

**North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors Meeting
March 11, 2026 – 2:00 p.m.
Embassy Suites Raleigh-Durham, 201 Harrison Oaks Blvd., Cary**

Call to Order..... Jen Greene
 Approval of Minutes from February Meeting Jennifer McCracken
 Treasurer’s/Financial ReportJennifer McCracken
 President’s Report Jen Greene
 Executive Director’s Report..... Patrick Brown
 OSHR Local Government Update..... Dominick D’Erasmus & Bailey Bruce, OSHR
 Division of Public Health Director..... Dr. Kelly Kimple
 Deputy Director/Section Chief, Local and Community Support, DPH..... Stacie Turpin Saunders
 DCFW Updates Yvonne Copeland
 Child Fatality System Kerry Young

ACTION ITEMS AND UPDATES - from Work Groups

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

Region Reports & District Health Department Reports

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

Partner Reports

NCAPHA.....Rod Jenkins
 NCPHANina Beech
 NACCHO Lisa Harrison
 CETAC.....Dolly Clayton
 NCIPHAmy Joy Lanou
 ANCBH Karl Johnson
 NC-SOGKirsten Leloudis
 NC SOPHE..... Rose Haddock

Adjourn

**Next Meeting: April 23, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.
Legal Conference, UNC SOG, 400 South Road, Chapel Hill, NC**

**North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors
Business Meeting
February 19, 2026 – 10:00 am
DPH-RTP-Conference Room-1590, 65 Moore Drive, Durham, NC**

Meeting Called to Order – Jen Greene

President Jen Greene (Appalachian Health District) opened the meeting at 9:30 am and thanked everyone for attending.

Approval of January 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 Melanie Campen (Pamlico Co.). 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 Melanie Campen (Pamlico Co.). No objections – Treasurer’s Report was approved by consensus.

Jen Green welcomed Dr. Greenblatt –

Dr. Greenblatt encouraged those in attendance to keep up good the work. As State Health Director, his goal is to advance and protect Public Health during these challenging times. He is delighted to be working with a great team in Raleigh and is glad to support local public health work in any way. He encouraged the group to reach out to him as needed - larry.greenblatt@nc.dhhs.gov.

Rural Transformation Updates – Debra Farrington

Implementation is moving at a quick pace since approval of funds (\$213 million) for the first year. The team is currently expanding on the design details. The desire is to be flexible, agile and have some quick wins. Year two funding is dependent on the successes in year one. NC has the 2nd largest rural population in the country. The initial proposal was designed based on feedback from community partners. There are six initiatives. Initiative 1 relates to regional hubs, which is how they intend to address workforce gaps, access to care. The regional hubs will manage funds for other initiatives. Within each initiative, there are various activities. Rural hubs will work with community partners to determine which activities they want to participate in. Six regional hubs will be launched in year one. We are in a modified year one, because funding notification was late 2025. Year one ends September 2026. Initiative 2 funding will address primary care prevention and chronic disease management. Initiative 3 will address behavioral health and SUD services. Initiative 4 will focus on attracting and retaining workforce, building out the pipeline. This initiative is also focusing on allied health professionals (CHW’s, doula’s, etc.). Initiative 5 will focus on sustaining a system over time. The focus

will be on value-based payments, including a feasibility study with rural hospitals. Initiative 6 will focus on modernizing rural health delivery system.

Early wins have focused on behavioral health and enrolling providers in HIV. ROOTs Hubs will implement mandatory projects. They will work with communities to assess needs and design an action plan. These will be community-led and community-driven.

The website gives all current information. There will be a town hall with information on Feb. 26, 2026, with more information about regional hubs.

Medicaid Update - Jay Ludlam

Jay Ludlam announced that he is leaving the department at the end of February. He extended his appreciation and the long-term partnership and the work we have all done together: COVID, managed care expansion, healthy opportunities, etc. North Carolina is unique in how we pool our resources, priorities and focus attention on the people who need our help. North Carolina is held in high regard on a national level. This is because of the collective work that we do together.

These are challenging times, especially at the federal level as well as the work to support Medicaid expansion populations with new work expectations. There are 720,000 people on Medicaid expansion, mostly in rural communities. That work continues and DHB be working with the General Assembly. Starting July 1, 2026, DHB will send out work notifications to membership and re-determination messages will be sent in October 2026.

Last quarter, DHB worked on provider rate cuts and budget shortfall (\$319 million). DHB needs the General Assembly to complete the re-base.

DHB continues to work with NCALHD, CCNC, and PHP's in the care management space and recognizes the urgency. Jay said that DHB is listening to the concerns of the NCALHD association and understands what needs to be done and recognizes the timeframes. The team is working with NCALHD, PHP's to get guidance as soon as possible. DHB has been working on this transition since 2017. DHB does not have additional pools of funding to support transition plan. The department is under tremendous pressure. The DHB team is urgently working on the transition.

Community re-investment dollars from PHP's – internal approvals are coming through and will be communicated very soon to the health plans. These funds are based on decisions that were made long ago.

PHP's continue to say that they want to work with LHD's for care management services due to the infrastructure already being built. NCALHD is trying to do all that we can for the July 1 transition. Six-month extension has been requested to get all the pieces put into place (contracts/documentation platform). The challenge with DHB is they are lacking funds, given the NCALHD/Health Plan Association extension request.

President's Report – Jen Greene

Jen recognized several local health directors for some key accomplishments:

Tammy Martin (Stokes Co.) received her DrPH. Congratulations!

Jen asked the group for volunteers to replace Lillian Koonce's Influencer position on the Performance Measures & State Reporting Metrics Workgroup. She thanked Lillian for her leadership in this workgroup.

Jen also announced that we need a new NCALHD representative for CETAC (most recently this role was filled by Dr. Rod Jenkins – Durham Co.) – affiliate of UNC-Chapel – Social Worker group in which many of our staff are a part of. There are monthly meetings, participation in the Kelly Spangler conference held bi-annually. Dolly Clayton (Stanly Co.) is the Chair of CETAC and can assist with providing information.

Thank you to Patrick – there is a lot happening and a lot to keep up with, not to mention keeping up with membership.

Jen gave a shout out to DPH colleagues and extended appreciation to them for being willing to listen and giving us the opportunity to provide feedback. We are grateful for the partnership.

DCFW update – Yvonne Copeland

Updates:

AA 351 and AA 876 will be late. They will be ready tomorrow (Friday, Feb. 19).

DCFW will have a program embedded in rural health transformation Initiative 3 to expand School Based Health Centers. The RFP is coming (potentially this summer) and there will be information to come.

FNS/SNAP – as a result of HR 1, eligibility provision has been enacted. Expect some members may lose their benefits due to citizenship and work requirements. The administrative cost shift begins Beginning Oct. 1, 2026, the county share will go from 50% county share to 75% county share. This will affect county budgets. Department leadership has been meeting with County Managers and County Commissioners regarding impacts of this cost shift. They will continue to work on strategies for payment error rates, which will affect local DSS organizations.

Since the inception of DCFW, the finance office has been separate. Now, the finance office will be integrated with DCFW. This will enhance support to local health departments. The vacant COO and Assistant Director of Finance positions have been posted.

NACCHO Government Affairs – Victoria Van de Vate – Director, Government Affairs

Victoria Van de Vate thanked those who are members of NACCHO. Her team advocates on behalf of local health departments on a national level. They build capacity of local health department leaders to advocate on behalf of their departments and fields.

Laor-HHS bill signed into law – flat funding. PH related programs in general remained flat.

Continued budget uncertainty – SAMHSA clawed back nearly \$2 billion funds clawed back but reversed. This also happened with PHIG funding but was quickly lifted. Last week, HHS was notified that it would claw back around 100 grants from targeted states (not NC). A temporary restraining order has been granted in this case. Lessons learned from all of this is that it is

important to quickly mobilize, explain what will be lost, contact the media and policymakers, and document impact on communities.

Recent administrative actions – Enhancing efficiency through state and local preparedness; ending crime and disorder on America’s Streets; Vaccines – significant changes to childhood vaccine schedule (moving recommendations to ‘shared clinical decision making’). All of these could have negative public health implications. The head of the NIH will also be the head of the CDC. Jim O’Neill (formerly acting director of CDC and deputy secretary of HHS) will now lead the National Science Foundation. Chris Klump (formerly deputy administrator of CMS) will now be chief counselor in charge of overseeing all HHS operations.

NACCHO requested the membership of NCALHD to be engaged through direct advocacy, grass tops efforts and grass roots efforts. She encouraged membership to join the monthly all-local health official call.

DPH Updates – Dr. Kelly Kimple

Dr. Kimple welcomed us to the DPH space at RTP.

Measles response – NC is at 22 new cases. DPH continues to provide support and resources to local health departments. Given the contagious nature of measles, NCDPH is continuing to prepare for a surge in cases. CCNC is providing contact tracing support. Local dynamics are changing related to increased risk of measles exposure. There is guidance around children under the age of one who are traveling to outbreak areas.

Town Hall meeting is happening next week to talk about measles and vaccines.

Upcoming VFC meeting – will continue to update us with vaccine recommendations and changes

Lumbee tribe – now federally recognized. DPH had introductory meetings with this tribe.

Stacie Turpin Saunders

Kerry Young will be attending the March 11 NCALHD meeting to discuss Local Teams.

AA 701 annual report – Stacie is clarifying due date

PHP&R after action survey was emailed for Winter Response 2026 – Stacie encouraged completion with honest feedback by Feb. 24, 2026.

FY AA mid-year review deep dive – Stacie will send this out to local health directors. This does not include AA 510 (includes ETOR funding).

46 rules – mandated services rules- review continue. They have been looking at assurance rules. Who is “certifying availability” of services being assured? If you are a local health department that does this, please reach out to Stacie about how you are doing that/documenting that.

Executive Director Report – Patrick Brown

Updates:

Region V raised birth record issues when out of county births happen. Patrick shared proposed legislative language. Patrick asked to move forward with the proposed language in the short session. The motion to approve was made by Lillian Koonce (Davidson Co.) and seconded by Lisa Harrison (GVHD). There were no objections and the motion was approved by consensus.

Patrick has talked with Pam Perry from Carolina Complete Health. They are close to getting approval for the contract. These funds for local health departments will go the Alliance and then to local health departments. A small amount will be used for administrative costs. The intent of these funds is for prevention and the most need for local health departments. Funding formula conversations around these funds are forthcoming. Expect funding at the beginning of FY 27. Let Patrick know if spend/carry forward will be an issue for your county.

Med/Mal renewal information is out. Thank you for your attention and participation. The premium share estimates are based on approved calculations. They are working on what the renewal will look like (could be a slight increase) and what does volume says based on the funding formula. Another health department may be joining the pool.

Patrick will be out of the office next week for NACCHO travel and vacation.

Next month – PH Leaders and April are the Legal Conference. Patrick will get a virtual meeting together for work groups due to the volume of work happening now.

Work Groups

PH Funding and Investments – Jen Greene

- Progress on CH AA review – getting scheduled. Complete survey about CH AA (Patrick emailed)
- FP monitoring feedback – the team will be meeting to discuss
- Updates from Doug Urland and additional AA117 funds – Doug and team willing to assist with spending of these dollars (eligible through Oct. 2027).

Workforce Recruitment and Retention – Jennifer McCracken

Dr. Lori Byrd from UNC-School of Nursing discussed the need for preceptors and local public health clinical experiences for BSN and NP students.

PH Data and Performance Measures – Wes Gray

- Terra Ankrah – presented data modernization information including the building of a data lake
- Amanda Blackwelder will be taking data that the Alliance has been collecting over time and building dashboards, etc. for our use.

Communications – Lisa Macon Harrison

- Highlighted advocacy work done by Albemarle Regional Health District. Samples of this work were sent out to membership. These documentation examples can be used to build communication with local and state legislators

Nominations and Bylaws – Dr. Rod Jenkins

No updates.

Education and Awards – Helene Edwards

Awards will be presented in March at the PH Leaders conference. New HD orientation will be on April 21 in Chapel Hill.

- New Health Director introduction – Dr. Kimberly Scott, Mecklenburg County Health Director
- Bill Hill, Nash County retired. Wishing him exciting adventures in this next phase.

Region Reports

None

District Health Department Update:

No report

Partner Reports

NCAPHA – Janet Clayton

The Alliance meeting was held last week. Officers elected at the meeting were as follows: President - Rod Jenkins, Vice President - Nina Beech, Treasurer - Scott Harrelson, Secretary – Wes Grey, Past President - Janet Clayton. Nina Oliver and Louise Baldwin were welcomed as the newest members of the Alliance Board.

NCPHA – Patrick Brown

Tobacco 21 Day at the Legislature is April 29.

NACCHO –

No report

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 March 26.

NCIPH – Amy Joy Lanou

Foundational Capabilities Task Force Initiatives

- **Keep up with programs and resources here:** [Public Health Infrastructure Grant \(PHIG\)](#) Programs are free for LHD staff courtesy of DPH via the PHIG grant. See [what's coming in 2026](#).
- **Survey Launch February 23!** The Annual Foundational Capabilities Assessment will launch on Monday and focus groups are already underway. Reach out to Lauren.Jones@unc.edu for more information.
- Are you interested in **how AI is being used in LHDs across the state?** There are new questions about AI use in the assessment mentioned above—be sure your staff complete the survey launching Monday.
- The March **Public Health Policy Forum** will focus on effective policy-maker engagement with attention to how these skills and activities translate into on-the-ground practice. We are supporting a relationship-building and legislative engagement activity to support more public health leaders and staff in opening or deepening conversations and understanding with elected officials. Learn more about the [support for relationship-building with elected-officials](#).
- To attend or if you have questions, please contact Lauren Jones at lauren.jones@unc.edu.

Workforce Development

- The [North Carolina Public Health Pathways Program](#) (NCPHP) has the following upcoming professional development opportunities for local health department staff:
 - From **March 9-20**, health department staff with 3-5 years of professional experience and interested in building their leadership capacity are invited to apply for the 14-week [PHuture Leaders Program](#).
 - From **April 6-24**, health department staff who are new to public health and interested in building their public health expertise and confidence are invited to apply for the 11-month [New Professionals Program](#).
- Please contact Program Manager Alexa Katon (akaton@unc.edu) with any questions.

NC Local Health Department Accreditation

- Even with rescheduling, winter storms, and school/office closures across the state, at least **40 individual health departments tuned in live to the 2026 Annual Update Webinar on February 2!** The slides and full recording are posted online for all who weren't able to join or need a refresher: <https://nclhdaccreditation.unc.edu/training/annual-update-webinar/>
- Reminder: if you have feedback on the newly posted [Accreditation Interpretation Document 2026](#), please share feedback to the accreditation email address (nclhdaccreditation@unc.edu) by March 6 for the NCLHDA Board to consider at their March meeting.
- In case you missed it: PowerDMS is LIVE across NC as the new Accreditation Dashboard! Thank you for your patience as we're working to roll out this new platform. All primary AACs were sent activation codes the first week of February, and 85 of 86 health departments have activated their account! You can work with your Primary AAC to get added to the dashboard and explore resources on our website: <https://nclhdaccreditation.unc.edu/updates/nclhda-dashboard/>
- Want to learn more about all of the accreditation changes, including the new Dashboard? Check out the Accreditation 101 and Dashboard training offerings in April, or drop by one of the monthly accreditation office hours. You can find all details and register on the accreditation website: <https://nclhdaccreditation.unc.edu/full-calendar/training-calendar/>

ANCBH – Karl Johnson

Webinar opportunities

NC-SOG – Kirsten Leloudis

No report

NC SOPHE – Rose Haddock

No report

Watch for information about Awards Luncheon – Karen will be sending.

Adjourn

Motion: Meeting was adjourned at 11:56 pm.

North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors, Inc.
Statement of Financial Position
As of February 28, 2026

ASSETS

Bank Accounts (SECU)

Certificate of Deposit	40,000.00
Checking	468.51
Money Market	9,178.46
Savings	44.26

Total Bank Accounts (SECU)	\$ 49,691.23
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Bank Accounts (TowneBank)

Checking	55,277.81
Insured Cash Sweep	306,325.09
Money Market	250,480.62

Total Bank Accounts (TowneBank)	\$ 612,083.52
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Accounts Receivable	6,329.25
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Prepaid Expenses	1,578.90
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Investment in NCPHI	10,000.00
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TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 679,682.90
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LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	30,134.15
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Deferred Revenue	26,128.96
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Total Liabilities	\$ 56,263.11
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Equity

Temporarily Restricted Funds

Accreditation Fund	201,540.45
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Legal Fund	59,886.40
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Total Temporarily Restricted Funds	\$ 261,426.85
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Unrestricted Net Assets	195,811.32
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Change in Net Assets	166,181.62
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Total Equity	\$ 623,419.79
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 679,682.90
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North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors, Inc.
Statement of Activities - Budget vs Actual
July 2025 - February 2026

	Actual	Budget	Amt over Budget	% of Budget
Revenue				
Accreditation Revenue	279,500.00	279,500.00	0.00	100.00%
Grant Revenue	54,530.00	50,000.00	4,530.00	109.06%
Interest/Dividend Income	11,517.08	30,000.00	(18,482.92)	38.39%
Membership Revenue				
NACCHO Rebate	3,213.50	3,000.00	213.50	107.12%
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	\$ 190,365.78	\$ 239,657.00	\$ (49,291.22)	79.43%
Total Revenue	\$ 535,912.86	\$ 599,157.00	\$ (63,244.14)	89.44%
Expenses				
Accreditation Expense	166,596.83	279,500.00	(112,903.17)	59.61%
Administrative Services	46,850.00	75,000.00	(28,150.00)	62.47%
Awards	534.68	700.00	(165.32)	76.38%
Bank Charges	8.00	12.00	(4.00)	66.67%
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	12,214.45	12,000.00	214.45	101.79%
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	79,945.20	142,000.00	(62,054.80)	56.30%
Services	\$ 79,945.20	\$ 144,000.00	\$ (64,054.80)	55.52%
Technology/Website	60,774.45	84,345.00	(23,570.55)	72.05%
Total Expenses	\$ 369,731.24	\$ 597,666.00	\$ (228,857.49)	61.86%
Change in Net Assets	\$ 166,181.62	\$ 1,491.00	\$ 165,613.35	11145.65%