

BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH REGULAR MEETING

The Burke County Board of Health met in a regular session on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. and had previously declared a state of emergency which is ongoing due to the global Covid – 19 pandemics. The meeting was held via Zoom and in person. Zoom provides video, phone, and chat service through a cloud-base and peer-to-peer software platform. All meeting participants could hear and see one another for the duration of the meeting. Any citizens that joined the meeting by telephone could only hear the meeting. The meeting was held in the Board Room No. H-69 of Burke County Health Department, located at 700 East Parker Road in Morganton, North Carolina. Members present were:

PRESENT: Isaac Crouch, Vice Chair
Dr. Anthony Frank
Carol Ervin Largent
Johnnie Carswell
Melinda Zimmerman
Dr. Nicholas Thomas
Dr. Thomas Wallrichs

ABSENT: Susan Bingham, Chair
Connie Stines - Resigned
Adriana Morris – Resigned

ALSO PRESENT: Danny Scalise, Health Director
Chia Yang, Administrative Assistant III
Gwen Stephens
Mary-Margaret Epley

CALL TO ORDER

Isaac Crouch, Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Thomas Wallrichs made the motion to approve the agenda, Carol Ervin Largent seconded the motion, and it stands approved.

RESULTS:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dr. Thomas Wallrichs
SECOND:	Carol Ervin Largent
AYES:	Dr. Anthony Frank, Carol Ervin Largent, Isaac Crouch, Johnnie Carswell, Melinda Zimmerman, Dr. Nicolas Thomas, and Dr. Thomas Wallrichs
ABSENT:	Susan Bingham, Connie Stines, Adriana Morris

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from May 12th, 2021, Regular Addendum, June 9, 2021, Regular Addendum, and July 22, 2021, Special meeting, and Aug 4, 2021. Dr. Anthony Frank made the motion to approve all the minutes from the meetings. Dr. Thomas Wallrichs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dr. Anthony Frank
SECOND:	Dr. Thomas Wallrichs
AYES:	Dr. Anthony Frank, Carol Ervin Largent, Isaac Crouch, Johnnie Carswell, Melinda Zimmerman, Dr. Nicolas Thomas, and Dr. Thomas Wallrichs
ABSENT:	Adriana Morris, Connie Stines, Susan Bingham

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no one present to address the Board.

PRESENTATION

Mary-Margaret Epley served Burke County since 1992 and has been the WIC Director since 2003. WIC is a supplemental Food and Nutritional Program that is funded by USDA and is the most successful nutritional and most studied program. WIC works to assure a healthy pregnancy, birth, growth for the children, and infants. The last 5 years, WIC served 60 to 65% of infants born in Burke County. During certification, participants are screened for eligibility, proof of income, Medicaid, and Work First.

One of WIC's key forces is Breast Feeding peer counseling. WIC has one program manager who serves as a nutritionist. WIC has specific nutrition criteria for the food that they receive which is Fiber, Iron, Vitamins and Folic. When an infant needs supplemental formula, WIC has specific guidelines for standard formulas. The USDA requires each State to have a contract with formulas and NC is with Gerber products. Any medically exempt nutritional supplements that are needed require documentation from a physician with medical diagnoses. Annual WIC monitoring are done internal or performed by the State and required by federal guidelines.

NEW BUSINESS

Adriana Morris has resigned, and Gwen Stephens is replacing her. Several BOH member terms will expire towards the end of 2021. Melinda Zimmerman, Dr. Thomas Wallrichs, Susan Bingham, and Carol Ervin Largent terms will expire and cycle off. The vacant positions are Pharmacist, Veterinarian, Registered Nurse, Optometrist, and Engineer. Isaac Crouch is in the Optometrist position and will move to, at large replacing Carol Ervin Largent. Anyone interested in the vacant position should apply before the last Commissioner's Meeting of the year.

October 06, 2021 (Regular)

Amy Burnette on the Animal Advisory Board has stepped down. The BOH members proposed Gwen Stephens to the Animal Advisory Board and replacing Amy Burnette.

Motion: To appoint Gwen Stephens to the Animal Advisory Board seat #3 and willing to serve until 07/31/2022.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Johnnie Carswell
SECOND:	Carol Ervin Largent
AYES:	Dr. Anthony Frank, Carol Ervin Largent, Isaac Crouch, Johnnie Carswell, Melinda Zimmerman, Dr. Nicolas Thomas, and Dr. Thomas Wallrichs
ABSENT:	Adriana Morris, Connie Stines, Susan Bingham

Gwen Stephens will get sworn in later. Vice Chair Crouch asked BOH members if anyone had an objection to Ms. Stephens voting before getting sworn in. Present BOH members said, "NO."

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

New members will do a Virtual Zoom or In-person training in early of 2022. Vice Chair Crouch made a motion to approve the 2022 Resolution to establish the regular meeting.

Motion: To approve the 2022 Resolution to Establish the Regular Meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dr. Anthony Frank
SECOND:	Dr. Nicolas Thomas,
AYES:	Dr. Anthony Frank, Carol Ervin Largent, Isaac Crouch, Johnnie Carswell, Melinda Zimmerman, Dr. Nicolas Thomas, and Dr. Thomas Wallrichs
ABSENT:	Adriana Morris, Connie Stines, Susan Bingham

A motion to approve the Burke County Health Policy except the Structure & Motion procedures.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dr. Anthony Frank
SECOND:	Carol Ervin Largent
AYES:	Dr. Anthony Frank, Carol Ervin Largent, Isaac Crouch, Johnnie Carswell, Melinda Zimmerman, Dr. Nicolas Thomas, and Dr. Thomas Wallrichs
ABSENT:	Adriana Morris, Connie Stines, Susan Bingham

The Structure and Motion Procedures Policy

Danny said to BOH members, The Structure and Motion Procedures Policy reflects NC codes; it identifies the technology such as Zoom and could be used for meetings. Isaac made a motion to approve the Amended Structure and Motion Procedure Policy.

Commissioner Carswell stated to Burke County BOH members, you are given the authority to become a member and all members are appointed by the Board of Commissioners. We are going through a pandemic and your authority is important to the local Health Director. Members are to know where the 11 positions are coming from. Burke County BOH has the authority to remove you and you can be removed and there is a recourse to appeal if you were removed.

The Government entity is a committee oriented; we only need to make a motion and not any second. We make a motion because it comes from the committee or a standing department head. When putting items on the agenda, you have 10 days and if you want to change the agenda you have the authority to do so. The agenda started to be approved because the NC General Statute requires it. With the Structure and Motion Procedure, we are conducting a voice vote and it is recorded. All BOH members have a duty to vote and there is only one reason you cannot vote is if, it puts money in your pocket or it would be an ethics violation. These are procedural matters. According to NC General Statute §138A-35 A public servant shall make a due and diligent effort before taking any action, including voting, or participating in discussions with other public servants on a board on which the public servant also serves, to determine whether the public servant has a conflict of interest. If the public servant is unable to determine whether a conflict of interest may exist, the public servant has a duty to inquire of the Commission as to that conflict.

Isaac made the motion to approve the Structure and Motion Policy.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER Johnnie Carswell

AYES: Dr. Anthony Frank, Carol Ervin Largent, Isaac Crouch, Johnnie Carswell, Melinda Zimmerman, Dr. Nicolas Thomas, and Dr. Thomas Wallrichs

HEALTH DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Scalise said Burke County Health Department went to Fonta Flora Brewery, Western Piedmont Community College, and Catawba Brewery and vaccinated over 170 people. He is working with the school system to give Covid vaccines and awaits guidance on giving vaccines to younger children. There are more cases rising within younger children. BCHD received a grant from the State and has hired Sydney Shepard. She is the school liaison between the school nurses and the Health Department during this pandemic and is helping temporarily. Mr. Scalise mentioned, OSHA would be giving guidance on Covid Vaccine mandate for all employers with more than 100 employees and will communicate to businesses and the County.

There are 15,435 total cases of Covid – 19 and they were up 44 cases from the previous day. Eight hundred fifty-two of those are active cases and come from younger people along with close contact of community spread big events. Mr. Scalise was concerned for sporting events.

Basketball will be worse since it's indoors and close contact. Burke County percent positive rate is 8.5% better than the other surrounding counties. Two hundred thirty-nine citizens from Burke County died from this pandemic. In NC, 73% of 12-year-olds would or are willing to accept the Covid vaccine. Outbreaks are in the Long-Term Care Facilities. None of the vaccines are at 95% so we are going to need people to get their shots. We are now administering the booster dose of Pfizer. It can be given 6 months after the 2nd dose.

October 06, 2021 (Regular)

Mr. Scalise is in contact with a Representative from DHHS from the state. Any undocumented workers who received the Covid vaccine under another name in difference from where they work could cause issues when OSHA requires them to show proof of vaccine. Since the previous BOH meeting, 3 employees left BCHD. Emily Poteet (PHE Specialist) and Autumn Croft (PHN) has moved on. Nina Dula, Accountant Technician has retired. We have hired Kellie Suiter as the Public Health Nurse II. Mr. Scalise gave the current FY 2021-2022 budget report to BOH members.

ADJOURN

With no further business to come before the Board, Isaac, Vice Chairman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. All in favor of the vote. Isaac adjourned the meeting at 6:05pm.

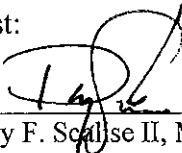
RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER	Johnnie Carswell
AYES:	Dr. Anthony Frank, Carol Ervin Largent, Isaac Crouch, Johnnie Carswell, Melinda Zimmerman, Dr. Nicolas Thomas, and Dr. Thomas Wallrichs

Approved this the 1st day of December 2021.



Chairman
Burke County Board of Health

Attest:



Danny F. Scalise II, MBA, MPH, CPH, FACHE
Health Director
Burke County Health Department