

Harnett County Board of Health
Minutes of Regular Meeting
May 15, 2025

The Harnett County Board of Health met in regular session on Thursday, May 15, 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, Dr. Kim Fowler, PhD and Ainsley Johnson, Health Director.

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

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

Announcements – Ms. Johnson announced Ms. Amy Brown wanted to share information on the new Behavioral Health Urgent Care that is now open in Harnett County. It is located at the Good Hope Behavioral Health facility in Erwin, which is managed by Daymark Recovery. Behavioral health urgent care services provided are assessment, crisis intervention, observation unit up to 23 hours and assistance with referrals to mental health and substance use disorder services. Services are available for all ages. Ms. Johnson announced that tonight is Laurene Maki's last meeting due to relocating.

Consent Agenda – Minutes - Motion made by Commissioner Barbara McKoy for the March 6, 2025 and April 24, 2025, agenda and minutes to be approved and seconded by Dr. Catherine Evans, DDS., 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.

State of the County Health Report – Belinda Rayner presented 2024 State of the County Health Report (SOTCH). The state of North Carolina (NC) along with the NC Local Health Department Accreditation program requires local health departments to conduct a comprehensive Community Health Assessment (CHA) every 3-4 years. The most recent Harnett County Community Health Assessment was conducted in 2022, in the interim years between the CHA. We are required to complete a SOTCH report. The SOTCH report provides an update on selected health priorities, emerging issues,

and new initiatives. Heart Disease and Cancer remain the leading causes of death in Harnett County. The priority areas selected in the 2022 CHA were Chronic Disease Prevention and Overdose prevention. Belinda provided an update on programs that align with the health priorities such as PreventT2 Lifestyle Change Program, Go Red Lunch and Learn, Mobile Mammography Program, and Naloxone Dispensing. Emerging issues included H5 Avian Flu and Cyberterrorism. New initiatives that were highlighted included Community Naloxone Training, Harnett County's first Behavioral Health Urgent Care, and the Sharps Disposal Kiosk located in the Health Department lobby. The SOTCH document can be located on the Health Department's website. The Health Department is currently working on the 2025 Community Health Assessment. Board member Dr. Brandon Washington will be serving on the CHA Advisory Committee.

Clinical Patient Fees, Eligibility and Bad Debt Write Off Policy Revision – Gail Hobbs reviewed the Clinical Patient Fee Policy update, Attachment C-Network Participation to include Aetna as a Third Party Insurance and Tailored Health Plans were added to the Participating Governmental Payers section. The policy was revised during the annual policy review.

Motion by Dr. Amanda Langdon, DVM, to approve the changes to the clinical fee policy as presented and seconded by Dr. Brandon Washington, DDS. Motion Carried.

Debt Setoff – Gail Hobbs reported for the calendar year 2025, \$3,224.01 has been collected through the Debt Setoff Program.

Health Director's Report and Program Reports – Ainsley Johnson

Policy Updates - Ms. Johnson reported that the Board of Health reviewed the Policy on Policies, the Board of Health Delegation of Duties to the Health Director, and the Board of Health Orientation and On-Going Training Policy. All three policies were formally adopted by the Board and each policy were made available for review. At this time, no revisions were made to any Board of Health policies.

Ms. Johnson presented the board with information of an upcoming training opportunity through the North Carolina Boards of Health. The topic of the meeting is Artificial Intelligence and Public Health. The virtual training is scheduled for June 9, 2025, at 7pm, the information was provided to all Board of Health members.

Ms. Johnson reviewed current funding changes; On March 26, 2025, North Carolina Division of Public Health (NCDPH) issued a stop work order affecting AA 716 - COVID

vaccination and AA 720 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Enhancing Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Efforts for Farmworkers. Also, continued funding challenges with federal funds include CDC funds for HIV prevention grant and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) tobacco prevention and control program. Currently the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program have received the AA with anticipated funding.

Workforce updates include three current vacant positions; two Nutritionist II positions and one Public Health Educator position. In an effort to increase retention the second and final installment of the retention pay program will be issued to staff at the end of May 2025. The program was started last year with the approval of the Board of Health for employees that meet the criteria outlined in the retention pay policy and is based on tenure; eligible employees must have been employed with the Health Department for the last six months.

Financial Reports – Ms. Johnson reviewed the expenditure and revenues summaries from July 2024 – March 2025. The revenues are shown by federal and state funds per program, with programs that we provide direct care services they are doing well with revenues. This includes Child Health at 93%, Family Planning at 90% and Prenatal at 73%; this is an overall percentage of 61% which was less due to COVID funds that are no longer billable. Aging is doing well with revenues at 60% and their federal reporting runs two months behind, however they have a subtotal of 60% for federal and state funds. Medicaid and 3rd party billing revenues with Health programs are doing well and over the 100% mark and Aging programs are at 106%, this includes receiving revenues in Community Alternatives Programs for Disabled Adults (CAP/DA) and other donations. Total overall for Health is at 57%, this overall decreased due to COVID funds that we are not currently drawing down and these funds will expire at the end of this fiscal year. Aging is at 58%. Expenditures are broken down by program and the department is doing well with our spending and currently overall at 57% for all programs. This percentage is lower due to the COVID funding that we no longer have access to. Mrs. Johnson reported the Employee Clinic saved the county \$192,577.00 through the third quarter and remains to be an active clinic among county employees.

Clinical Report- Melissa McLamb

- **Clinical Services** - The activity summary is located on page 17 of your packet. Clinical services numbers have remained steady. The most frequently diagnosed conditions in April 2025 and to date in May 2025 include cough, dysuria, sinusitis, and allergic rhinitis. During this period, we conducted 10 RSV test (1 positive), 25 COVID test (1 positive) and 52 flu test (2 positive).
- **Measles Update** - The Health Department continues to monitor the national measles outbreak through regular webinars and briefings. Staff have been

updated on the appropriate protocols should a patient present with potential measles symptoms. In such cases, we will coordinate immediately with the state epidemiology team. Currently, there are no outbreak related measles cases in NC.

- **Clinical Outreach** - On May 14, 2025, members of our Adult Health team hosted an outreach event at DUMA in Dunn. The Harnett County Health Department Mobile Unit provided a place for us to offer Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) screenings, select adult vaccinations, naloxone distribution and educational resources. We are working toward establishing a regular schedule to provide clinical services at this location. In June 2025, the mobile unit will be used to provide well-child physicals for Pre-Kindergarten entry. These events will take place at Partnership for Children in Lillington and DUMA in Dunn.
- **Environmental Health** - Oliver Tolksdorf reported the pending Environmental Health legislation that is currently active in the General Assembly. He discussed the following Senate and House Bills: S205-Amends Private Swimming Pools, H830-Mobile Tattoo Parlors, S85-Regulate Body Piercing and H376-Amends Private Permits.
- **Aging & Case Management** - Mary Jane Sauls reported the 2025 Harnett County Senior Health and Safety Fair, was held on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at the Dunn Community Center, and was well attended. Approximately 150 seniors attended the event, which featured 25 vendors offering information about services and programs for the elderly in the community. Attendees received incentives and door prizes. A free hot dog lunch was provided to all participants with hot dogs donated by Carolina Packers in Smithfield, hot dog buns and chips supplied by the NC Ombudsman Program, and bottled water donated by Black's Tire Company. The Harnett County Sheriff's Department and the Harnett County Registrar of Deeds, Matt Willis, assisted in cooking and serving the hot dogs. Local radio station WCKB out of Dunn was on-site with live broadcasts. Additional services included a Shred Truck sponsored by the NC Senior Medicare Patrol Division, which collected and shredded documents to help prevent identity fraud. The Harnett County Health Department Mobile Unit dispensed Naloxone and COVID-19 tests. The event ran from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., providing a valuable opportunity for seniors to access resources and engage with community services.
The May 8, 2025 blood drive held at the Harnett County Commons collected 41 units of blood, meeting and exceeding its goal. The next blood drive is scheduled for Thursday, July 12, 2025 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the

Commons, where volunteers will make and serve homemade ice cream in the canteen.

On June 17, 2025, the Harnett County Family Caregiver Program, the NC Ombudsman Program, and the Harnett County Department of Social Services will sponsor an Elder Abuse Awareness Program from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Commons. This event aims to educate the public on how to detect and help prevent elder abuse and is open to all interested individuals.

The NC MedAssist Mobile Free Pharmacy event is scheduled for Friday, June 20, 2025 at the Commons area of the governmental complex. This event provides free over-the-counter medications to individuals in need. It is open to all NC residents, regardless of income or insurance status. Items available include pain relief, cold and cough medicine, allergy medications, digestive aids, vitamins, and children's medicines. Participants can choose to pre-order their medications online for pickup on the event day or attend in person to receive pre-packaged items.

- **Health Education/WIC/Community Events** – Belinda Rayner reviewed The Girls are Great & Teen Girls Conference was held on Saturday, April 12, 2025. Approximately 100 people attended (moms and girls) the program. The conference was for girls ages 9-16 and their mother or guardian. It discussed the physical and emotional changes that take place during puberty. Teens received answers about topics including teen health, healthy dating, and relationships. The conference included exhibitors, fun sessions and educational sessions. Board of Health member Dr. Lori Langdon, M.D., provided the “Teen Talk” session. We continue to partner with Rex Mobile Mammography to provide screening mammograms. The next screening date is Thursday, June 12, 2025.

We are working with the NC Farmworkers Project to provide HIV and Syphilis Testing at Migrant Camps in the county. The next testing event is Wednesday, May 21, 2025, Community HIV Testing Events are provided through our Integrated Targeted Testing Services (ITTS) Agreement Addendum.

In April 2025, Connie Knox accepted the position of Nutrition Program Director I; she was currently serving as interim since February 2025.

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.

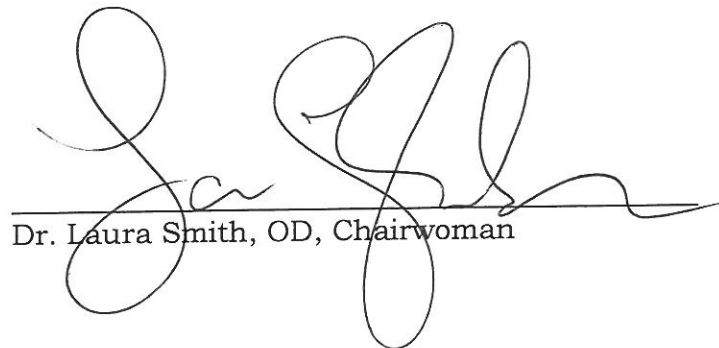
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Chairwoman Smith adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ainsley Johnson".

Ainsley Johnson
Health Director

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

Dr. Laura Smith, OD, Chairwoman