October 1, 2025

**BURKE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

The Burke County Public Health Advisory Committee met in its regular session on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Board Room located at 700 East Parker Road, Morganton, North Carolina. The members present were:

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| **PRESENT:** | Dr. Anthony Frank<br>Dr. Laura Gratton<br>Dr. Nicholas Thomas<br>Commissioner Phil Smith<br>Jessi Stout<br>Gwen Stephens<br>Cristy Gupton<br>Joset Taylor |
| **ABSENT:** | Dr. Joel Welch<br>Dr. Kenneth Bonfield |
| **ALSO PRESENT:** | Danny Scalise, Public Health Director<br>Ashley Jarrett, Assistant Health Director<br>Bobby Smith, BCPH Director of Nursing<br>Amy Burnette, Senior Administrative Support |
| **CALL TO ORDER:** | Chairman Frank called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. |

**MISSION, VISION, VALUES:**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Chairman Frank called for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 6, 2025 Advisory Committee Meeting. Joset Taylor made the motion, and it stands approved.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no Public Comment

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 & Ashley Jarrett)

- Ms. Jarrett reported that we are currently working with the architectural group Hamrick & Holland to update/renovate the HRC Building; including the DSS and Burke County Public Schools portion. She mentioned that the School Board will be moving completely out of the building soon and the new building design will incorporate that space.
- Mr. Scalise reported that the State Epidemiologist, Zach Moore, distributed recommendations for the Management of Healthcare Personnel (HCP) with Acute Respiratory Viral Infections. Each Committee member received a copy of this guidance in their meeting packets.

## II. Be an Employer of Choice (Danny Scalise)

- Mr. Scalise presented the Financial Report, stating that Burke County Public Health is in pretty good shape. He noted that there may be a need for a different conversation, especially for WIC, if the government shuts down. Title X funds were cut by 6%, but BCPH is fine because those funds have already been spent early in the fiscal year. No grants are available currently.
- BCPH has no vacancies at this moment. We have hired Victoria Guillen, REHS, Grace Panilaitis Front Desk Program Assistant, Ashlyn Setzer, Public Health Nurse, and Angela Gragg, Social Worker II.

## III. Be an Academic Health Department (Danny Scalise)

- Ashley Jarrett and Samantha Simmons both gave presentations at the NCPHA Conference in the Academic-Practice Based Research Section.
- Ashley Jarrett hosted a Homeless Health Grand Rounds event with UNC BlueRidge along with five practicum students.
- Todd Staton, Public Health Preparedness Coordinator, has submitted our application for review by NACCHO for Project Public Health Readiness. Mr. Scalise will give an update on that once we've heard something.
- Danny and Miranda attended and took part in Burke County's EOC Drill at Burke County's Emergency Operations Center on August 7, 2025.

- Jackson Stump, Samantha Simmons, Ashley Jarrett, and Elizabeth Nesbitt attended the North Caolina Public Health Association Conference in Wilmington this month. There, Ashley won Best Oral Presentation for her work in public Health nursing burnout as a DNP student. Also notable, Jackson Stump received the award for Best Environmental Health Specialist in North Carolina.
- Work in the Mental Health Collab continues with several meetings upcoming November through April.
- Danny, Ashley, and Miranda will attend the American Public Health Association Conference in Washington D.C. in November. While there, Danny will be awarded the *Milton and Ruth Roemer Prize for Creative Local Public Health Work.* Ashley and Miranda will both be presenters at the conference.

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

- Bobby Smith gave a Clinic Report, noting in the month of August BCPH encountered 242 distinct patients and 273 distinct patients in September.
- Ashley Jarrett presented a WIC update. WIC just completed a state WIC Audit where they did very well with less than five deficiencies. She noted that the supervisor intends to do monthly audits on records moving forward.

## V. Be an Environmental Health Leader (Ashley Jarrett & Danny Scalise)

- Danny reported that Food & Lodging has completed 57% of the required food, lodging, and institution inspections so far. He is certain that we will achieve 100% completions by the year's end.
- Victoria Guillen is fully authorized
- Elizabeth Nesbitt has received her On-Site Wastewater Authorization

**ADJOURN:**

With no other business to discuss, Chairman Frank called for a motion to adjourn. Joset Taylor made the motion and it stands approved. This meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The Burke County Public Health Advisory Committee will meet in regular session on Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. In the Burke County Public Health Conference Room.

**ATTESTATION ON FOLLOWING PAGE**

BURKE COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH

Approved on December 3, 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

700 E Parker Rd
Morganton, NC 28655