Quarterly Report

Burke County Public Health

FY 2025-2026 Quarter 2

BURKE COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH

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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

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Health Education & Community Engagement



- Completed Public Information Officer training and conducted community outreach through multiple local events and health fairs.
- Provided public health education through hygiene lessons, a university lecture, and presentation of the 2025 Burke County Community Health Assessment to the Board of Commissioners.
- Supported workforce development by hosting a semester-long intern focused on community communication and education.

Environmental Health

- Managed high volumes of regulatory and permitting activity across On-Site Wastewater and Food and Lodging programs.
- Processed 138 on-site wastewater applications; issued 54 septic permits, approved 62 installations, and issued 10 well permits.
- Completed approximately 200 food and lodging inspections, achieving 55% of required compliance inspections ahead of time.
- Supported business development by permitting two new facilities and completing six plan reviews.



Clinic & Lab Services



- One Communicable Disease nurse earned the STD Enhanced Role Registered Nurse (ERRN) designation in November.
- The CD/STI program was audited on November 18 and found to be in full compliance.
- The Tuberculosis (TB) program was audited on December 8 and also found to be in compliance.
- The clinic recorded over 1,175 patient visits during the second quarter.

Care Management

- CMHRP referrals declined over the quarter while caseloads increased overall, with multiple participant graduations achieved.
- CMARC experienced fluctuating referrals and caseloads, with strong graduation outcomes throughout the quarter.
- A late-quarter decline in CMARC activity was attributed to the transition of foster children to different PHP providers, impacting referrals and caseloads.



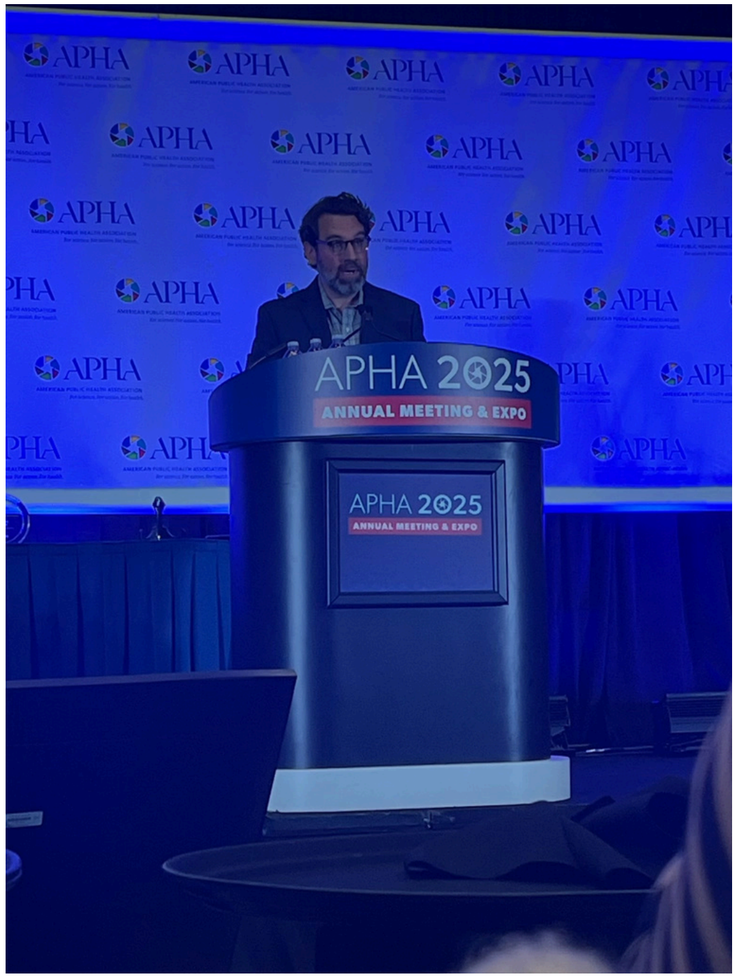
WIC

- Averaged 2,292 participants per month, reaching 101% of assigned caseload and resulting in a caseload increase of 75 participants.
- Completed 194 new applications and recorded 1,971 kept appointments, reflecting strong participant engagement and access to services.
- Maintained stable operations despite the federal government shutdown; while statewide participation declined temporarily due to public perception, full funding was restored in November.



Leadership & Staff Development

- Demonstrated national leadership through presentations by Ashley Jarrett and Miranda Smith at the 2025 APHA Conference, highlighting local public health best practices.
- Achieved professional recognition and advancement, including Danny Scalise receiving the Milton and Ruth Roemer Prize for Creative Local Public Health Work and Ashley Jarrett earning her Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP).
- Strengthened community engagement and workforce development by successfully hosting a Fall Community Health Fair.



Administration & Finance

- Hosted a Leadership and Systems Thinking training to strengthen staff capacity to navigate complex public health systems and apply systems-level problem solving.
- Emphasized leadership development, cross-department collaboration, and identification of root causes to improve processes.
- Supported a culture of continuous improvement and data-informed decision-making to address public health challenges sustainably.
- Continued to demonstrate sound fiscal stewardship throughout the quarter.



Burke County Public Health Accievements

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Overall

- PHAB Reaccredited
- North Carolina Local Health Department Reaccreditation
- 2024 Dr. Sarah Taylor Morrow Health Department of the Year
- Healthy People 2030 Champion
- 2022 Diversity Champion Award
- Inaugural Cohort – NC Strategic Scholars Program
- Mental Health Community Collaborative Initiative
- Vital Records – Top 10 in Processing Speed

Health Education

- Implemented NCCARE360 to Strengthen Cross-Sector Coordination and Address Social Determinants of Health
- Established the Child Fatality Review Team
- Grant awarded to assist with 2025 Burke Community Health Assessment

Public Health Preparedness

- Tropical Storm Helene
- Winter Storm Fern
- Recived multiple grants with one to develop the Hot Car Display

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CLINIC

- All nurses have achieved their Public Health Nursing credential
- Waitng on Nick for Maternity and STI data
- Our vaccination initiative provided 725 citizens with 1,952 vaccinations.
- The maternity clinic saw 179 expecting mothers, with a total of 1,597 visits for the year.
- Vaccines for Children Program Site-visit: no compliance issues found.

WIC

- Awarded the USDA Gold Breastfeeding Award of Excellence
- Served over 100% of assigned caseload
- Over $2.5 million spent at Burke County Vendors

Environmental Health

- NACo Achievement Award for Enhancing Data Collection for Septic and Well Permits in Burke County
- Onsite applications from 14 weeks to 3 weeks for permit
- GPS
- Started utilizing ground penetrating radar



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Substance Use Disorder

- Partnered with Olive Branch Ministry to Operate a Mobile Harm Reduction Clinic in Burke County
- Collaborated with The Fletcher Group to Develop a Regional Recovery Ecosystem Report
- Hosted Community Forums to Address Substance Use and Recovery Needs
- Launched Peers Partnering for Excellence (PPE) to Support County Peer Support Workers
- Established the Opioid Fatality Review / Public Health and Safety Team (OFR/PHAST)
- Responsibly Managed Opioid Settlement Funds During Initial Allocation Period

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Staff Accolades

- Beverly Ward, Robin Clark, Jessica Norman, Ashlyn Setzer, and May Thao Earned North Carolina Certified Public Health Nurse (NCCPHN) Designation
- Christine Helton Holds ERRN Certification and North Carolina Certified Public Health Nurse (NCCPHN) Credential
- Dr. Shawn Hamm Named Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians (FAAFP)
- More Than a Dozen Staff Completed Lean Training Through NC State University
- Jackson Stump Named Environmental Health Specialist of the Year and Selected for Emory University’s Regional Leadership Program
- Staci Banks Earned Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) Credential

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Staff Accolades

- Lisa Huffman Completed Her Bachelor's Degree, Master of Business Administration (MBA), and became HIPAA Certified
- Ashley Jarrett Earned Doctorate, Elected to NCIOM Membership, Published and Presented Scholarly Work, Joined UNC Gillings Faculty, Earned CPH Credential, and Appointed to NC Interagency Council for Homeless Programs
- Nick West and Lisa Huffman Received Certificate of Appreciation for Participation in Human Resource Policy Revision Process Listening Group
- Samantha Simmons Earned Master of Science in Nutrition
- Miranda Smith Earned CHES Certification, Published Peer-Reviewed Articles, Presented Peer-Reviewed Abstract, and Participated in the NC Public Health Leadership Institute

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Staff Accolades

- Recipient of the Milton & Ruth Roemer Prize for Innovative Public Health (APHA)
- Named Public Health Educator of the Year (Heart of Charlotte)
- Recipient of the Dogwood Award (Attorney General Josh Stein)
- Awarded the W.C. Woodward Award for Outstanding Leadership (APHA)
- Recipient of the Ron Levine Public Health Award (NC DHHS)
- Inducted into the Delta Omega Public Health Honorary Society
- Named Alumnus of the Year, WVU Institute of Technology
- Elected to the Governing Board and Appointed to the Education Board of the American Public Health Association
- Named Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH)
- Appointed Faculty Member at Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine and UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health
- Guest Editor, North Carolina Medical Journal – Substance Use Disorder Issue
- Selected for the Opioid Leadership Network (NACo)
- Appointed to Two Consecutive Terms on the Board of Directors, North Carolina Institute of Medicine (by Speaker Tim Moore)
- Editorial Board Member, North Carolina Medical Journal

Thank you.

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