BURKE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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

REPORTING PERIOD:
APRIL 1ST - JUNE 31ST, 2026

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

- Leadership Change
- Hosted National Public Health Week Activities for staff
- Submitted the 2026 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and the 2025 Local Review Team Annual Report
- Submitted and received approval of our 2026 PHAB Annual Report
- Received an approval letter from the state on our 2025 Community Health Assessment
- Held a all staff training day
- Welcomed new provider, Claudia Ramirez, PA-C
- Enviornmental Health Food and Lodging sits at a 95.5% completion rate
- Submitted all 13 required Emergency Preparedness Plans to the state

HEALTH EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Health Education staff celebrated National Public Health Week from April 6–10 through community outreach and educational activities. Staff continued presentations on measles awareness and Community Health Assessment findings for organizations including Rotary Clubs, the American Legion, Burke History Museum, and Western Piedmont Community College.

In partnership with Burke County Public Schools, staff also helped host a Suicide Community Education Night focused on awareness, prevention, and available mental health resources.

Staff participated in multiple outreach events throughout the reporting period, including Blue Ridge Community Action Parent Day, YMCA events, Kinderpalooza, and Long View Night Out. These events provided opportunities to connect residents with public health resources and services.

Additional accomplishments included finalizing Child Fatality Review spending, continued PHAB reporting activities, submitting the 2026 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), and received notification from the state for approval of our 2025 Burke County Community Health Assessment (CHA).

CLINIC SERVICES

Clinical Services continued providing essential healthcare services to Burke County residents throughout April and May

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During the reporting period, the clinic served 219 unduplicated patients across 351 visits. Clinical Services later provided care to 224 distinct patients through 400 appointments.

Services provided included maternity care, child health, family planning, communicable disease services, and other public health clinical services.

CMARC received 38 unique referrals during the reporting period, while CMHRP actively managed 35 referrals.

These programs continue supporting care coordination, behavioral health access, and community resource navigation for Burke County residents.

WIC

The WIC Program continued to perform above expectations throughout the reporting period. The program is currently serving more than 97% of its assigned caseload and achieved 99% of its newly assigned higher caseload in January 2026.

Exclusive breastfeeding rates have increased by 11.5% since November 2025. In March 2026, the program recorded 684 kept appointments, representing the highest monthly total since the federal government shutdown last fall.

WIC also experienced a 68.75% increase in new applications between November 2025 and March 2026, reflecting growing demand for services and continued community engagement.

WIC staff participated in Kinderpalooza outreach activities on April 17 to connect families with available nutrition and support services.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Environmental Health programs continued to experience strong activity levels during April and May.

The On-Site Wastewater Program received 45 new applications during May and 64 total applications during the prior reporting period. Applications included septic permits, well permits, septic repair permits, and well water sample requests.

Food and Lodging staff maintained strong inspection progress and are currently at 95.5% completion for required food service establishment inspections. Earlier in the reporting period, the program reported 86% annual inspection compliance.

PREPAREDNESS

Preparedness activities remained a major focus throughout the reporting period. Select staff participated in the Administrative Preparedness Drill on May 14 to strengthen emergency response coordination and operational readiness.

Todd Staton represented Burke County Public Health at the North Carolina Public Health Association Preparedness Symposium, where he received the 2026 NCPHA Emergency Preparedness Response Community Engagement Award. The award recognized outstanding leadership, collaboration, and dedication to community preparedness efforts.

Todd also attended the Safe Kids Conference during the month to support ongoing injury prevention and preparedness initiatives.

LEADERSHIP

Burke County Public Health experienced a leadership change on April 1st , as Assistant Health Director Dr. Ashley Jarrett, was made Interim Health Director.

We are also excited to welcome new provider Claudia Ramirez to the team. With 20 years of experience as a Certified Physician Assistant, Claudia is dedicated to providing compassionate care while focusing on patient education and empowerment. Originally from Colombia, she is fluent in Spanish and is passionate about connecting with and serving others. Outside of work, she enjoys spending quality time with her family. Her addition further strengthens the department's commitment to providing accessible, patient-centered care to the community.







ADMINISTRATION

Staff participated in an all-staff training day on May 8 focused on collaboration, professional development, and operational effectiveness across program areas.

Public Health staff also participated in the Burke County Citizen Academy, providing residents with an overview of departmental services, programs, and public health initiatives occurring throughout the county.

During Nurses Appreciation Week, the department also recognized and celebrated the dedication, compassion, and hard work of its nursing staff. Nurses play a vital role in protecting and improving community health through clinical care, communicable disease response, health education, maternal and child health services, and ongoing support for Burke County residents.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Ashley N. Jarrett, DNP, RN, CPH
Interim Health Director