also received calls from providers and citizens with questions regarding measles. We are encouraging all patients to check their immunization status and to receive the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine if needed.

- **Quality Improvement** - In December 2024, the Health Department implemented an updated text reminder procedure that allows patients to cancel or confirm appointments by replying to a text. The goal of this change is to improve appointment show rates and increase appointment availability. Staff have reported that they are now able to fill cancelled appointments more easily, helping to optimize the clinic schedule and reduce downtime. To evaluate the effectiveness of this new procedure, the Health Department will assess appointment show rates and the number of completed appointments. A follow-up report on these metrics will be reviewed at the next meeting. In addition, the Health Department's clinical team is focusing on a Quality Improvement (QI) project aimed at increasing the number of children who are up to date on well visits and vaccinations. The team will first assess current processes and then meet to discuss potential improvements or changes that could help boost these metrics. Updates on the progress of this QI project will be shared at future meetings. The board reviewed the details of the two initiatives above and no objections were raised during the discussion.
- **Preparedness Update** - The Health Department's Preparedness Coordinator will be performing our annual notification drills. This ensures our team list is up-to-date and that our system is functioning properly. This also serves as a reminder to staff of how they would be called if an emergency response was needed. Preparedness plans are also being reviewed and updated as needed.
- **Outreach Events** - The Health Department outreach team is planning several events over the next few months utilizing the mobile health unit. Events include working with Partnership for Children to hold a Teddy Bear Clinic and planning events for well visits that would fulfill one of the requirements for Pre-k registration.
- **Environmental Health** - Oliver Tolkendorf reviewed the Onsite Wastewater section has started performing migrant house inspections this week and they will be expediting those requests. Oliver explained the Environmental Health

process of being involved in the County Development Review Board. The board is a combination of several county departments and all commercial developments, projects and subdivisions are required to submit to the board. The last review board meeting was held on March 5, 2025 and 14 items were reviewed at this meeting.

- **Aging & Case Management** – Ms. Johnson reminded the board that volunteers from the Harnett County Volunteer Services Program and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program are preparing and electronically filing federal and state income taxes now until April 17, 2025. Sites are available in Coats, Erwin and the Harnett County Resource Center and Library in Lillington. The Care Management Program recently completed their Wellcare audit with all data and outcomes doing well with the Medicaid Prepaid Health Plans.
- **Health Education/WIC/Community Events** – Belinda Rayner reviewed an update on community programs that were offered during American Heart Month. The Go Red Lunch and Learn took place on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 in the Government Complex-Commons Area. This program was offered in collaboration with Cape Fear Valley Harnett Healthcare. Approximately 80 people attended the program. Go Red Sunday was conducted in 14 churches throughout the county. Go Red Sunday raises awareness of heart disease in the community. Participating churches were provided with heart health information packets to distribute to their congregation; a heart health session was also provided by a Health Department Health Educator at the Lillington First Baptist Church on February 23, 2025.  
The Health Education Division along with community partners are planning the Girls are Great & Teen Girls Conference. It will take place on Saturday, April 12, 2025 from 9:00am-1:00pm at the Harnett Health Sciences Center in Lillington. Girls are Great is a program for girls ages 9-16 and their mother/guardian. It discusses the physical and emotional changes that take place during puberty.  
We are beginning to work on the 2025 Community Health Assessment (CHA). Meetings are being planned for the CHA Advisory Committee. Surveying of community members should begin in the summer.

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

**New Business** – **Chairwoman Smith** opened the floor for New Business. Being none  
Chairwoman Smith closed New Business.

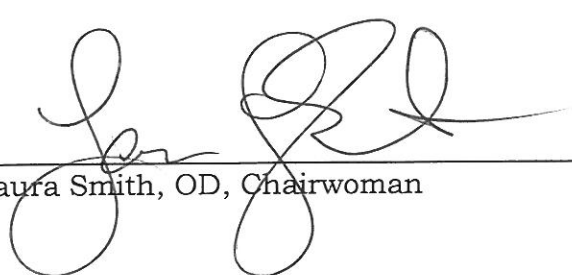
Page 6  
Board of Health  
March 6, 2025  
Harnett County Health Department Board Room

**Chairwoman Smith adjourned the meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ainsley Johnson', written in a cursive style.

Ainsley Johnson  
Health Director

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Dr. Laura Smith, written over a horizontal line.

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Dr. Laura Smith, OD, Chairwoman