

North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors Meeting
February 19, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.
DPH-RTP-Conference Room-1590, 65 Moore Drive, Durham

Call to Order	Jen Greene
Approval of Minutes from January Meeting	Jennifer McCracken
Treasurer’s/Financial Report	Jennifer McCracken
Rural Transformation Updates	Debra Farrington
President’s Report	Jen Greene
Executive Director’s Report	Patrick Brown
Medicaid Update	Jay Ludlam
Division of Public Health Director	Dr. Kelly Kimple
Deputy Director/Section Chief, Local and Community Support, DPH.....	Stacie Turpin Saunders
NACCHO Government Affairs Update	Adriane Casalotti
 <u>ACTION ITEMS AND UPDATES - from Work Groups</u>	
Partner Update	Patrick Brown
PH Funding and Investments.....	Jen Greene
Workforce Recruitment and Retention.....	Janet Clayton
PH Data and Performance Measures	Wes Gray
Communications.....	Lisa Harrison
Nominations and Bylaws.....	Rod Jenkins
Education and Awards.....	Helene Edwards
 <u>Region Reports & District Health Department Reports</u>	
Region I	Anna Lippard
Region II.....	David Jenkins
Region III	Rachel Willard
Region IV	Alyssa Harris
Region V.....	Trey Wright
Region VI	Helene Edwards
Region VII.....	Cinnamon Narron
Region VIII.....	Krissy Hoover
Region IX	Ashley Stoop
Region X.....	Joy Brock
District Workgroup.....	Lisa Harrison
 <u>Partner Reports</u>	
NCAPHA.....	Janet Clayton
NCPHA	Nina Beech
NACCHO	Lisa Harrison
CETAC.....	Dolly Clayton
NCIPH.....	Amy Joy Lanou
ANCBH.....	Karl Johnson
NC-SOG	Kirsten Leloudis
NC SOPHE.....	Rose Haddock
Adjourn	

Next Meeting: March 11, 2026 – 12:00 noon
NCALHD Awards Luncheon and Business Meeting
Embassy Suites Raleigh-Durham, 201 Harrison Oaks Blvd., Cary

**North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors
Business Meeting
January 15, 2026 – 10:00 am
Foothills Higher Ed. Center, Morganton, NC**

Meeting Called to Order – Jen Greene

President Jen Greene (Appalachian Health District) opened the meeting at 10:01 am and thanked everyone for attending and expressed appreciation for Danny Scalise and his team (Burke Co.) for hosting us.

Approval of December Minutes – Jennifer McCracken

Minutes from the December 2025 meeting were distributed via email. President Greene asked for a motion for approval of the minutes.

Motion: Motion to approve was made by Dr. Rod Jenkins (Durham Co.) and seconded by Lisa Macon Harrison (Granville/Vance). No objections – minutes were approved by consensus.

Treasurer's Report – Jennifer McCracken

The Treasurer's Report was distributed with the packet via email. President Greene asked for a motion for approval of the Treasurer's Report.

Motion: Motion to approve was made by Dr. Rod Jenkins (Durham Co.) and seconded by Angel (Montgomery Co.). No objections – Treasurer's Report was approved by consensus.

President's Report – Jen Greene

President Greene showed off her 'vaccines saved lives' sweater. Temps are rising across world and country and we are in the time for people to stand up for Public Health.

Jen recognized several local health directors for some key accomplishments:

- Sarah Banks (Haywood Co.) for being selected to participate in the prestigious Presidential Leadership Scholars program.
- Daniel Buck (Columbus Co.) – the Columbus County Health Department building was having challenges and he has been working on a great plan to ensure PH services remain.
- Krissy Hoover (Onslow Co.) is doing research for her DrPH program and collecting health director feedback, which is often missing in the literature.

Jen recognized local health directors with active measles cases in their counties.

Jen reminded the group of the PH Leaders Conference March 12-13, 2026 held at Embassy Suites in Raleigh and encouraged attendance.

Lastly, approaching MLK recognition on Monday, Jen shared this quote “Faith is taking the first step when you can’t see the whole staircase.” She shared the importance of the work we are doing in challenging times.

Executive Director Report – Patrick Brown

Updates:

Thanks to Danny Scalise for hosting the meeting. Meeting in the west happened due to feedback received from LHD’s across the state. Patrick encouraged directors to attend in person whenever feasible and expressed the association’s commitment to make meetings as accessible as possible to the membership.

Care Management –

- Jen Greene (App Health), Wes Gray (Pitt Co.), and Patrick met with PHP’s to discuss current status. Funding clarity is still needed from DHB.
- Amanda and Patrick met this week with Care Management representatives from each region. The viable path for the next step is staying with Virtual Health (VH) in a direct relationship. Proposal has been received for VH (\$325,000 per year for statewide access for 5-year commitment).
- May be looking at temporary extension of access to VH through CCNC to bridge us to a direct relationship with VH. When we have funding clarity, we will accelerate as quickly as possible.
- Mandated referral stoppage on March 1 is no longer an issue since we are in the planning process for continuation of referrals. DHB is working on a provider memo, unsure of timeline for when that letter will be sent.
- Questions are encouraged as this is a complex issue.
- There was discussion around contingency plans and how to address the uncertainties as we are all planning 2026-27 budgets. (do we have contingency funds to ensure transition, working with local HR departments, Granville Vance pausing on hiring, offering early retirement options).

APHA – learned operations of Illinois PH Association – vaccine purchasing consortium – generates value and positive revenue source for the association. They are sending staff to PH Leaders conference – we will share our staffing organization model and they will share the vaccine purchasing consortium concept.

Patrick shared a draft Code of Ethics for members of the NCALHD for consideration. Wes Gray (Pitt Co.) made the motion to approve the document as presented and seconded by Alyssa Harris (Rowan Co.). Upon approval, this Code of Ethics will apply to everyone who is a member of the association. A member is the person who legally acts as the Public Health Director of record for that county and is a designated member of the organization.

After many questions and discussion, Wes Gray (Pitt Co.) withdrew the motion to approve the Code of Ethics. Jen Greene asked members to further review the draft document and provide feedback. This will be re-addressed at the February meeting.

Division of Public Health – Dr. Kelly Kimple

Dr. Kimple introduced a special guest – Deputy Secretary of Health Deborah Farrington to provide updates:

Lack of budget impacting day to day decisions – reductions and reversal of funds. There remains a concern at the department level.

Federal decisions have a significant impact on our work – state advocating when possible, reaching out to elected officials and sharing information.

Rural health transformation – thanks for all the input – excited that NC will get \$213 million to address rural health – will deploy funding across 6 initiatives.

Kelly Kimple:

- Federal government terminating SAMSA funds – White House announced that this funding has now been restored
- Continue to get partial awards for some of our grants – commitment in working with association and executive committee regarding impacts to local public health funding
- Currently have 7 cases of measles in NC– added two additional cases since yesterday. A public facing dashboard is being launched
- High flu activity continues across NC; added 63 add flu deaths this week. There have been 134 flu deaths so far this season. This time last year, NC had 74 flu related deaths.
- Continue to push messages of vaccines – they are accessible and effective. Childhood vaccination toolkit is available. There has been no change in science or data related to vaccines.

Dr. Kimple expressed gratitude for the partnership as we work to address health and wellbeing in NC

Deputy Director/Section Chief, Local and Community Support, DPH – Stacie Saunders

Stacie Saunders gave a shout out to counties impacted by measles and all the LHD's related to the planning we are all doing for measles.

Communicable Disease – Dashboard has been launched for measles. Will be updated twice per week – Tuesdays and Fridays at noon. Press releases will be used for large scale announcements, but otherwise, leaning on using the dashboard to publicly alert the public and media. Urgent information/guidance will still go through listservs: nurse supervisor; LHD; medical director. All local health director office hours related to measles will be established. Stacie asked local health directors to exercise CD after hours lines for measles and other CD issues. Ensure DPH has the most up to date numbers – send to Stacie.

PHIG – AA117 – 3.6 million – it was approved. Budget estimates will be forthcoming and AA will be revised. There will be more to share in February. The expiration date has not changed (Oct. 2027).

46 rules review — Stacie is interested in knowing who is still doing Home Health as looking to remove that from the rules. If it is removed from code, it does not mean that you cannot do it. Working hard for clarity around “certifying availability” – for those counties who assure mandated services, what does that term mean to you?

Care Management – AA’s for non-Medicaid services – cannot hold AA’s because funding estimates must be distributed. The team is working to get the AA by February date to be in compliance with general statute.

BCCCP/Wisewoman AA language changes- thanks to LHD’s for meeting. BCCCP AA process to review the RFA proposal. BCCCP team will present information to NCALHD Executive Committee. The proposal will be presented to full association in March or April.

The February NCALHD will be at the new DPH location at RTP. After February, we will be back at DPH headquarters for the May NCALHD meeting and beyond.

Stacie encouraged regions to meet and share ideas around spending final AA 546 funds.

Work Groups

Partner Update – Patrick Brown

- None

PH Funding and Investments – Jen Greene

There was a spirited conversation about funds being left unspent. Stacie will be sending local health directors’ information about how money is currently left unspent and by which counties.

Child Health AA – deeper dive – a survey will be sent out to get staff feedback about CH AA.

Workforce Recruitment and Retention – did not meet

PH Data and Performance Measures – Wes Gray

Will be in touch with profile on services provided

Communications – Lisa Macon Harrison

Best wishes to Bethany with upcoming maternity leave. Adrian presented Arclet – LHD’s can use this resource for free. Contact information Arclet will be sent out. The tool is NC Launch.

Nominations and Bylaws – Dr. Rod Jenkins

No updates.

Education and Awards – Helene Edwards

Awards presented in March and need nominations by the due date - February 6, 2026.

Region Reports

None

District Health Department Update:

No report

Partner Reports

NCAPHA – Janet Clayton

The Alliance meeting was held earlier this morning

NCPHA – Patrick Brown

Encourage registration for PH leaders conference

NACCHO – Patrick Brown

Recission of termination notices for Samsa grants

CETAC (Continuing Education and Training Advisory Committee) – Dolly Clayton

Registration has begun for CETAC's upcoming biennial Kelly Spangler Public Health Social Work Conference at Guilford Technical Community College. Registration is open and attendance is encouraged. Kelly Spangler Advocacy Award – encourage nominations – due February 26

NCIPH – Amy Joy Lanou

The annual foundational capabilities assessment will launch on February 23. Be on the lookout for promotional materials and share with your workforce development directors.

NC Local Health Department Accreditation

- 2026 accreditation documents are posted on the Accreditation website. Send any feedback to Margaret.

ANCBH – Karl Johnston

no report

NC-SOG – Kirsten Leloudis

No report

NC SOPHE – Rose Haddock

Online webinars this Spring and upcoming conference in Wilmington

Jay Ludlum – Deputy Secretary of DHB –

Jay Ludlum reported that the Medicaid program is under enormous pressure to balance all the competing needs at this time including having adequate in-house and contractual staff support to be able to calculate actuarial data that would incorporate both updates to rates (per CMS requirements), and specific projections given there is still a \$319 million gap in the current FY funding for the Medicaid program not addressed by the NC General Assembly yet, and the future of potentially declining revenues for future fiscal years. He indicated a sense of urgency that exists to be able to quickly and accurately provide projections to PHPs so that there is sufficient time for contracting with providers.

Jay acknowledged that the uncertainty is a disruption to the work of Public Health. DHB continues to work with General Assembly on funding. Votes on Medicaid budget are not anticipated until after the primary election. DHB is preparing for short session and repairing the hole in current budget.

NCALHD requested a provider memo from DHB specific for LHDs that outlines the flexibility that exists for PHPs to continue the work with CMARC and CMHRP.

Questions/comments posed by membership to Jay Ludlum:

- Is there a provider memo similar to what was sent to PHP's – is there an ETA for that memo? Jay – it is in process.
- Clarification – it is about county budgets, but also about the timelines and emphasizing urgency.
- Medicaid direct has been a factor – where will Medicaid Direct fit in?
- Need clarification in writing that there is a chance for us to work a partnership out with PHP's – need this ASAP.
- Our timeline is very short and there is a sense of urgency to get a plan.
- The PHP's have been generous and asking about ways they can help. Carolina Complete Health has a community reinvestment fund for local health departments and is waiting on DHHS approval. Letters should be sent to PHP's in February.
- Does the NCALHD need to formally request to the General Assembly around maintaining these programs? Advice is to talk to Government Affairs team about this. There will be revenue pressure on the state of NC for a while.

Adjourn

Motion: Meeting was adjourned at 12:13 pm.

North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors, Inc.
Statement of Financial Position
As of January 31, 2026

ASSETS

Bank Accounts (SECU)	
Certificate of Deposit	40,000.00
Checking	469.47
Money Market	9,015.20
Savings	44.25
Total Bank Accounts (SECU)	\$ 49,528.92
Bank Accounts (TowneBank)	
Checking	75,555.20
Insured Cash Sweep	305,348.20
Money Market	250,542.05
Total Bank Accounts (TowneBank)	\$ 631,445.45
Accounts Receivable	9,936.93
Prepaid Expenses	1,736.80
Investment in NCPHI	10,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 702,648.10
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	9,965.68
Deferred Revenue	32,945.21
Total Liabilities	\$ 42,910.89
Equity	
Temporarily Restricted Funds	
Accreditation Fund	226,741.94
Legal Fund	59,886.40
Total Temporarily Restricted Funds	\$ 286,628.34
Unrestricted Net Assets	172,385.81
Change in Net Assets	200,723.06
Total Equity	\$ 659,737.21
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 702,648.10

North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors, Inc.
Statement of Activities - Budget vs Actual
July 2025 - January 2026

	Actual	Budget	Amt over Budget	% of Budget
Revenue				
Accreditation Revenue	279,500.00	279,500.00	0.00	100.00%
Grant Revenue	47,713.75	50,000.00	(2,286.25)	95.43%
Interest/Dividend Income	10,433.77	30,000.00	(19,566.23)	34.78%
Membership Revenue				
NACCHO Rebate	5,045.20	3,000.00	2,045.20	168.17%
NCALHD Dues	136,656.90	136,657.00	(0.10)	100.00%
Supplemental Dues	50,495.38	100,000.00	(49,504.62)	50.50%
Total Membership Revenue	\$ 192,197.48	\$ 239,657.00	\$ (47,459.52)	80.20%
Total Revenue	\$ 529,845.00	\$ 599,157.00	\$ (69,312.00)	88.43%
Expenses				
Accreditation Expense	141,395.34	279,500.00	(138,104.66)	50.59%
Administrative Services	43,750.00	75,000.00	(31,250.00)	58.33%
Awards	0.00	700.00	(700.00)	0.00%
Bank Charges	7.00	12.00	(5.00)	58.33%
Education/Resources	922.73	0.00	922.73	
Licenses/Filing Fees	1,534.90	1,509.00	25.90	101.72%
Marketing/Sponsorships	350.00	500.00	(150.00)	70.00%
Meetings/Travel	11,115.14	12,000.00	(884.86)	92.63%
Postage	0.00	100.00	(100.00)	0.00%
Professional Services				
Accounting Fees	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	0.00%
Consulting Fees	76,445.20	142,000.00	(65,554.80)	53.83%
Services	\$ 76,445.20	\$ 144,000.00	\$ (67,554.80)	53.09%
Technology/Website	53,601.63	84,345.00	(30,743.37)	63.55%
Total Expenses	\$ 329,121.94	\$ 597,666.00	\$ (269,466.79)	55.07%
Change in Net Assets	\$ 200,723.06	\$ 1,491.00	\$ 200,154.79	13462.31%