

June 9, 2021

BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH REGULAR MEETING

The Burke County Board of Health met in a regular session on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held via Zoom platform in the Conference Room No. H-69 of the Human Resource Center, located at 700 East Parker Road in Morganton, North Carolina. Members present were:

PRESENT:

Susan Bingham- Chair
Carol Ervin Largent
Johnnie Carswell
Melinda Zimmerman
Dr. Nicholas Thomas
Isaac Crouch – Vice Chair
Dr. Nicholas Thomas
Dr. Thomas Wallrichs
Dr. Anthony Frank

ABSENT:

Connie Stines
Adriana Morris

ALSO, PRESENT:

Rebecca McLeod, Health Director
Valerie Kelly, Director of Nursing
Lisa Moore, Health Education Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER

Susan Bingham called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Malinda Zimmerman made the motion to approve the revised agenda, Carol Ervin Largent seconded the motion, it stands approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM May 12, 2021

Dr. Anthony Frank made the motion to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2021, meeting. Melinda Zimmerman seconded the motion with no additions or corrections.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no one present to address the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business currently.

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no board discussion items.

BOARD DECISION ITEMS

Interim Health Director Appointment

Susan Bingham spoke to the Board about the reason that an Interim Health appointment is necessary. The new health director cannot start until July 12, 2021. To not tie up the County with paperwork and a change in an employee's pay for such a short time, Bryan Steen was approached to consider being the Interim Health Director from July 1st through July 11, 2021. Mr. Steen has served as an Interim Health Director in two counties prior to coming to Burke County. Mr. Steen gained approval from the Burke County Board of Commissioners on June 1st. Susan asked the Board members if they had any questions. Susan made the motion to appoint Bryan Steen, County Manager, and Dr. Anthony Frank seconded the motion. Vote was taken. All in favor.

Motion: to appoint Bryan Steen, as the Interim Health Director from July 1, 2021, through July 11, 2021, with the health director duties delegated to him for that time frame.

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

Health Director Appointment

Susan Bingham then spoke again about the where the Board is now in the process of hiring the new Health Director. She stated that the Board knew the individual, and she asked if the Board had any questions. There were no questions from the Board. Susan Bingham made the motion to appoint Danny Scalise II as the new Burke County Health Director effective on July 12, 2021. Carol Ervin Largent seconded the motion. Susan was asked by Rebecca McLeod, current Health Director, to give some background information on the new Director. Susan explained that he is the current CEO of the West Virginia State Medical Association and will be coming to Burke County from Charleston, West Virginia. She stated that he has an MBA and an MPH in Health Policy from West Virginia University. She stated that he as served as a health director in the past at Fayette County Health Department. She stated that he was very excited to be coming to Burke County as the Health Director. Hearing no further questions or discussion, the vote was called for the appointment. It was unanimous.

Motion: to appoint Danny Scalise II as Health Director for Burke County effective July 12, 2021.

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

PRESENTATIONS

Lisa Moore, Health Education Supervisor, gave the Board her last State of the County Health Report. Lisa discussed the progress on the Community Health Improvement Plan as she reviewed the last community health needs assessment findings. She explained that the community health needs assessment (CHNA) is a comprehensive analysis of the county's health and helps determine health priorities that will be addressed in a community health improvement plan. Lisa went on to explain that the CHNA is completed every three years.

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She stated that the Burke Wellness Initiative is a group of dedicated stakeholders and county residents collaborating to positively impact the health and well-being of Burke County's residents. They are the engaged community members who work through the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership. Lisa further explained that the State of the County Health Report (SOTCH) is a supplemental document published every year between CHNA's to provide an overview of any changes or emerging issues within the community and update progress on the identified priorities in the action plan.

Lisa discussed that 2020, the year of the Pandemic, had created a great deal of obstacles personally and professionally. At the time the pandemic surfaced, the Burke Wellness Initiative group had just begun to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan for the priorities identified within the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment. In person meetings for Burke Wellness Initiative came to a halt and the Community Health Improvement plan process was delayed due to having to move to strictly virtual meetings. Meetings done virtually created a challenge in the creative process, but the work groups pushed through and created a strong plan to address the priorities: heart disease/Stroke and Substance Use Disorder.

Lisa went on to say that during this year of the Community Health Improvement Plan process, the work groups transitioned from a paper-based improvement plan process to a web-based collection and recording system called the Clear Impact Scorecard. This web-based system takes the strategies/interventions and outcomes identified to help positively impact the priorities and set up indicators, programs, results, and performance measures to create data driven results to help turn the curve on heart disease/stroke and substance use disorder to greatly impact the population's health. Also on the scorecard, links Healthy NC 2030 strategies/interventions to work alongside the community to produce greater responsibility for improvement of chronic conditions.

Lisa discussed that the demographics for Burke County have not really changed since the completion of the 2019 Community Health Assessment, except for the changes brought on during the pandemic. Burke County's first COVID-19 case occurred on March 22, 2020, and over a year later the county has seen a cumulative case count of 10,284 which translates to approximately 12% of the county's population.

Some demographics of COVID for Burke County:

- The highest number of cases occurred within the 20-59 age groups.
- The greater number of hospitalized cases occurred within the 60-79 age groups.
- The highest age groups with COVID associated deaths occurred among those 70 (+)
- Most cases depicted close contact as the greatest exposure source.

Cases by Gender

Female 53%

Male 47%

Deaths by Gender

Male 51.5%

Female 48.5%

Hospitalizations by Gender

Female 50.1%

Male 49.9%

Lisa then discussed the emerging issues since the last CHNA and addressed how COVID-19 affected housing, food insecurity, etc. with the Board.

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Since the completion of Burke County's 2019 CHNA and the pandemic of 2020, Burke County has seen a large increase in the number of overdoses and overdose deaths. Before the pandemic, Burke County's partnering agencies had worked diligently to create resources, programs, and secure federal and local monies to assist with reducing the overdose rate. But with the pandemic came closing of in person counseling and treatment, isolation, and fear, closing of services, drug courts, etc., greater accessibility of illicit drugs, and decreased accountability created by reduced in person services. Over the last year, Burke County has also seen an increase in illicit drugs laced with fentanyl leading to the increase in overdose deaths.

Another emerging issue noted during the pandemic is the increase in those with mild to severe mental health issues mostly due to the isolation, distancing and fear that was caused and/or increased by COVID-19 and its mandated restrictions. Hopefully, those residents with mild mental health issues brought on because of COVID-19, will begin to feel better as the restrictions are eased and life tries to return to some normalcy.

Lisa finished with the paused/discontinued initiatives since the last CHNA. She stated that with the 2019 CHNA new priorities (heart disease/stroke and substance use disorder) were identified for the Community Health Improvement Plan while two previous priorities; Mental Health and Poverty were put on pause for this next plan cycle unless data gathered over the coming years warrant the reactivation of these priorities.

During 2020, new and seasoned partnerships worked closely to provide current and factual information for the residents on COVID-19 basic facts, continually changing State restrictions, testing sites and resources and most recently vaccine related information. Hopefully, these community partnerships will continue to strengthen Burke County's resolve moving forward. Lisa then thanked the Board for all their support given to both her and the Health Education Staff for the past twenty plus years. The Board thanked Lisa for her dedication, passion, and hard work for the citizens of Burke County.

HEALTH DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Rebecca closed the meeting with her comments regarding COVID 19 and all the hard work that the staff has done to bring us to this point. She stated that she has tried to make this as smooth a transition as possible for the Board. She stated that she will continue to work hard until her last day, June 30th. She reassured the Board that the Burke County Health Department staff are very knowledgeable, dedicated, and that the Board should have no worried about the operational component of the department. Rebecca stated that the DPH Women's Health three monitoring had been completed in April. No issues were found and that all audits to this point have been found with no deficiencies. She is leaving the Health Department in good standing.

Rebecca thanked the Board for their support and the opportunity to have served the citizens of Burke County for the past 34.5 years. Especially the last ten years as Director. She is confident that the new Director will take Burke County to the "next level" and promised them a smooth transition.

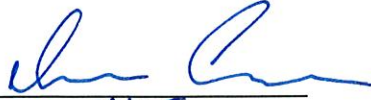
ADJOURN

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Susan Bingham, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carol Ervin Largent seconded the motion. All in favor of the vote. Susan adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm.

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Approved this the 4th day of August 2021.

ISAAC
CROUCH



Susan Bingham, ^{VICE}Chairman
Burke County Board of Health

Attest:



Danny Scalise, II, Health Director
Burke County Health Department

**BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING
ADDENDUM**

The Burke County Board of Health met in a regular session on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. and had previously declared a state of emergency which is ongoing due to the global Covid – 19 pandemic. The meeting was held via Zoom. 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 Conference Room No. H-69 of the Human Resource Center, located at 700 East Parker Road in Morganton, North Carolina. Members present were:

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

ABSENT: Adriana Morris
Connie Stines

ALSO PRESENT: Rebecca McLeod, Health Director
Valerie Kelly, Director of Nursing
Lisa Moore, Health Education Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER

Susan Bingham called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Melinda Zimmerman made the motion to approve the revised agenda, Carol Ervin Largent seconded the motion, and it stands approved.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM May 12, 2021

Dr. Anthony Frank made the motion to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2021, meeting. Melinda Zimmerman seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no one present to address the Board.

NEW BUSINESS - None

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS - None

DECISION ITEMS

Interim Health Director Appointment

Chair Bingham spoke the reason that an Interim Health appointment is necessary. The new health director cannot start until July 12, 2021. To not tie up the County with paperwork and a change in an employee's pay for such a short time, Bryan Steen, County Manager was approached to consider being the Interim Health Director from July 1st through July 11, 2021. Mr. Steen has served as an Interim Health Director in two counties prior to coming to Burke County. Mr. Steen gained approval from the Burke County Board of Commissioners on June 15th.

Motion: To appoint Bryan Steen, as the Interim Health Director from July 1, 2021, through July 11, 2021, with the health director duties delegated to him for that time frame.

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

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Chair Bingham then spoke again about the where the Board is now in the process of hiring the new Health Director. She stated that the Board knew the individual, and she asked if the Board had any questions. There were no questions from the Board. Susan explained that he is the current CEO of the West Virginia State Medical Association and will be coming to Burke County from Charleston, West Virginia. She stated that he has an MBA and an MPH in Health Policy from West Virginia University. She stated that he as served as a health director in the past at Fayette County Health Department. She stated that he was very excited to be coming to Burke County as the Health Director. Hearing no further questions or discussion, the vote was called for the appointment. It was unanimous.

Motion: To appoint Danny Scalise II as the Local Health Director for Burke County effective July 12, 2021.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Susan Bingham
SECOND:	Carol Ervin Largent
AYES:	Dr. Anthony Frank, Carol Ervin Largent, Isaac Crouch, Johnnie Carswell, Melinda Zimmerman, Dr. Nicolas Thomas, Susan Bingham, and Dr. Thomas Wallrichs
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During 2020, new and seasoned partnerships worked closely to provide current and factual information for the residents on COVID-19 basic facts, continually changing State restrictions, testing sites and resources and most recently vaccine related information. Hopefully, these community partnerships will continue to strengthen Burke County's resolve moving forward. Lisa then thanked the Board for all their support given to both her and the Health Education Staff for the past twenty plus years. The Board thanked Lisa for her dedication, passion, and hard work for the citizens of Burke County.

RESULTS: NO ACTION TAKEN
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HEALTH DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Mrs. Mcleod closed the meeting with her comments regarding COVID 19 and all the hard work that the staff has done to bring us to this point. She stated that she has tried to make this a smooth transition as possible for the Board. She stated that she will continue to work hard until her last day, June 30th. She reassured the Board that the Burke County Health Department staff are very knowledgeable, dedicated, and that the Board should have no worries about the operational component of the department. Mrs. Mcleod stated that the DPH Women's Health third monitoring had been completed in April. No issues were found and that all audits to this point have been completed with no deficiencies. She is leaving the Health Department in good standing.

Mrs. Mcleod thanked the Board for their support and the opportunity to have served the citizens of Burke County for the past 34.5 years. Especially the last ten years as Director. She is confident that the new Director will take Burke County to the "next level" and promised them a smooth transition.

ADJOURN

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Susan Bingham, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carol Ervin Largent seconded the motion. All in favor of the vote. Susan adjourned the meeting at 6:00pm.

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

June 9, 2021 (Regular) Addendum

Approved this the 6th day of October 2021.



Chairman
Burke County Board of Health

Attest:



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