BURKE COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH

August 6, 2025

BURKE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

The Burke County Public Health Advisory Committee met in its regular session on Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at 5:00p.m. The meeting was held in the Board Room located at 700 East Parker Road, Morganton, North Carolina. The members present were:

PRESENT:	Dr. Anthony Frank Dr. Laura Gratton Dr. Nicholas Thomas Dr. Kenneth Bonfield Dr. Joel Welch Jessi Stout Joset Taylor Cristy Gupton
ABSENT:	Commissioner Phil Smith Gwen Stephens
ALSO PRESENT:	Danny Scalise, Public Health Director Ashley Jarrett, Assistant Public Health Director Miranda Smith, BCPH PIO Amy Burnette, Senior Administrative Support Gezell Alberto-Tenjhay, Pharmacy Student
CALL TO ORDER:	Chairman Frank called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

MISSION, VISION, VALUES:

Burke County Public Health's Mission, Vision, and Values declaration was read aloud by Chairman Frank.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Chairman Frank called for a motion to approve the Minutes from the June 23, 2025 Advisory Committee meeting. Joset Taylor made the motion, and it stands approved.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Chairman Frank called for a motion to approve the Agenda for tonight's meeting. Jessi Stout made the motion, and it stands approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment

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PRESENTATIONS:

- Nikita Saurabh Makwana presented *"Strengthening Systems, Centering Community: The Burke MH-CARE Initiative for Behavioral Health Evaluation & Systems Change"*.
- Jasmine Johnson presented *"Developing an Implementation Framework & Exploring the Benefits of Student Integration in Public Health & Healthcare Systems"*.

In alignment with Burke County Public Health's Strategic Plan, the following reports were made:

I. Establish a Culture of Dignity, Love, and Respect (Danny Scalise)

- On July 14, 2025, The Burke County Board of County Commissioners met at the Burke County Board of Health. At this meeting, the Commissioners received training, were given updates and reports, approved policies, and appointed Dr. Hamm to the Local Review Team for CFPT and Child Protection Team.

II. Be an Employer of Choice (Danny Scalise)

- Currently, there are four vacancies at BCPH including:
  1. Program Assistant-Front Desk (interviews being held August 11th)
  2. Social Worker II-CMARC (interviews being held on August 18th)
  3. Public Health Nurse II-Maternity (candidate is being vetted)
  4. Environmental Health Specialist (interviews in process)
- Staff Development Day was held on July 11, 2025 at the NC Agricultural Extension Office. This all-day event offered training to all staff that included Workplace Violence Training, Bloodborne Pathogens Training, and HIPAA Compliance Training.

III. Be an Academic Health Department (Danny Scalise)

- Four APHA Abstracts were accepted
- Our Mental Health Collaboratory is in the early planning stages. More information will be forthcoming.

IV. Be a Healthcare Treatment Provider of Choice (Danny Scalise)

- In July, the clinic saw 234 patients
- A clinic payment analysis was completed and results were concluded that 8-10% of patients are Medicaid, 15-20% are private insurance, and 70-75% are self-pay patients.
- BCPH Debt Set-Off was approximately $13,000 over a three-year period.

V. Be a Good Leader in Environmental Health (Danny Scalise)

- Mr. Scalise explained the process of becoming a Registered Environmental Health Specialist.
- Currently, the Food & Lodging Program has completed 88% of all required inspections. Mr. Scalise expects that this percentage will move up to 100% very soon.
- In the last two months, Environmental Health received 23 New Plan Review applications
- Currently, there are 26 application in queue for OSWW, who is about four weeks out to date.

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FINANCIAL REPORT:
Mr. Scalise presented the Committee with BCPH's Financial Report. Because this is the first month after the new fiscal year, there was very little to report.

OTHER BUSINESS:
A DRAFT COPY of the Strategic Plan was given to each Committee member for their review.

ADJOURN:
With no other business to discuss, Chairman Frank asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Thomas made the motion and it stands approved. This meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:
The Burke County Public Health Advisory Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 1, 2025 at 5:00p.m. in the Burke County Public Health Conference Room.

Approved on October 1, 2025

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Dr. Anthony Frank, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Danny F. Scalise, II MBA, MPH, CPH, FACHE, FRSPH
Public Health Director