

December 7, 2022 (Regular)

**BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING**

The Burke County Board of Health met in a regular session on Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 5:00p. 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. Laura Gratton
Dr. Nicholas Thomas

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Danny Scalise, Health Director
Connie Freeman, Administrative Assistant
Chae Moore, Public Health Education Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Dr. Laura Gratton made the motion to approve the agenda and it stands approved.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Dr. Anthony Frank made the motion to approve the minutes from the October 5, 2022 Regular Meeting.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

PRESENTATION

Chae Moore presented the 2022 Community Health Assessment (CHA) to the Board. She noted that several items had been updated on the survey to include residents of Burke County and individuals that worked in Burke County with most surveys coming from residents. She reported there were 2149 results; this was double the last CHA survey. This year the survey was offered in both English and Spanish. A QR code was created and placed on stickers which were distributed throughout the community, there were also paper copies available and a Survey Monkey link was set up to complete the survey online.

Planned for focus groups to include Hmong, Hispanic, deaf and hard of hearing, LGBTQ+, African Americans, Young Professionals, College Students, Persons without permanent housing and older adults. Seven of the nine met the criteria for the focus groups, this resulted in 46 participants. Secondary data was collected through outside sources, the data range collected included the last five years.

Priorities included mental health, obesity with risk factors, substance abuse disorders, homelessness, lack of affordable housing, health literacy and transportation. These were the same areas that were included in the secondary data for Burke County. Mental health, substance abuse and obesity with risk factors are the areas that we will be focusing on for the next three years. She then gave some information on Covid and noted that Covid played a large role in all areas.

Chairman Crouch asked for a motion to accept the 2022 Community Health Assessment (CHA).

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

At this time, Ms. Moore left the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business to come before the Board

BOARD DECISION

Chairman Crouch congratulated Commissioner Johnnie Carswell for being awarded the Dogwood Award from the Attorney General and Dr. Anthony Frank has been selected to the NC Institute of Medicine Board. He also reminded the Board of the BCHD staff holiday luncheon on December 16. He noted the Strategic Planning Session will be April 26-28 and will be at the Helmick Seminar Room at WPCC.

He then noted that three terms are expiring the end of the month, Dr. Anthony Frank, Dr. Joel Welch and Gwen Stephens. The vote for the renewal of these members will go before the Board of Commissioners at the December 20, 2022 meeting.

POLICIES

The following policies were presented to the Board for approval:

- Administrative Policies: 1) Conflict of Interest; 2) Consumer Complaints, 3) Customer Satisfaction; 4) Recruitment Retention Diversity.
- Clinical Policies: 1) 17P Injection; 2) 340B Purchasing and Inventory; 3) Basic Nutrition Assessment; 4) Birth Control Follow up for Prenatal Clients.

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Danny Scalise reviewed the year-to-date budget report with the Board. He discussed the group session of After Covid and noted the facilitator will submit feedback from the session. We are in the process of hiring a Director of Nursing and are currently waiting on final paperwork. We have two nursing positions open, the WIC Director, Mary Margaret Epley will be retiring January 6 and Robin Roper in Environmental Health will also be retiring on January 6. Health Education group is starting tobacco cessation classes, they have partnered with another group to do a holiday campaign at the outreach center and they are working with the cooperative extension to do a recipe book in both English and Spanish. We also have a pod cast which is located on the BCHD website. We completed the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion training for the staff. The site visit for the NC Accreditation is scheduled for January 11, 2023. Our national accreditation will be later in 2023.

Dr. Lafferty retired and this position was replaced by a midwife. Sally Soucy comes from the private sector and is in the process of learning our processes and systems. He then reviewed the vaccine statistics; the lab is in the process of being renovated and a new lab tech as been hired. We have gone from worst in the state in communicable diseases to best in state. Increase in flu but no cases of monkey pox. He then gave a report on Environmental Health and noted that we were at 67% compliance rate. During budget process we will ask for two more environmental health hires and we are still waiting for and environmental health vehicle that was ordered in July. Another issue is that permits have been granted in the past that should not have been granted. WIC group sees approximately 1000 appointments per month and must track inventory due to shortages.

Mr. Scalise and Commissioner Carswell met with the Attorney General to discuss the plans for dispersing the opioid funds. Mr. Scalise reported the fire alarm at health department building was not being monitored and the county has changed vendors. Vendor came in to make sure the alarm can be heard. Staff are taking basic Spanish classes.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Carswell reported two new County Commissioners were sworn in on Monday (12/5) and the new County Manager, Brian Epley, was announced. Mr. Epley will be coming from Cleveland County and will start on February 1. With the new Commissioners and County Manager on board, we

are ready to kick off the rehab center. We will begin drawing up a priority list to include the next five years. Burke County will receive a substantial settlement to use for this project. He noted there have been staff losses to the private sector and we will need to discuss ways to change this area. Ground breaking on January 12 at the Kathy Road Business Park.

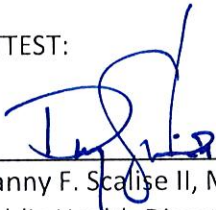
With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Crouch adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:15 p.m.

Approved on this date: February 1, 2023



Isaac Crouch, Chairman
Burke County Board of Health

ATTEST:



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