BURKE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS (BOARD OF HEALTH)

REPORTING PERIOD: OCTOBER 1ST - DECEMBER 31ST, 2025

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

- Held a week long Environmental Health Kaizen Event
- Ashley Jarrett and Miranda Smith gave presentations at the 2025 American Public Health Association Conference
- Danny Scalise was awarded the Milton and Ruth Roemer Prize for Creative Local Public Health Work during the APHA's annual meeting
- Ashley Jarrett earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice
- Provided a leadership and systems thinking training
- Hosted a Fall Community Health Fair
- Held Flu vaccine clinics every Friday through November and part of December

HEALTH EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

During the second quarter, the Health Education team engaged in professional development, community outreach, and academic partnerships to support public health awareness across Burke County. Staff completed Public Information Officer training and participated in multiple community events, including the Burke Rally for Recovery, the Town of Hildebran Community BBQ, the Blue Ridge Community Action Carnival Day, the UNC Health Blue Ridge Serving with Purpose community event, and the Senior Center Fall Health Fair. The team also served as a vendor at the Lenoir-Rhyne University Health Fair.

In addition to community outreach, the team provided educational programming and leadership engagement. Hygiene education sessions were conducted at NCWorks and Draughn High School. Miranda Smith presented the 2025 Burke County Community Health Assessment to the Burke County Board of Commissioners and gave a public health lecture at Lenoir-Rhyne University that focused on the role of public health in everyday life and its connection to diverse health careers. The team also had a intern complete their semster long internship working with community communication and education.

CLINIC SERVICES

In November, one of the Communicable Disease nurses received the STD Enhanced Role Registered Nurse (ERRN) designation. The CD/STI program was audited on November 18 and was found to be in full compliance. Additionally, the Tuberculosis (TB) program underwent an audit on December 8 and was also found to be in compliance. Clinic overall had over 1,175 visits during the second quarter.

During Quarter 2, both the CMHRP and CMARC programs continued to provide services to community members, with month-to-month variation in referrals, caseloads, and graduations. CMHRP received 35 referrals in October with an average caseload of 20 and one participant graduating; in November, referrals decreased to 26 while the caseload increased to 24 with two graduates; and in December, referrals declined further to 18 as the caseload rose to 30, with one additional graduation. CMARC received 50 referrals in October, serving a caseload of 340 and graduating 20 participants. In November, referrals increased to 85, with a caseload of 30 and 21 graduates. December saw a decrease to 30 referrals and a caseload of 24, with 15 participants graduating. The decline in CMARC activity toward the end of the quarter is attributed to the transition of foster children to different PHP providers, which impacted overall referral and caseload numbers.

WIC

During Quarter 2, the WIC program averaged 2,292 participants per month, reaching 101% of the assigned caseload.

As a result of consistently serving above 100% throughout the fiscal year, the program received a caseload increase of 75 participants. Staff completed 194 new applications for program services and recorded 1,971 kept appointments during the quarter, reflecting strong participant engagement and access to services. The average exclusive breastfeeding rate was 19.42%, with 37.49% of participants reporting any amount of breastfeeding.

Although WIC operations were not impacted by the federal government shutdown, statewide participation declined in October and November, likely due to public perception that services were unavailable; however, full funding for the remainder of the fiscal year was restored in November.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

During Quarter 2, Environmental Health continued to manage a high volume of regulatory and permitting activities across on-site wastewater and food and lodging programs. The On-Site Wastewater program processed 138 new applications during the quarter, including 37 in October, 52 in November, and 49 in December. In addition, 54 new septic permits were issued, 62 new septic installations were completed and approved through operations permits, and 10 well permits were issued. Within the Food and Lodging program, staff completed approximately 200 inspections during Quarter 2, achieving 55% of required compliance inspections ahead of schedule. The program also supported ongoing business development by permitting two new facilities and completing six plan reviews during the quarter.

LEADERSHIP

During the quarter, staff demonstrated strong leadership and professional engagement at the national level. Ashley Jarrett and Miranda Smith delivered presentations at the 2025 American Public Health Association (APHA) Conference, highlighting local public health work and best practices. In recognition of excellence in the field, Danny Scalise received the Milton and Ruth Roemer Prize for Creative Local Public Health Work during APHA's annual meeting. Additionally, Ashley Jarrett earned her Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP), further strengthening the department's leadership capacity. We successfully hosted a Fall Community Health Fair, reinforcing its commitment to workforce development and community engagement.





ADMINISTRATION

During the quarter, the department hosted a Leadership and Systems Thinking training focused on strengthening staff capacity to understand complex public health systems and apply a systems-level approach to problem solving. The training emphasized leadership development, cross-department collaboration, and the use of systems thinking to identify root causes, improve processes, and support data-informed decision-making. This effort supports a culture of continuous improvement and equips staff with tools to address public health challenges more effectively and sustainably.

The department continues to exercise sound fiscal stewardship. A detailed financial report is included as an appendix to this narrative, with the upper section reflecting ongoing programs and the lower section detailing one-time funding.

Thank you for your continued support and guidance as we work to serve the residents of Burke County.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

FOR 2026 05 JOURNAL DETAIL 2026 1 TO 2026 12						
ORIGINAL APPROP		REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMB RANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	% USED
50000	ADMINISTRATION	1,502,238.67	737,357.24	54,485.56	710,395.87	52.70%
50005	BREASTFEEDING PEER COUNSELING	8,296.00	3,894.47	0	4,401.53	46.90%
50006	CMHRP	299,672.00	135,974.85	0	163,697.15	45.40%
50010	MATERNAL HEALTH	572,823.00	286,231.87	54,157.39	232,433.74	59.40%
50011	FAMILY PLANNING	321,415.00	144,038.02	3,045.41	174,331.57	45.80%
50012	CHILD HEALTH	57,345.00	27,175.32	0	30,169.68	47.40%
50013	CMARC	346,873.00	158,315.22	0	188,557.78	45.60%
50014	WIC	670,861.00	323,785.12	0	347,075.88	48.30%
50015	IAP IMMUNIZATIONS	197,715.00	108,940.52	0.00	88,774.48	55.10%
50016	PRIMARY CARE CLINIC	156,168.00	60,485.56	54,103.70	41,578.74	73.40%
50032	COMMUNICABLE DISEASE	121,289.00	42,338.12	0	78,950.88	34.90%
50033	AIDS CONTROL	132,168.00	65,297.53	13,059.55	53,810.92	59.30%
50034	TUBERCULOSIS PROGRAM	68,258.00	21,803.01	0	46,454.99	31.90%
50036	HEALTH PROMOTION	170,681.00	80,633.22	0	90,047.78	47.20%
50041	PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS	95,310.00	44,518.70	0	50,791.30	46.70%
50060	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	965,205.00	439,823.23	0	525,381.77	45.60%
	Grant Total	5,661,317.67	2,680,612.00	178,851.61	2,826,854.06	50.30%
		REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMB RANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	
569117	WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	145,315.00	10,992.00	0	134,323.00	Expires Fall 2027
569122	HURRICANE HELENE ESSENTAIL FUNCTIONS	272,000.00	185,950.00	0	86,050.00	Expires 2030