

BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH REGULAR MEETING

The Burke County Board of Health met in a regular session on Wednesday, December 01, 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. 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 located at 700 East Parker Road in Morganton, North Carolina. Members present were:

PRESENT: Isaac Crouch, Chairman
Dr. Anthony Frank
Carol Ervin Largent
Gwyn Stephens
Dr. Joel Welch
Johnnie Carswell
Melinda Zimmerman
Dr. Nicholas Thomas
Dr. Thomas Wallrichs

ABSENT: Dr. Barry Nelson

ALSO PRESENT: Danny Scalise, Health Director
Chia Yang, Administrative Assistant III
Ashley Jarrett, RN
Yesenia Gonzalez, Notary Public

CALL TO ORDER

Isaac Crouch, Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no one present to address the Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Melinda Zimmerman made the motion to approve the agenda and it stands approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
AYES:	Dr. Anthony Frank, Carol Ervin Largent, Gwen Stephens, Isaac Crouch, Dr. Joel Welch, Johnnie Carswell, Melinda Zimmerman, Dr. Nicolas Thomas, and Dr. Thomas Wallrichs
ABSENT:	Dr. Barry Nelson

Gwyn Stephens and Dr. Joel Welch were sworn in by Yesenia Gonzalez. Chairman Crouch welcomed new members and said, Joel Welch, President of Western Piedmont Community College, appointment to the Board of Health (Seat No. 8) to complete the remainder of an unexpired term ending December 31, 2022, Gwyn Stephens (At large), and Dr. Berry Nelson (Not present) who is Chief Officer of UNC Health Blue Ridge was appointment to the Board of Health (Seat No. 7) to complete the remainder of an unexpired term ending December 31, 2023. This is Dr. Thomas Wallrichs, Melinda Zimmerman, and Carol Ervin Largent's last BOH meeting. They've served a full three-year term as members and Chairman thanked members for their services.

PRESENTATION – Ashley Jarrett, Communicable Disease Nurse

Ashley presented to members, Hepatitis A is accruing in our backyard and started with contaminated food products. In 2016, the CDC announced, there has been a first person to person transmitted Hepatitis A outbreak to occur. In 2018, NC declared their outbreak status of person to person transmitted. This year, Burke County ranked # 1 in the highest rate of Hepatitis A, contracted person. In July 2021, Burke County made front page news and the rates increased. We worked with High Country Community Health to bring free Hep A vaccines to persons who are at higher risk factors. We also met with Burke United Way and gave out hygiene bags to the homeless people and anyone who falls in the risk factor. The bags consisted of hand sanitizers, alcohol prep pads, wash cloths, soaps, etc. We teamed up with EMS staff, gave Hep A vaccines, issued hygiene bags to the homeless, and the numbers has gone down. We moved from being the highest number to number six across the State. We are going to continue these efforts and are working with Alpha, Burke Recovery, Good Samaritan Clinic, and doing outreach programs to keep Hepatitis A numbers down.

BOH Policies

Chairman Crouch made a motion to approve the policies and will revisit the Staff Orientation, Education & Workforce Development Policy.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
AYES:	Dr. Anthony Frank, Carol Ervin Largent, Gwen Stephens, Isaac Crouch, Dr. Joel Welch, Johnnie Carswell, Melinda Zimmerman, Dr. Nicolas Thomas, and Dr. Thomas Wallrichs
ABSENT:	Dr. Barry Nelson

SHARE POINT FOLDER

Mr. Scalise shared with members; BOH members will have access to a SharePoint folder at BCHD. Members can view agendas, minutes to the last meeting, and policies in the folder. **There were no objections to the share point folder.**

HEALTH DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Scalise had several meetings with DHHS regards to AA (Agreement Addendums). AA are additions and instructions to original agreement funds from the State. The County Commissions had an architectural firm, and a real estate come by BCHD and reviewed the building. Chia is setting up a date for the Great Purge and will have a shred truck, dumpster, and an area to sur-plus items. Records that are paper chart will be changed into electronic medical records and stored in CureMD. We interviewed for 3 vacant positions and Bethy Mendoza moved to the Accounting Tech IV position. A conditional offer was made to someone for the Nursing Director I position. Mr. Scalise had the opportunity to give a guest lecture to students at Lenoir Rhyne University and sat in the Burke County Homelessness task force meetings. There are monthly QA and Health Equity meetings to look at BCHD's policies and processes. Mr. Scalise started working on the accreditations and are finishing up the National Accreditation that is coming up.

Dr. Lafferty is BCHD's OB/GYN and is wanting to retire. Mr. Scalise met with The Burke County Medical Society leaders, and they are willing to volunteer with BCHD on some of the efforts. BCHD is one of the eight Health Dept that signed up for the strategic scholar's program. The Staff from UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health along with the University of Miami are assisting BCHD with the Strategic Scholars courses. A Spanish class was offered to all staff members, and they learned basic Spanish. Mr. Scalise attended the NC Associations of LHD in Raleigh and is part of the Community Preparedness calls with the Hospital. NC is becoming a managed care state and have 5 entities when it comes to billing.

Mr. Scalise said the Covid Omicron's first case was in California on Dec. 1, 2021. The confirmed case was a traveler from South Africa. The Covid testing machine at BCHD can detect the Omicron variant and Burke County moves back and forth from red to orange. Our positive rate is 5.15 percent and 12 new cases the previous day. There were 16,543 cases up to date and 100 of those are currently active. Most of the cases were from close contact and some community spread. We have not moved from 44% in terms of vaccination rates. BCHD helped DHHS set up a Covid Vaccine Clinic at St. Charles Catholic Church and after 2 weeks, hours were reduced. The public were not interested in the Covid vaccine. There were 274 deaths from Covid and more on the way.

December 01, 2021 (Regular)

Chairman Crouch said to members, the Vice Chairman position is vacant and will be voted on at the next meeting. The Board Training Session will be done in the beginning of 2022 through UNC Chapel Hill and the Strategic Planning Retreat had names of people who are retired listed on the plan and will be changed to titles.

ADJOURN

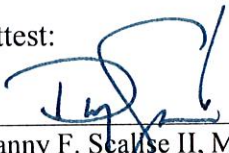
With no further business to come before the Board, Isaac, Chairman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. All in favor of the vote. Isaac adjourned the meeting at 6:05pm.

Approved this the 2nd day of February 2022.



Chairman
Burke County Board of Health

Attest:



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

Resolution 2022
Establishing the Regular Meeting Schedule
For Calendar Year 2022

WHEREAS, the Burke County Board of Health follows Article 33C - North Carolina General Statute 143-318.10, where all official meetings are open except as provided in North Carolina General Statutes (NCGS) 143-318.11, 143-318.14A, and 143-318.18; and

WHEREAS, the Burke County Board of Health's regular meetings have been held on the first Wednesday of the even numbered months at 5:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, the Burke County Board of Health will continue to hold its meetings in the Health Department Conference Room, Burke County Human Resource Center in Morganton; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health set its meeting schedule for 2022 on October 6, 2021 and wishes to ratify its actions by adopting a formal resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health only meets when it has official business to conduct and will give proper public notice if a meeting is cancelled.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Burke County Board of Health, pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143 – 318.12, does hereby:

Establish the Board's regular meetings at 5:00 p.m. as follow:

• February 2, 2022
• April 6, 2022
• June 1, 2022
• August 3, 2022
• October 5, 2022
• December 7, 2022

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any recessed, special, or emergency meeting will be held as needed with proper notice as required by North Carolina General Statute 143 – 318.12 (b) 1-3.

Adopted this the 6th day of October 2021.



Chairman
Board of Health

Attest:



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