BURKE COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH

February 4, 2026

BURKE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Burke County Public Health Advisory Committee met in a regular session on Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Board Room located at Burke County Public Health 700 East Parker Road, Morganton, North Carolina. The members present were:

PRESENT:	Dr. Anthony Frank Dr. Kenneth Bonfield Dr. Baron Nicholas Thomas Dr. Laura Gratton Dr. Joel Welch Jessi Stout, PharmD Joset Taylor, RN Gwen Stephens Cristy Gupton
ABSENT:	Commissioner Phil Smith
ALSO PRESENT:	Danny Scalise, Public Health Director Ashley Jarrett, Assistant Health Director Bobby Smith, BCPH Director of Nursing Miranda Smith, BCPH PIO, Health Educator Amy Burnette, Senior Administrative Support
CALL TO ORDER:	Dr. 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 Joset Taylor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Dr. Frank called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 3, 2025 Advisory Committee Meeting. Dr. Welch made the motion, and it stands approved.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Dr. Frank called for a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. Dr. Bonfield Made the motion, and it stands approved.

BURKE COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH

PUBLIC CONTENT:

There was no public comment.

PRESENTATIONS:

Public Health Educator Miranda Smith presented the Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT) report to the Board. A redacted copy of the report is available upon request with all Identifying information removed.

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)

Mr. Scalise updated the Advisory Committee on Burke County Public Health's response efforts during Winter Storm Fern. Schools were closed or operating remotely for nine days. Public Health opened a shelter for the community, staffed by nurses, though generator issues occurred at the City of Morganton Recreation Center. Despite the severe weather, most public health staff remained able to work throughout the storm.

II. Be an Employer of Choice (Danny Scalise)

Mr. Scalise presented the BCPH Financial Report, stating that everything looks good and doesn't anticipate going over budget. He believes that we will likely see the same budget as last year.

North Carolina Accreditation is approaching-Winter 2027. We have already seen the draft of what that will look like. Mr. Scalise stated that we work on it almost daily and are mostly ahead.

Vacancies: Rachael Palmer, Accounting Technician, has resigned. PHN, Robin Clarke has retired, as well as Gail Moore, or Billing/Coding technician.

III. Be an Academic Health Department (Ashley Jarrett)

Dr. Jarrett reminded members that we are doing the Mental Health Collaboration with UNC Gillings in hopes of receiving a grant. The next meeting will be held at the Morganton Community House on March 27, 2026 at noon with lunch being provided. She invited all members to attend. The next meeting will focus on brain injury and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

IV. Be a Healthcare Provider of Choice (Bobby Smith)

Mr. Smith gave a clinic update citing a total of 713 visits in December and January. The maternity clinic saw the bulk of those patients.

BURKE COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH

V. Be an Environmental Health Leader (Ashley Jarrett)

Dr. Jarrett reported that OSWW is approximately 3 weeks out from application to permit. 110 applications were taken last month for OSWW. Food and Lodging are at 63% compliance-on track for 100% compliance by end-of year.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Scalise gave an update on the HRC Building renovations. He stated that the architect from Holland and Hamrick says that once construction begins, it will be approximately 3 years to complete. The county contributed approximately $9 million and Congressman Moore was able to contribute approximately $3.2 million. The rehab of this building will include offices for Information Technology employees, Human Resource employees, a therapist, and two negative pressure rooms.

ADJOURN:

With no other business to discuss, Chairman Frank called for a motion to adjourn at 5:55 pm. Dr. Bonfield made the motion and it stands approved.

NEXT MEETING:

The Burke County Public Health Advisory Committee will meet in regular session on Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the Burke County Public Health Conference Room.

ATTESTATION ON FOLLOWING PAGE

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Approved on April 1, 2026

Dr. Anthony Frank, Chairman

ATTEST:

Danny F. Scalise, II MBA, MPH, CPH, FACHE, FRSPH

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