

**North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors
Association Business Meeting
September 17, 2024 – 2:00 p.m.
Cherokee Conf. 111 – Harrah’s Resort and Casino 777 Casino Drive, Cherokee NC**

Minutes

Meeting Called to Order – Quintana Stewart

President Quintana Stewart (Orange Co.) opened the meeting at 2:03pm. Quintana welcomed everyone to the meeting and to the Cherokee Resort.

Approval of Minutes – Wes Gray

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

Motion: Motion to approve was made by Dr. Rod Jenkins (Durham Co.) and seconded by Josh Swift (Forsyth Co.). No objections – minutes were approved by consensus.

Treasurer’s Report – Wes Gray

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

Motion: Motion to approve was made by Lillian Koontz (Davidson Co.) and seconded by Dr. Rod Jenkins. No objections – Treasurer’s Report was approved by consensus.

President’s Report – Quintana Stewart

President Stewart asked if there are any new or retiring health directors in the room today.

Hello everyone, I am Brian Ellerby, I was a health director from 1988-1992 and now I’m back home in my home county of Anson. Brian was welcomed back by all in the room.

Quintana asked if there were any retiring directors. Brian Ellerby commented that he could have already been retired if he had stayed in the position!

President Stewart reminded everyone that she had asked for a volunteer to serve on the Association of North Carolina Boards of Health. My friend Janet Clayton (Person Co.) has agreed to serve on the board.

Executive Director’s Report – Patrick Brown

Mother and baby are doing fine. I’m starting back to work on Monday and working through the first week of December and then taking off more time later in the year. As a reminder from last meeting, consider meeting with your legislators in the off season to continue building that relationship.

Pretty soon when I am back we will get out a survey to get us ready for the actual long session that starts in January.

NC DHHS Acting Division Director / State Health Officer – Dr. Kelly Kimple

Hey everyone – I’m excited to be out of Raleigh and join you all in Cherokee. Also, I’m here representing Dr Tilson. I have some updates to share with you about viral respiratory season. We released a press release today and if it is useful please use it to amplify. There was an article recently about high pediatric flu deaths this season so please let people know the importance of vaccinations. I want to highlight again our immunization coverage section dashboard.

The other thing I will mention – the new Office of Child Fatality Prevention works with local teams to get information out. County Commissioners have received information on that since they have a legislative role on those teams.

I sent out an email on Friday about a behavioral health plan release around efforts to transform that public behavioral health system. Some of you participate directly in care in their community and I thank you for that, and some do more upstream services. We want this one-time bolus into the system to really make long term sustainable changes.

Remember the ncpharmacyfinder.com. This shows the pharmacies participating in the over the counter pharmacy program. Spermicide and condoms are also now covered with a prescription.

Lastly, from the Medicaid front, the General Assembly did not fund the rebase. We are still working on that advocacy to get these budget items addressed because of the Healthy Opportunity Pilots, Transformation, Expansion, etc.

Lillian Koontz asked if any of the child fatality or protection teams have a way to let us know when any one else joins? Dr. Kimple said that others can reach out and they can help coordinate. Jen Green (App District) asked about the CMS Medicaid conversation – was there any talk of a potential benefit for justice involved persons? I think there was a request to CMS but I didn’t recall all the details (coverage in the waiver for 90 days before release from jails). Dr. Kimple will check.

President Stewart thanked Dr. Kimple.

NC DHHS Deputy Director / Section Chief, Local and Community Support, DPH - Stacie Saunders

This is the time of year when we introduce the new consolidated agreement. You will see the draft from now through October 10th. Please review and give us feedback and I will go over the changes and revisions at the October meeting. If everything looks great we can agree in October or I can come back in November with any changes for a vote. Some of the high-level details for this new agreement are:

- Small formatting and date and link changes.
- PH Nursing updates – clauses for June 30 2025 - all lead nurse admins will have developed a plan for the training piece. This will be removed from the new CA. Currently it says that “By Dec 2024, a statewide plan will be adopted”. Since this has already occurred it will go away.
- Updated language around care management and the companion guide.
- A slight change in language about changing May to Must in relations to firewalls and security standards.
- WIC – References to WIC have been changed to the full name (supplemental program ...).
- Reimbursement of PH nursing course charges.
- EH law changes. This language will not be in there yet since it just passed. It should be in the draft in October.

I will send out slides and a draft. Please submit feedback by October 10

DPH contracts office will conduct the final review and have the process completed by November.

On the new EH session law, here are some things to remember. The DPH Environmental Health Section sent out an email list to the EH supervisors last week. It provides some interpretations on what that law will mean. I will send out that email to the HD listserv.

From Doug Urland and his team – don't forget about PH WINS. 38 health departments have not responded yet to the PH WINS email. Doug has sent those HDs a reminder to fill out the survey. If you want the survey to go out to your department, reply to that survey by Sept 20.

AA 117 – remember that this is a new fiscal year – you still have to fill out your reports (finance and performance reports) even if you haven't spent any dollars yet.

Special thanks to Durham and Granville Vance for agreeing to host events at the end of the month to educate our partners at FRD (Fiscal Research Division). Lisa Macon Harrison mentioned that if anyone has anything they want them to mention let her know so they can advocate. One of the things I will definitely mention is that it is sometimes difficult to spend some of the funds quickly in some counties.

President Stewart thanked Stacie for her report.

Worksite Resources – Steve Worgan

Steve Worgan approached the podium to give an update.

We're doing great – thank you!!! (exits to laughter and applause).

(returns to podium) I am Steve and my son Matt is here – we are your partner in Med Mal coverage. We will have a booth all day here tomorrow and we are sponsoring the bowling alley event tonight. I want to also make you aware that Jones County is coming on board with the ancillary benefits.

We have sent between \$75-100K to your Association with the ancillary partnership. Many of you have been real advocates for us – you have been real advocates for this partnership.

You will see some info in your newsletter going forward on the med mal and ancillary standpoint. This evening, Eric from Amwinds will be here. Please introduce yourself to him this evening. Covaris – your insurance carrier will be sponsoring the event tonight.

If you are out here looking at ancillary benefits - we looked at a cyber policy and helped some clients cut their rates in half.

If there are any things you would like to see done differently, please reach out to us on ways we can improve.

Lastly – I have worked with a lot of folks like Wes Gray and Ashley Stoop for several years. One of the most recent proposal we made was for a county that had coverage from a company run by a state Senator that had pretty strong ties with their Board. If you want to step out of your comfort zone, you can really help your counties save some funds and also contribute to the Association.

Patrick Brown said that we run Innovations on a calendar year fiscal year. We wanted to be able to close Innovations by the midpoint of the health director year. This will have broke even in year one before we even finish the first year. This is an immediate benefit to the Association that is not going to take several years to start showing results. These results have been successful immediately. If you see a need for trainings or best practices please reach out. We know there is only so much you can do with your county leadership.

President Stewart thanked Steve and Matt.

Action Items and Workgroups

Janet, Jen, and Wes reported that Workforce, Funding, and Data/Performance Measures did not meet and had no report.

Communications – Bethany Milford mentioned a comms social later in the conference.

Nominations and Bylaws – Lillian Koontz

Huge thank you to those who helped edit those documents. I will get those sent out to you all before the end of the year. There are some significant changes to the bylaws and the manual of procedures. This helps us eliminate anything we no longer do as an Association.

Second – the nominations committee has done its job and reviewed nominations for the new slate of officers.

- Past President – Quinta Stewart
- President – Dr. Rod Jenkins
- President Elect - Jen Green
- Vice President - Wes Gray
- Recommendation for Secretary Treasurer is Josh Swift.

Education and Awards – Helene Edwards

Oct 15 is the second health director's orientation in Raleigh – location to be determined.

Region Reports

Lisa Macon Harrison gave a Region 4 update – we are looking at organization, structure, workforce, and function. Carl Johnson from UNC will be helping compile those and will get those out to everyone. This will not only help our CCPN friends understand you better.

Partner Updates

Alliance – Patrick Brown

We have finalized the strategic initiatives fund plan. This \$500,000 investment fund will go toward projects that advance public health. I will make announcements tomorrow at the conference. We are excited that this is ready to launch. The board made that first investment with the intent to invest more based on how this goes.

NCPHA – Dr. Rod Jenkins

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to Cherokee! This is the fulfillment of a 2-3-year idea of coming out farther west. Thank you to all the locals for coming east all of those years and we welcome everyone to the fall conference.

NACCHO – Lisa Harrison

NACCHO had a successful 360. Patrick said they had a great conference and record attendance and a lot of NC representation. Hugh Tilson Sr. won a legacy award. I will have a more active role with NACCHO over the next few years.

NC IPH – Rose Byrne

Margaret is back from parental leave. The accreditation team have finished drafting the updated standards and activities. These standards are more aligned with the Foundational Capabilities. Patrick said that he wanted to thank the health directors who served on that work group because that was a lot of work. Everyone thanked David Stone for helping shepherd that workgroup to reduce activities from 147 to 47. We had our FC team retreat here yesterday and we will continue to provide updates to everyone.

ANCBH – none

UNC School of Government – none

NC SOPHE – none

President Stewart asked if there were any other comments?

Lisa Macon Harrison said that Greg Allison at UNC helped with our audit and he gave us some excellent and impressive technical advice. Beyond Kirsten and Jill with legal, the School of Government has many free incredible experts that can help you with those questions.

Dr. Rod Jenkins added that Greg has been doing this and the Municipal and County course is really helpful Quintana agreed and recommended.

Adjourn

Motion: Dr. Rod Jenkins made a motion to adjourn. Lisa Macon Harrison seconded. No opposition. Meeting was adjourned at 2:56pm

Everyone have fun and don't lose too much money!

