

**North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors  
Association Business Meeting  
June 19, 2025 – 9:30 am  
Cardinal Room, Six Forks Road**

**Meeting Called to Order – Dr. Rod Jenkins**

On a humid Thursday morning President Dr. Rod Jenkins (Durham Co.) opened the meeting at 9:30 am and thanked everyone for attending.

**Approval of Minutes – Joshua Swift**

Minutes were distributed with the packet via email. President Jenkins asked for a motion for approval of the minutes.

**Motion:** Motion to approve was made by Marilyn Pearson (Johnston Co.) and seconded by Nina Oliver (Carteret Co.). No objections – minutes were approved by consensus.

**Treasurer's Report – Joshua Swift**

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

**Motion:** Motion to approve was made by Marilyn Pearson (Johnston Co.) and seconded by Nina Oliver (Carteret Co.). No objections – Treasurer's Report was approved by consensus.

**Budget Report - Joshua Swift**

Budget was distributed with the packet via email. President Jenkins asked for a motion for approval of the minutes.

Motion to approve was made by Marilyn Pearson (Johnston Co.) and seconded by Nina Oliver (Carteret Co.). No objections – Budget was approved by consensus.

**President's Report – Dr. Rod Jenkins**

Dr. Jenkins thanked everyone for the Wednesday meetings at Six Forks. Rod introduced Lori Tremmel Freeman Director of NACCHO. He thanked Region 3 for hosting him in early June and appreciated the greatest region in North Carolina making him feel welcome. Rod mentioned the email that was sent to the Association and thank those who sent emails of appreciation. He encouraged the Health Directors to focus on what we can control. Dr. Jenkins encouraged the team to take care of themselves.

**Medicaid Update – Jay Ludlam, Deputy Secretary Medicaid**

Jay virtually shared with the association that he is tracking the state budget and federal budget. At the state both House and Senate have proposed budgets that do not fund the Medicaid Rebase. A rebase is when you take the cost of the current program and estimate the cost to run last year's programs for the

next year. There is a \$200 million shortfall in the current proposed budget. Driven by scheduled changes to the federal match rate, which is determined by NC economy which is a wealthier state.

Healthy Opportunities will be stopped on June 30, 2025, due to state funding cuts. Healthy Opportunities was active in 33 counties, and reduced costs due to improving social determinants of health. The Journal of American Medical Association determined that the program reduced costs by \$1000 per person served by the program. Innovations waiver slots for IDD not approved. Direct care workforce wage increases not approved. 1115 waiver to assist those incarcerated for re-entry not approved. Mr. Ludlam mentioned that Medicaid continues to work with the General Assembly with hope that above programs be funded.

Federal Update – the House and Senate have been working on the Reconciliation Package, which is an effort to continue the 2017 tax decreases and reform various programs. SNAP is in significant jeopardy with the current proposals. States and counties are expected to pay more for SNAP, or we may lose the program. North Carolina is expecting a \$2-3 billion dollar loss, which affects the continued funding of Medicaid Expansion and negatively impacts hospitals, especially rural hospitals. Persons will be required to re-verify multiple times per year which puts strain on Departments of Social Services. The start of these changes will be December 2026. Jay continued a high-level overview of the current federal funding proposal and its potential impact on North Carolina. He noted he would send talking points to Patrick Brown to disseminate to the Health Directors.

#### **NACCHO Chief Executive Officer – Lori Tremmel Freeman**

Dr. Jenkins introduced Lori Tremmel Freeman.

- Lori Tremmel Freeman provided a presentation to the Association, which will be shared via email.
- NACCHO is focused on directly supporting the local public health workforce and improving federal public health funding.
- Despite a negative outlook, there are still opportunities to focus on.

#### **Discussion Points:**

- The necessity of Federal, State, and Local support, with all three being crucial.
- Concerns about potential cuts to Federal support and their impact on state and local work.
- Ms. Freeman mentioned the possibility of pocket rescissions, which could remove federal funding 45 days before September 30, 2025 (mid-August). This would be detrimental to federal programs and is an existing tool expected to be used.

#### **Additional Concerns:**

- Issues regarding Vaccines for Children with ACIP changes.
- Mr. Freeman noted that support for FEMA might end after hurricane season.
- An expected over 50% cut to CDC funding.
- Lori highlighted multiple programs that could be eliminated.

Ms. Freeman shared resources to combat the current landscape. She mentioned a Northeast Public Health Collaborative made up of 10 states and jurisdictions in New England that are working together to move forward to fill gaps in public health due to funding cuts. Lori mentioned potential new CDC Director, Dr. Susan Monarez, with hearings occurring next week.

She closed with stating that we must focus on local control, which is something we can leverage at this time. She noted that across the nation most local health departments are providing billable clinic services. Ms. Freeman expects full elimination of Title X funding.

#### **Executive Director Report – Patrick Brown**

Patrick asked Health Directors to send advocacy outreach that Boards of Health have done. He mentioned the full association meeting in July will be delayed due to NACCHO 360 conference. He asked Health Directors to email Karen Davis if they are going to NACCHO.

Patrick shared that a strategic planning retreat would occur with officers in August and a survey to all Health Directors will be sent with the main topic being a revision of the Wednesday and Thursday meeting and committee structure.

HMA has begun Care Management workgroups with each Region. Patrick thanked the health departments that offered funding support.

#### **Division of Public Health – Dr. Kelly Kimple**

Dr. Kimple thanked everyone for their support. She noted regular meetings with NCALHD officers to discuss funding changes. DPH is moving forward and anticipating HIV funding, but Community Based Organizations received notification that funding is in question.

Dr. Kimple noted that local input is needed as we move forward, especially with TB funds. Three state level HIV staff have been eliminated due to funding cuts. Nine grants anticipated for July, and we expect a delay and a potential impact. State hiring freeze in place as we navigate future funding impacts at federal and state level.

Other updates from Dr. Kimple:

- Division of Public Health will be moving to a new complex near Blue Ridge Road in the coming years. No timeline.
- Dr. Larry Greenblatt became the State Health Director/Chief Medical Officer on June 2.

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

Stacie Saunders gave the following updates:

- Emails from Susan Little about AA 110 and 121 report completion.



- State Lab is resolving CLIA issues that impact local health department labs. Stacie asked Health Directors to notify her if locals didn't see resolution in next few weeks.
- Family planning survey – more information to come in July.
- AA review and financial impact – occurs mid-year and at end of fiscal year. Will be reviewed in July.
- Kathy Dall has a data walk available that can be used by locals. An email will be sent by Stacie.

Dr. Rod Jenkins thanked Stacie for her support with TB funding. Dr. Jennifer Green (Cumberland Co.) asked if smart sheets would be for both DPH and DCFW AAs. Patrick stated he would check on this.

### **DCFW Updates – Yvonne Copeland**

Updates sent by email this morning.

Copied and pasted below:

#### **Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Grant**

DCFW received the Breastfeeding Peer Counseling grant, and it reflects a slight reduction from the previous year. Although the grant is reduced there are some unexpended funds we can apply. We think this will fill the gap for the upcoming federal year. AAs/Budget estimates for the period of Oct 1 25 - June 30, 26 will go out to LHDs early July.

#### **Crossroads**

Crossroads issues again this week due to a statewide network issue affecting other systems too. DIT is working on it. WIC directors have been notified about the problem.

#### **Assistant Director for Community Nutrition Services (WIC & CACFP) Search**

We have made an offer to a candidate and waiting for their response. Fingers crossed.

If you have any questions regarding the above items, feel free to reach out to Kim Lovenduski, [kim.lovenduski@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:kim.lovenduski@dhhs.nc.gov). I'm always available for you as well.

### **REHS Board Report – Lillian Koontz**

Lillian Koontz provided a NCREHS update. Slide to be sent to Health Directors.

Key Points:

- Declining number of registrations in 2024 and 2025 trending in the same direction.
- 1,245 active registrants across NC.
- Two years to attain authorization with option for interns to reapply as "intern with previous experience."
- EH associates – only 4 received in NC and one remains working.
- Essay/Interview Exam Dates for 2025 – Western Carolina Campus 7/30 and Mebane 10/22. If interested in hosting let Lillian know.

## **Action Items and Updates – from Work Groups**

### ***PH Funding and Investments – Patrick Brown***

Patrick Brown mentioned the discussion around TB funding. Strong majority recommended funding option 2. Jen Greene (App. District) made a motion to go forward with Option 2 which takes effect July 1, 2026. Second by David Howard (Brunswick). Motion carried.

### ***Workforce Recruitment and Retention – Janet Clayton***

Did not meet.

### ***PH Data and Performance Measures – Wes Gray***

Karl Johnson had asked to come to the meeting to make a request around some data from the accreditation team for a research project he's working on. They wanted the association to vote to make sure everyone was ok with us sharing the data and the vote was unanimous in favor of providing it.

### ***Communications – Bethany Milford***

Did not meet.

### ***Nominations and Bylaws – Quintana Stewart***

Did not meet.

### ***Education and Awards – Helene Edwards***

No report.

## **Region Reports**

Lisa Harrison mentioned that district Health Departments are meeting to develop a strategic plan.

## **Health Director Open Discussion**

No discussion.

## **Partner Reports**

### ***NCAPHA – Patrick Brown***

Patrick noted the July 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for Alliance projects.

### ***NCPHA – Patrick Brown***

Fall conference in Wilmington.

### ***NACCHO – Lisa Macon Harrison***

NACCHO Conference July 14-18 in Anaheim, California. Let Karen Davis know if attending.

### ***CETAC (Continuing Education and Training Advisory Committee) - Brandy Chrismon***

Reminder of Kelly Spangler Social Work conference.

### ***NCIPH – Margaret Benville***

Margaret Benville from NCIPH provided updates for Accreditation budget with no impact to the Budget and Fees. Lillian Koontz made a motion to approve, and Lisa Harrison seconded. Motion approved by consensus.

### **Foundational Capabilities Task Force**

Please consider joining the next monthly Public Health Policy Forum on July 11 from 10:30 to noon. In July we'll be talking about the potential impacts of ongoing budget negotiations at the federal and NC state level on public health. On August 8th, we plan to follow with a session about what we can and are doing about funding changes. Register today to receive the calendar invitation and learn more about the FC Task Force's policy development and support activities.

### **Workforce Development and Training**

Applications for the fall cohort of the Enhanced Role RN course are now open until Aug. 1st. The spring cohort application period will be from mid-September through November, with the course starting in early December. Please see ERRN: PAA/STD Course or email Shelley Hoekstra at [shoek@email.unc.edu](mailto:shoek@email.unc.edu) for more information.

### ***ANCBH – Merle Green***

Merle Green provided three updates:

1. AI training was well attended and available on ANCBH website ([www.ancbh.org](http://www.ancbh.org)).
2. Encourage health directors to respond to elected officials regarding potential cuts to public media.
3. Nominations for ANCBH awards due on July 24.

### ***NC-SOG – Jill Moore***

No updates.

### ***NC SOPHE – Thometta Cozart***

No report.

### ***Adjourn***

**Motion:** Jen Greene (App. District) made a motion to adjourn, second by Jennifer McCracken (Catawba Co.). No opposition. Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

**North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors  
Association Business Meeting  
July 24, 2025 – 9:30 am  
Virtual Meeting**

**Meeting Called to Order – Dr. Rod Jenkins**

President Dr. Rod Jenkins (Durham Co.) opened the meeting at 9:30 am and thanked everyone for attending.

**Approval of Minutes – Joshua Swift**

Tabled until August.

**Treasurer's Report – Joshua Swift**

Tabled until August.

**Budget Report - Joshua Swift**

Tabled until August.

**President's Report – Dr. Rod Jenkins**

Dr. Jenkins thanked everyone for attending and asked for any new or retiring Health Directors. Courtney McFadden, Guilford County and Natalie Trachsel, Interim Polk County. Josh Kennedy's last day in Polk is July 27.

**Executive Director Report – Patrick Brown**

A retreat will occur in August with a survey distributed to the Association. The goal is to make the retreat an annual event.

Legislature reconvening next week. NCALHD will pay attention.

Patrick Brown named to the Governor's Advisory Committee on Cannabis.

Patrick appreciated all those who attended NACCHO and the great North Carolina representation. Patrick is the Chair of the State Council of Associations this year (SACCHO). Patrick noted that NACCHO provided a training on connecting with representatives of Congress during the October recess and would share for those who were unable to attend.

HMA is developing a plan for Care Management planning going forward. The plan includes information on systems that can provide what Local Health Departments need. This report should be available next week.



NCALHD is aware of the Healthy Blue foster plan. These children are currently with Medicaid Direct and not CMARC. A call with Healthy Blue is being scheduled.

#### **Medicaid Update – Melanie Bush, Assistant Secretary NC Medicaid**

Ms. Bush delivered a presentation regarding the federal and state updates of Medicaid. The presentation was shared with the Association.

Key notes:

- Risk of losing Medicaid Expansion.
- Trigger law requires appropriate state funding to support Medicaid.
- 1 of 4 NC residents receive some form of Medicaid support.
- Work requirements to start December 31, 2026.
- Eligibility checks every 6 months.
- SFY 25-26 Medicaid rebase is now \$819 million. The legislature historically underfunds the rebase. In past years, COVID dollars made up the gap in funding.

#### **Division of Public Health – Dr. Kelly Kimple**

Dr. Kimple thanked everyone for their support.

Updates from Dr. Kimple:

- Thanked Stacie Saunders and Ryan Jury for working on the federal tracker tool.
- Tobacco funding from CDC may be reinstated as DPH was asked to submit a grant.
- Trump administration announcement of restricting access to non-citizens. This could impact Family Planning due to Title X funding.
- No state budget which has created a hiring freeze.

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

Stacie Saunders gave the following updates:

- Federal updates – federal funding tracker developed.
  - Stacie shared the spreadsheet with name of grant, notice of award, status, and AAs associated with the grant funding.
- Fiscal Year 25 end of year report – This is shared twice per year (mid-year and end of FY) to examine spending trends.
  - Stacie highlighted carry-forward AAs that can go from one fiscal year to the next. AA 117, 121, 122 and 546 were highlighted.
  - “Bread and Butter AAs” were highlighted. These AAs provide core Public Health functions and not all funds are spent.



- Federal challenges with different mechanisms being used. Impoundment by delay in effect delays the ability to effectively spend all the funds. Sometimes new terms and conditions are added to restrict how funds are used.
- Funds are being managed at the account level versus at the specific program/activity level. CDC funding is from month to month.
- Seeing a rise in partial awards. Seeing an intentional shift to reduce funding of Public Health.
- State Lab CLIA Certificates to be resolved soon.
- Kerry Young sent the updates for Child Fatality Review and the agreements that must be signed and returned.

Dr. Rod Jenkins thanked Stacie for her support and the updates.

#### **Patient Experience Overview/Follow-Up - Belinda Pettiford**

Belinda gave updates regarding the Family Planning Patient Experience. This is a requirement for Title X and should be offered to clients, but they are not required to complete the survey. From the chat a question was asked if other surveys could be used to supply information to avoid duplication. Belinda asked for Health Directors to let her know what other surveys are being done. The goal is to connect the survey response back to Family Planning.

Patrick Brown asked that Amanda Blackwelder collect patient experience surveys from across the association. Health Directors instructed to send to Amanda by middle of the following week. Belinda offered to send out an implementation guide with a review in August.

#### **DCFW Updates – Sharon Bell, Deputy Director of DCFW**

Sharon stated that anticipated changes to SNAP would shift \$400 million in funding responsibility from the federal government to the state of North Carolina. Plus an additional \$65 million in administrative costs shifted to counties. These shifts would impact next fiscal year and could be impacted by error rates.

#### **WIC Updates –**

- Jennifer Green is the new Assistant Director for CNS which oversees WIC.
- WIC team is reallocating base caseload for those meeting above 100% of caseload with new allocations next month.

#### **Epi Updates – Dr. Zack Moore**

- HIV Dashboard – Erika Samhoff shared a new dashboard that is available and will be shared. The dashboard provides data at the county and zip code level.
- PFAs - Kennedy Holt, Lead Environmental Health Epidemiologist, spoke regarding PFAs testing at landfills.
  - Eighty-six counties have at least one landfill with PFAs detection.
  - DEQ is determining if offsite private wells are affected.

- List of landfills affected is available to Health Directors.
- Adam Ulishney with DEQ is the best resource for questions – [adam.ulishney@deq.nc.gov](mailto:adam.ulishney@deq.nc.gov) 919-707-8210
- Bicillin Recall – two-thirds of Local Health Departments affected by the recall. Dr. Mobley sent guidance to all Health Departments.
- COVID – levels currently low but expect a summer surge.

### **Injury and Violence Prevention Branch Updates – Mary Beth Cox**

Ms. Cox mentioned resources that are available.

- Alcohol Dashboard – this has been rebuilt. More persons die from alcohol abuse than overdose. Alcohol outlet density data shared. Data shows that more availability of alcohol leads to increase for public health and public safety concerns. Data available by county. NC State Excessive Alcohol Advisory Committee meets regularly and if you would like to join please email [substanceusedata@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:substanceusedata@dhhs.nc.gov)
- Overdose Data Dashboard – site received facelift in December. NC-SUDORS (State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System) which shows the information obtained from reviews of every overdose death in North Carolina. With 5 years of data, county level trends can be analyzed. Reach out to IVP for county level data. Data request form available for Health Directors to request information.

### **Environmental Health Report – Brady Freeman, Health Director Iredell County**

- Mr. Freeman gave a reminder that all local health departments as part of the Consolidated Agreement have to enter into an annual agreement with DPH to provide Environmental Health.
- Mr. Freeman reminded everyone of the environmental health QA requirement. Per discussion, the onsite and well QA agreement should be submitted to the SWIFT team and the other program areas should be submitted to your regional.
- The **NC DHHS- Environmental Health Section**, in collaboration with the **North Carolina Environmental Health Supervisors Association (NCEHSA)** and the **North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors (NCALHD)**, has developed standardized QA policies and templates to assist LHDs in meeting these requirements. These documents, available at the link below, represent the **minimum standards** that each LHD must meet.
- LHDs are welcome to exceed these minimum standards. However, if a department chooses to adopt the templates as-is, they may place them on local letterhead and submit them directly to the EH Section for approval.
- **Section 4.7 of Session Law 2024-49** states:
  - *“All local health departments shall enter into an annual agreement with the Department to provide environmental health services in accordance with Chapter 130A of the General Statutes. The annual agreement shall include a requirement for quality assurance for all environmental health services.”*
- The “annual agreement” referenced above is interpreted as the **Consolidated Agreement**. Per the **FY26 Consolidated Agreement**, all local health departments (LHDs) are required to

submit Quality Assurance (QA) Plans to the Environmental Health (EH) Section, Division of Public Health, by **January 1, 2026**, for the following program areas:

- Onsite Wastewater
- Private Drinking Water Wells
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention
- Tattoos
- Public Swimming Pools
- Child Care and School Buildings
- Mr. Freeman thanked everyone for their attention to this requirement. Please don't hesitate to contact any member of the QA Committee with questions or for additional support.
  - [QA Documents – www.ncehsa.org](http://www.ncehsa.org). copyright (c) 2025
  - Membership for the QA Committee can be found [QA-Committee-Membership.xlsx](#)

#### **DPH/DMI Update - Sharon Loza - Chief Data Modernization Officer**

Creating a data lake and establishing governance structures while finalizing strategic plan. In August, Ms. Loza will gather information from the NCALHD around access and capacity of data modernization and the strategic plan.

#### **Action Items and Updates – from Work Groups**

##### ***PH Funding and Investments – Patrick Brown***

Did not meet.

##### ***Workforce Recruitment and Retention – Janet Clayton***

Did not meet.

##### ***PH Data and Performance Measures – Wes Gray***

Did not meet.

##### ***Communications – Bethany Milford***

Did not meet.

##### ***Nominations and Bylaws – Quintana Stewart***

Did not meet.

##### ***Education and Awards – Helene Edwards***

No report.

#### **Region Reports**

##### **Health Director Open Discussion**

No discussion.



## **Partner Reports**

### ***NCAPHA – Janet Clayton***

Next Alliance Board meeting is August 19<sup>th</sup>. The Alliance will be reviewing the many applications for the Strategic Funding Initiatives at that time.

### ***NCPHA – Bethany Milford***

Communications pre-conference session before the Fall Education Conference. See the Fall Conference webpage for more information.

Patrick Brown noted that NCPHA has been named the Affiliate of the Year by the American Public Health Association!

### ***NACCHO – Lisa Macon Harrison***

No updates.

### ***CETAC (Continuing Education and Training Advisory Committee)***

No updates.

### ***NCIPH – Amy Joy Lanou***

## Foundational Capabilities Task Force Initiatives

The next monthly Public Health Policy Forum will be held virtually on August 8th from 10:30 to 12:00. The topic is sharing strategies for working with budget changes imposed at federal and state levels. In addition, we will discuss how to amplify stories to bring importance of public health work to the decisions makers.

New opportunity for Communications staff! Two regional communications collaboratives have been established to align health communication and bolster collaboration across local health departments in our state. If you would like to learn more or join this work, please contact Martha Anne Sperandio at [masperandio@unc.edu](mailto:masperandio@unc.edu)

- Keep up with programs and resources here: Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG) - UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. Programs are free for LHD staff courtesy of DPH via the PHIG grant. Community Assessment & Strategy
- Hot off the press: the Annual North Carolina Foundational Capabilities Assessment (NCFC) has been analyzed and synthesized into an executive summary of key findings. A big thank you to the thousands of LHD staff who participated in the surveys and focus groups—your insights are being used to shape public health workforce supports (see initiatives in previous section... ) and can now be used on the local level via the NCFC Data Dashboard (see info below... ). Your very own copy of the Executive Summary will be distributed via your regional workforce development directors in the coming weeks.
- ICYMI: the NCFC Data Dashboard is live! As a reminder, each LHD can designate an authorized user for the dashboard. Initial users were granted access at the end of June. If your LHD missed the memo, you can use this form to designate your user for access on a rolling basis. Questions? Please reach out to [ncfcdashboard@office.unc.edu](mailto:ncfcdashboard@office.unc.edu) Workforce Development and Training.

- Looking to strengthen your team while shaping the future of public health? Partnering with the North Carolina Public Health Pathways Program (NCPHP) to host a spring intern or summer practicum student offers you more than just an extra set of hands. When you host through NCPHP, you gain:
  - o Increased visibility for your position through our targeted outreach and statewide promotion efforts
  - o Time-saving support as our team collects applications, screens candidates based on your criteria, and presents only the most qualified matches
  - o Stronger outcomes thanks to the supplemental training, mentorship, and professional development we provide to your selected candidate.
- Our program helps you fill resource gaps, bring in fresh perspectives, and build a pipeline of future talent—all while reducing the administrative burden on your team.
- Position submissions for spring 2026 internships will open to host sites on September 1, and submissions for summer 2026 practica will open in early November.
- Learn more about hosting through NCPHP, review key dates, and preview our submission form by visiting our Hosts page. Please don't hesitate to contact Program Manager Alexa Katon (akaton@unc.edu) with any questions about these or our other Pathway Programs

**ANCBH – Merle Green**

Update emailed to Listserv.

**NC-SOG – Jill Moore**

No updates.

**NC SOPHE – Thometta Cozart**

No report.

**Adjourn**

**Motion:** Dr. Shelia Davies (Dare County) made a motion to adjourn, second by Janet Clayton (Person Co.). No opposition. Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.