April 1, 2026

BURKE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

The Burke County Public Health Advisory Committee met in its regular session on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, 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:

PRESENT: Dr. Anthony Frank, Chairman
Dr. Laura Gratton
Dr. Joel Welch
Commissioner Phil Smith
Jessi Stout
Gwen Stephens
Josett Taylor
Cristy Gupton

ABSENT: Dr. Nicholas Thomas
Dr. Kenneth Bonfield

ALSO PRESENT: Danny Scalise, Public Health Director
Ashley Jarrett, Assistant Public Health Director
Bobby Smith, Director of Nursing
Amy Burnette, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Frank called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

MISSION, VISION, VALUES

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chairman Frank called for a motion to approve the Minutes from the February Advisory Board Meeting. Josett Taylor made the motion, and it stands approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Isaac Crouch, former Burke County Board of Health Chairman, spoke about Mr. Scalise's time here at the Burke County Public Health Department. He stated that "Danny is a phenomenal leader and will be missed tremendously". Mr. Crouch wished Danny the best in his future endeavors.

FAREWELL:

Mr. Scalise announced to the committee that this will be his final Advisory Committee Meeting as he has accepted the position of Administrative Officer for the Spokane Regional Health District in Spokane, Washington. His final day as the Burke County Public Health Director is April 4, 2026. Mr. Scalise spoke of the many awards and attributes Burke County has afforded him over the last five years. Though he is sad to be leaving, he is excited for his next venture and is leaving in good faith that Dr. Ashley Jarrett will continue good service to the citizens of Burke County. Dr. Jarrett will serve as Interim Health Director until a permanent candidate is selected.

PRESENTATIONS:

There were no presentations at this meeting

In alignment with the Burke County Public Health Strategic Plan, the following reports were made:

1. **Establish a Culture of Dignity, Love, and Respect (Danny Scalise)**
    - Mr. Scalise gave a Financial Report for the Health Department. He states that "we've done a really good job of staying under budget, but things are a little tough right now." We are still requesting more funds for our medication needs.
2. **Be an Employer of Choice (Danny Scalise)**
    - The open Accounting Technician IV position has been filled by Kathryn McCurry. Mrs. McCurry has close to twenty years' experience working in finance and budgets, but this is her first county government position.
    - The new building design is almost complete. The building will be done in two phases with a makeshift clinic where the Burke County Public Schools central office is currently housed. They should be moving in the next six months or so. We are fully committed to the patient care continuity for the citizens of Burke County while we are under construction.
3. **Be an Academic Health Department (Ashley Jarrett)**
    - BCPH is continuing the mental health collaborative with UNC Gillings. There are three of these meetings left this year. The next one will be held on May 26th at 12:30 at the Morganton Community House. This meeting will be about stress in the workplace. Dr. Jarrett invited any member of the Board to attend. The overall goal of these meetings is to gather data and use that data for the improvement of mental health in Burke County.
4. **Be a Healthcare Treatment Provider of Choice (Bobby Smith)**
    - Mr. Smith gave a clinic update. Our numbers have remained in-line with previous months with February seeing 221 distinct patients with 364 visits and March seeing 208 distinct patients with 363 visits.
    - BCPH Primary Care provider is retiring. Her replacement, Claudia Ramirez, PA-C will begin work on May 1, 2026. Ms. Ramirez has many years' experience in both Primary Care and public health.
5. **Be a Good Leader in Environmental Health (Ashley Jarrett)**
    - Environmental Health's On-Site Wastewater Program is now at four weeks from application to permit-still one of the fastest turnaround times in the state. We are still down about 3 FTEs for the size of Burke County.

- Currently, Food & Lodging are at 89% of completion of required inspections. We are confident that by June 30th, the department will get a 100% completion for the first time since 2009.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Scalise thanked the members of the committee for being supportive and helpful in his time here in Burke County. He stated that he looks forward to watching Burke County flourish in the upcoming years.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

Commissioner Smith thanked Mr. Scalise for his service to Burke County.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Frank made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Welch seconded the motion. The Burke County Public Health Advisory Committee Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Approval and Attestation on following page

Approved on June 3, 2026

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Dr. Anthony Frank, Chairman
Burke County Advisory Committee

ATTEST:

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Dr. Ashley Jarrett, DNP, CPH
Burke County Public Health Interim Director