

August 3, 2022 (Regular)

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

The Burke County Board of Health met in a regular session on Wednesday, August 3, 2022 at 5:00p. The meeting was held via Zoom and In-person. All Zoom meeting participants could hear and see one another for the duration of the meeting. The meeting was held in the Board Room located at 700 East Parker Road in Morganton, North Carolina. Members present were:

**PRESENT:** Isaac Crouch, Chair  
Dr. Anthony Frank, Vice Chair  
Barry Nelson  
Gwen Stephens  
Dr. Joel Welch  
Johnnie Carswell  
Dr. Nicholas Thomas  
Dr. Laura Gratton

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Danny Scalise, Health Director  
Amy Burnette, Senior Administrative Assistant  
Chae Moore, Health Education Supervisor  
Choua Xiong, WIC Supervisor  
Scott Mulwee, Board of Commissioners

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Isaac Crouch called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Chairman Crouch made the motion to approve the agenda and it stands approved.

|                 |                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULTS:</b> | APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]                                                                                                                  |
| <b>AYES:</b>    | Isaac Crouch, Dr. Anthony Frank, Barry Nelson, Gwen Stephens, Dr. Joel Welch, Johnnie Carswell, Dr. Nicolas Thomas, Dr. Laura Gratton |

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Johnnie Carswell made the motion to approve the minutes from the June 1, 2022 Regular Meeting

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|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULTS:</b> | APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]                                                                                                                       |
| <b>AYES:</b>    | Isaac Crouch, Dr. Anthony Frank, Barry Nelson, Gwen Stephens, Dr. Joel Welch, Johnnie Carswell, Dr. Nicholas Thomas, and Dr. Laura Gratton |

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments

## **PRESENTATION**

Chae Moore, Health Education Supervisor, presented the 2021 State of the County Health Report. Population for Burke County has remained virtually the same at approximately 90,485, with 50.0% male and 49.9% female. Age population is as follows: 5 and under - 4.7%, 6 - 18 - 18.9%, 18 – 64y 81.1% and 65 and older - 19.7% with a life expectancy is 76.7 years. Race/Ethnicity is reported as 80.5% White, 8.4% Hispanic, 5.7% Black, and 3.7% Asian. Burke County's median household income is \$47,361, increasing by \$6,507 since 2017.

In 2021, there were 1,146 individual recipients receiving Food Stamps/SNAP benefits in Burke. In 2019, an estimated 21% of people in Burke live in poverty. Education attainment in Burke County is as follows: HS or equivalent - 31.4%, Some College/No Degree - 22.0%, Associate's Degree - 11.8%, Bachelor's Degree - 10.6%, Graduate/Professional Degree - 5.8%. As of 2019, 14% of Burke Countians under the age of 65 are without health insurance. We have a 53.2% Employment Rate. Not much change in mortality and morbidity rate in Burke County but cancer has moved to the leading cause of death over heart disease.

From April 2018 to May 2021, 982 Hepatitis A cases confirmed in NC. Burke County has the highest rate of person-to-person transmission in the entire state with 72 total cases reported. Burke County Health Department and Morganton Public Safety developed a partnership to engage the community as a team to prevent further transmission. Through partnerships with Burke County United Way and the Community Foundation of Burke County, hygiene bags and monetary donations were given to aide in this work. The Hepatitis A prevention hygiene kits, vaccinations, and education for persons at greatest risk for Hepatitis A, were the main resources used to help prioritize this outbreak. Burke County began to see a drop in the amount of Hepatitis A transmission rates, placing us 18<sup>th</sup> in the state. Burke County continues the fight against COVID-19. The first noted case occurred on March 22, 2020, and almost two years later, the county has seen a cumulative case count of 24,688. The percent of fully vaccinated (5 years & older) in Burke County stands at 48%.

Since the 2020 State of the County Heath Report (SOTCH), Burke County has continued to see a large increase in the number of overdoses and overdose deaths. In 2021, there were 656 overdoses (fatal & non-fatal) that occurred in Burke County, which was 18% higher than in 2020. Fentanyl overdoses increased by 313% and Heroin overdoses increased by 23% in 2021. Onsite Narcan use increased by 84% and 911 calls increased by 34.5%. Allowing Narcan to be more accessible has shown to save lives. Drug Court program was able to graduate 6 individuals in 2021 and sign on 21 new individuals to be part of the program. In 2021, there were over 4,500 patients enrolled into Virtual Care Unit at Carolinas Health System-BlueRidge. This has allowed patients to access their provider and the virtual health tram in a variety of ways. Tobacco cessation classes were also a part of this strategic plan to target heart disease prevention, however, due to COVID, most in person classes were being put on hold.

## **BOARD DECISION**

Choua Xiong, WIC Supervisor, noted that the WIC Policies were approved by the State and asked for them to be approved the Board of Health.

**Barry Nelson made a motion to approve the WIC Policies and the motion passed.**

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|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| RESULTS: | APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]                                                                                                                      |
| AYES:    | Isaac Crouch, Dr. Anthony Frank, Barry Nelson, Gwen Stephens, Dr.<br>Joel Welch, Johnnie Carswell, Dr. Nicholas Thomas, Dr. Laura Gratton |

## **ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES**

Mr. Scalise noted a few grammatical errors on the administrative policies and security awareness the county has already adopted. HR has written a new policy to help alleviate some of the gossip and unkindness toward others. Staff input was important, so Mr. Scalise and HR met with staff about the new policy. This policy is now Burke County Health Department's Code of Conduct.

**Dr. Gratton made a motion to approve the new Code of Conduct Policy as well as the other administrative policies and the motion passed.**

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|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| RESULTS: | APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]                                                                                                                      |
| AYES:    | Isaac Crouch, Dr. Anthony Frank, Barry Nelson, Gwen Stephens, Dr.<br>Joel Welch, Johnnie Carswell, Dr. Nicholas Thomas, Dr. Laura Gratton |

## **DIRECTOR'S REVIEW OF JOB DESCRIPTION**

No questions or comments

**Anthony Frank made a motion to approve the Directors Job Description and the motion passed.**

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|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| RESULTS: | APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]                                                                                                                      |
| AYES:    | Isaac Crouch, Dr. Anthony Frank, Barry Nelson, Gwen Stephens, Dr.<br>Joel Welch, Johnnie Carswell, Dr. Nicholas Thomas, Dr. Laura Gratton |

## **DIRECTOR'S PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL**

Isaac Crouch asks that the Director's goals be broader, but obtainable and that they be updated and approved by the Commissioners before being submitted to the County.

**Anthony Frank made a motion to approve the Director's Performance Appraisal updates and the motion was passed.**

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|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| RESULTS: | APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]                                                                                                                   |
| AYES:    | Isaac Crouch, Dr. Anthony Frank, Barry Nelson, Gwen Stephens, Dr. Joel Welch, Johnnie Carswell, Dr. Nicholas Thomas, Dr. Laura Gratton |

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Danny Scalise stated that he would like to form a subcommittee of doctors or clinicians to review the clinical Policies and Procedures. According to the Public Health Awareness Risk Assessment BCHD that was received from the State, we are considered at low risk. Gwyn Stephens has been re-appointed to the Animal Advisory Board. Covid calls with DHHS will continue monthly. BCHD has begun receiving calls regarding Monkeypox, we do have procedures in place.

Mr. Scalise has been named to the NC Student of Medicine Task Force on Healthy Aging and he is also serving on the Editorial Board for the NC Medical Journal. He attended the Medical Journal Summer Symposium and is very active in the NC Association of Health Directors. He met with the Equity Committee, attended the Commissioners Meeting(s) and has assisted HR in writing a new Code of Conduct for BCHD Staff. He has completed a training series on Data for Impact.

Mr. Scalise continues to conduct staff performance reviews and has completed three (3) since the last Board Meeting. He is working with HR to fill our open positions; several have been filled and he continues interviewing candidates. In addition, he has promoted several current employees. He has spent time with Recovery Court and Judge Keener and has finished with the Homelessness Task Force in Burke County. Facility planning meetings are underway and he has talked with Finance regarding the RFQ process. He met with Caldwell County and Catawba County about the Regional Facility with Catawba County confirming their participation. He completed a tour of Brighter House for help with Mental Health support. Lab update is needed, a request has been sent to the State for the use of some of the Covid money.

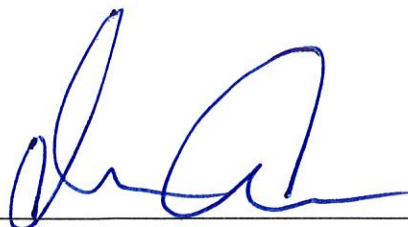
The management team continues to meet every two weeks. He attended the UNC Blue Ridge HealthCare groundbreaking. Dr. Lafferty retired and a Nurse Midwife has been hired as his replacement. Mr. Scalise met with Taylor Dellinger with Council of Governments (COG), and he has planned a debriefing with all staff members. Attended NACCHO Conference and has been named Chair of the Behavior Health Expert Work Groups. He continues working on dual accreditation. Work has begun on a grant application to open a Hepatitis C Program in Burke County. There are currently several other grants in process. He continues to work with WIC to get formula information out to the public. He met with Good Samaritan Clinic regarding dental care. Mr. Scalise and other staff members are volunteering at the Outreach Center.

Mr. Crouch attended a National Association of Local Boards of Health conference.

Mr. Carswell talked about borrowing the funds for a new health department and asked for the Board's support in their decisions.

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Crouch adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:00 p.m.

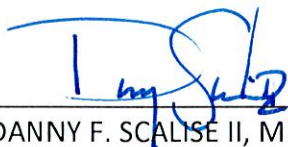
Approved on this date: October 5, 2022



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Isaac Crouch, Chairman  
Burke County Board of Health

ATTEST:



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DANNY F. SCALISE II, MBA, MH, CPH, FACHE  
HEALTH DIRECTOR  
BURKE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT