

Harnett County Board of Health
Minutes of Regular Meeting
May 21, 2026

The Harnett County Board of Health met in regular session on Thursday, May 21, 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. Lori Langdon, M.D., Vice Chairwoman, Dr. Catherine Evans, DDS, Ms. Stacie Hogan, RPH, Dr. Amanda Langdon, DVM, Commissioner Barbara McKoy, Ms. Betty Goodwin, Ms. Michelle Pleasant, Dr. Kim Fowler, PhD and Ainsley Johnson, Health Director.

Others present: Jennifer Haney Community Paramedic, Leslie Owens Community Paramedic, Oliver Tolksdorf, Natasha Johnson, Gail Hobbs, Melissa McLamb, Mary Jane Sauls and Belinda Rayner.

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

Announcements – Ms. Johnson introduced Jennifer Haney and Leslie Owens Community Paramedics and members of the Harnett County Overdose Response Team. Ms. Johnson updated the Board of a new member appointed and we are currently waiting for confirmation from the Harnett County Board of Commissioners; she will continue to keep the Board updated on the status.

Consent Agenda – Minutes - Motion made by Dr. Lori Langdon, M.D. for the March 5, 2026, 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 – 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.

Harnett County Post Overdose Response Team - Jennifer Haney and Leslie Owens Community Paramedics discussed the role of the Post Overdose Response Team (PORT) in overdose prevention in the community. The group focuses on rapid response, harm reduction and connection to long-term care. They reviewed the process for each area in emergency response/immediate care, harm reduction & outreach, post-overdose follow-up & connection to treatment and social support & long-term care navigation.

Clinical Patient Fees, Eligibility and Bad Debt Write Off Policy Revision – Gail Hobbs reviewed the Clinical Patient Fee Policy updates; 340B section was updated to reflect the use of the Health Department's Pharmacy application in Patagonia, revision on the cost of medical records copies to align with applicable general statutes and removal of WellCare insurance from the list of Prepaid Health Plans (PHPs). 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 Ms. Staci Hogan, RPH. Motion Carried.

Debt Setoff – Gail Hobbs reported for the calendar year 2026, \$2,277.64 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 following policies: Policy on Policies, the Board of Health Delegation of Duties to the Health Director, Board of Health Orientation and On-Going Training, and the Debt Set-Off. All four policies were formally adopted by the Board and each policy was made available for review. At this time, no revisions were made to any Board of Health policies.
- **Financial Reports** – Ms. Johnson reviewed the expenditure and revenues summaries from July 2025 – March 2026. State and federal funds have been used at 73% of the estimated budget which is right on track where we should be. Aging revenue reporting is two months behind in reporting, but they are doing good as well at 47% of the estimated budget. With an overall total of 65% for state and federal funds. Our staff has provided great services that has brought in more revenue than anticipated with currently 89% of the total budgeted amount received. Environmental Health has already exceeded our estimated budget by \$7,000. The Community Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults (CAP/DA) program has seen a decrease in referrals this year and has resulted in a decrease in revenues. Mary Jane Sauls has been in communication with our state representative to work on the referral process. In addition, donations have decreased in Aging this year and we are still awaiting funding for our fans program. Overall, both budgets and revenues are at 83 % which is good for three quarters of the year. We have utilized 45 % of our allocated county funds in Health and 61% of allocated county funds in Aging. For our expenditures summary the staff has used funds very wisely and we have only expended 63% of funds in Health and 54% in Aging with a grand total of 61%. Mrs. Johnson reported the Employee Clinic saved the county

\$184,561.00 through the third quarter and remains to be an active clinic among county employees.

The NC Senate and House have been working to negotiate a budget to present to the Governor. The aim for an agreement and approved budget is June 2026. The County Commissioners have been working on the county budget and holding budget hearings. The next meeting is June 15, 2026. The recommended budget for Health includes one expansion request for an Onsite Environmental Health Specialist. I will keep the Board updated on the status of the budget. North Carolina Division of Public Health received funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to purchase and distribute 40 automated mosquito traps and 4 sprayers for Eastern counties. The goal is to increase surveillance in counties that currently do not have baseline data and to assist in mosquito-borne disease responses and after hurricanes. We applied to receive 1 trap to use throughout the county and to partner with Fort Bragg to receive 1 for use in Linden Oaks. We are listed as a high priority county because FEMA has no current data. We are hopeful we will receive these traps. The traps will collect mosquito counts, time of day and flying activity that will assist in mosquito control efforts.

- **Care Management** – Ms. Johnson reported an update on Care Management for At-Risk Children (CMARC) and Care Management for High-Risk Pregnancies. On July 1, 2026 PHPs can decide if they want to contract with local health departments to continue care management services or let those services expire. Through state advocacy with the NC Association of Local Health Directors, we received notification from the Division of Health Benefits that the deadline has been extended by six months. The new target date for the transition from mandated service to direct contracts is January 1, 2027. We are continuing to communicate with our association and PHPs to support this transition and maximize our chance of retaining services. I will keep the Board updated as we work to secure contracts to continue services.
- **Rural Health Transformation Update** – Ms. Johnson provided an update on the Rural Health Transformation Program. On May 1, 2026 North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) announced the selection of organizations to serve as leads for the ROOTS hubs. These organizations will work as regional networks connecting medical, behavioral health and social support as NC works to increase access to care for rural communities. Harnett County is in Medicaid region 5 and Trillium Health Resources was selected to be the ROOTS hub, and they also serve region 2. The Health Department has submitted a letter of intent to partner with Trillium to collaborate and partner together to improve health outcomes in our county. Over the next five years the NC ROOTS hubs will work to support rural communities by:

- Improving behavioral health and substance use services
- Enhancing care coordination across regions
- Leveraging digital tools to improve outcomes
- Expanding access to primary care
- Strengthening health care through workforce development

Clinical Report- Melissa McLamb

- Melissa McLamb reviewed the Activity Summary on page twelve of the packet. The Health Department clinical staff will be participating in a You Quit, Two Quit Training in June. This training focuses on the 5As tobacco screening and cessation counseling method and reviews motivational interviewing techniques, pharmacotherapy and educational materials. The Health Department, in partnership with DPH Oral Health Section, will be hosting a week-long dental sealant event, June 22, 2026, at the Health Department. Children ages 6-14 will receive oral health screening, dental sealants, fluoride varnish and oral health education. More information can be found on our website and social media pages. The Health Department is staying abreast of the latest information regarding Hantavirus and has faxed information to all medical providers in the county. The risk of infection in North Carolina remains extremely low. Hantaviruses are a family of viruses that can cause serious illnesses and death, and people usually get hantavirus from contact with rodents like rats and mice when exposed to their urine, droppings and saliva. The type of hantavirus impacting the passengers aboard the cruise ship is the Andes virus, which is the only type of hantavirus that can spread from person to person, generally through close prolonged contact. The Andes virus is not known to occur naturally in the United States. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed one person from North Carolina was on board and evacuated with all remaining United States passengers to the University of Nebraska Medical Center's National Quarantine Unit. The NC county that this person resides in has been contacted with more information on monitoring.
- **Environmental Health** – Oliver Tolksdorf reported as of today, 82% of pools have been permitted which has increased from the 55% that was reported in May 2024; this includes seasonal and year around pools in the county. The

county received a total of 35 pool permits applied for with 94% that have been addressed by Environmental Health. Seven pools have not passed inspection with 11 pools requiring reinspection and four new pools under plan review and construction.

- **Aging & Case Management** – Mary Jane Sauls reported Harnett County continues to offer valuable programs and resources aimed at supporting seniors, caregivers and the community. Upcoming events will provide education, planning assistance, and access to important health and wellness services. On June 24, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., the Family Caregiver Support Group will host an Advanced Care Planning program at the Harnett County Resource Center. During this session, participants will learn about important legal and healthcare planning documents such as Health Care Power of Attorney forms and Living Wills. Attendees will also receive guidance on how to complete, execute, upload, store and share these documents with family members and healthcare providers. The program is intended to help individuals and caregivers better prepare for future healthcare decisions and ensure their wishes are clearly documented. A New to Medicare class will be held on July 7, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in the Commons area. This educational session is designed for individuals approaching Medicare eligibility or those recently enrolled in Medicare. Information will be provided on Medicare Parts A, B, C and D, enrollment timelines, prescription drug coverage and resources that may help participants better understand and navigate their benefits. Harnett County will also host an Elder Abuse awareness program, the “Walk and Scam Event,” on June 15, 2026. The awareness walk will begin at 8:45 a.m., followed by presentations from 9:10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The event will focus on helping older adults, caregivers and community members learn how to recognize, prevent and report elder abuse and financial scams. Educational presentations will provide practical information on common scam tactics, warning signs of abuse and available community resources designed to protect vulnerable adults and promote safety and awareness. The 2026 Harnett County Health & Wellness Fair held on May 14, 2026, was another successful community event this year. A total of 31 vendors participated. Approximately 250 individuals attended the fair and received information about programs, services and resources available to seniors and caregivers throughout the county. Vendors shared information on health services, wellness programs, nutrition, caregiving support, insurance resources and other community-based programs that promote healthy aging. The upcoming community resource event NC MedAssist Mobile Free Pharmacy event will take place on June 5, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Commons. This event will provide free over-the-counter medications and health-related items to community members while supplies last. Available products may include pain relievers, allergy and cold medications, vitamins, first aid supplies and other commonly needed healthcare items. The program is designed to improve access to medications and support the health and wellness needs of local residents.

- **Health Education/WIC/Community Events** – Belinda Rayner reported the Girls Are Great & Teen Girls Conference held on Saturday, April 18, 2026, was a success. The event was held in collaboration with the Harnett County Cooperative Extension with 113 participants, including 61 girls and 52 mothers/guardians. The conference provided educational and interactive sessions focused on health, wellness and personal development for girls ages 9–16. The Health Education staff will conduct the “A Matter of Balance Fall Prevention Program” at the Johnsonville Nutrition Site in collaboration with the Harnett County Division on Aging beginning June 23, 2026. This evidence-based program is an 8-week course designed to help older adults reduce the fear of falling, improve balance, and increase physical activity. The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) staff are preparing for the Breastfeeding Resource Fair scheduled for August 4, 2026, in recognition of National Breastfeeding Month. The event will provide education, resources, and community support for pregnant and breastfeeding families.

Closed Session – There was no need for closed session.

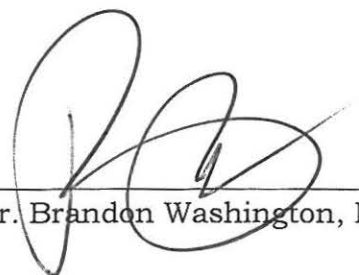
New Business –Chairman Washington opened the floor for New Business. Being none, Chairman Washington closed New Business.

Chairman Washington adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Ainsley Johnson
Health Director



Dr. Brandon Washington, DDS, Chairman