

**North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors Meeting
January 15, 2026 – 8:30 a.m. (Breakfast Provided)
Alliance & NCPHI Membership Meetings/NCALHD Meeting
Foothills Higher Ed. Center, 2928 S. Sterling Street, Morganton NC**

Call to Order	Jen Greene
Approval of Minutes from December Meetings.....	Jennifer McCracken
Treasurer's/Financial Report	Jennifer McCracken
President's Report	Jen Greene
Executive Director's Report	Patrick Brown
Division of Public Health Director	Dr. Kelly Kimple
Deputy Director/Section Chief, Local and Community Support, DPH.....	Stacie Turpin Saunders
Medicaid Updates.....	Jay Ludlam

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.....	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: February 19, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.
Tentative - 1st Floor Training Room A&B, DHHS Headquarters, 1915 Health Services Way,
Raleigh**

**North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors
Business Meeting
December 29, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.
Virtual - Teams**

Rodney Jenkins made a motion to convene a special business meeting. The motion was seconded by Suzanne LeDoyen.

Past President Rodney Jenkins called the meeting to order

Janet Clayton made a motion to accept the proposed changes to AA452 and AA462 as presented. The motion was seconded by Joy Brock. The motion carried.

Stacie Turpin Saunders provided an overview of an error discovered in the funding formula for the new consolidated HIV AA. She detailed the changes to the funding formula based on the correction and requested reaffirmation that health directors still want to proceed with that consolidation and funding change option that was previously voted on.

Kristen Richmond-Hoover made a motion to revalidate the previous vote on the consolidated AA. The motion was seconded by Janet Clayton. The motion carried.

Patrick Brown shared his appreciation for Stacie's transparency with Health Directors, and urged her to not be so hard on herself when mistakes happen.

Janet Clayton made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Michael Zelek. The meeting was adjourned.

**North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors
Business Meeting
December 18, 2025 – 9:30 am
NCDHHS, Raleigh, NC**

Meeting Called to Order – Dr. Rod Jenkins

President Dr. Rod Jenkins (Durham Co.) opened the meeting at 9:31 am and thanked everyone for attending and appreciation for DHHS hosting us. A thank you to Stacie Saunders for helping us with the work to make us comfortable. Seasons greeting to everyone.

Approval of October 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 Janet Clayton (Person Co.). No objections – Treasurer's Report was approved by consensus.

President's Report – Dr. Rod Jenkins

Dr. Jenkins asked for new health directors and retirees. Dr. Green (Cumberland) stated that she is moving overseas for one year with her last day tomorrow and will be contracting with Cumberland County and supporting the Interim Health Director Heather Skeens with the hope to return after the year.

Rod thanked everyone for the chance to be the President of the Association and thanked the other officers for their support. He thanked Jennifer McCracken (Catawba Co.) for coming on board. Thank you to Quintana Stewart (Orange Co.) for her work and as an officer. Thanks to the Collaboration staff and Patrick Brown for their work this past year. Rod Jenkins thanked several Past Presidents and mentioned Dr. Jessie Williams the first Black President of the Association who advised and encouraged him throughout his term.

Executive Director Report – Patrick Brown

Updates:

- Next month's Association meeting will be in Morganton, and we are excited about going west. The goal is to keep the meeting accessible for those in the Western part of the state.

- Alliance Board meeting will be during the January Association meeting.
- Medicaid Cost Report – Steven Garner sent an email earlier this week asking for updated information. Quarter 4 has not been paid and is asking if Quarter 3 of FY25 has been paid and let him know.
- Care Management Contacts for each Region please send those in. Thanks to Region 4 for sending the first name.
- Thank you to Rod Jenkins for going to each Region. Visiting all 10 Regions in one year and running a health department is a herculean task.

Hurricane Helene After Action Report – Sandi Bridges

The After-Action Report addresses systemic matters that came up during the process. The report is not completed at this time but will be available soon. Ms. Bridges noted that they worked with a third party to complete the report. The team looked at each item and impact and effort to determine low-hanging fruit that could be addressed first. The plan has target timelines built in to allow flexibility.

Highlights:

- Improving communications contingency plan and plans for communications infrastructure breakdown.
- Formalize the Disaster Support Unit to serve as dedicated liaison.
- Response culture must be developed and clearly communicated.
- Develop and conduct planning exercises that include regional attendees from other parts of the state.
- Develop process to identify, recruit and integrate personnel from unaffected parts of state to support affected areas.
- Evaluate existing and response plans to verify that plans are scalable and can adjust and identify regional gaps.
- Develop a COOP plan within DPH.
- Socialize and update plans with all DPH sections on an annual or bi-annual basis.
- Develop a training and exercise plan for all staff within DPH that have or may have a role in future response activities.

Jen Greene (Appalachian District) mentioned being able to have access to vaccines and the Environmental Health challenges with a large number of private wells in Western North Carolina. Sandi Bridges mentioned that the plan was focused on large items and asked that persons send an email with these items.

David Jenkins (Henderson Co.) asked about Medically Fragile Shelters. Discussion in the room about sharing this with Preparedness Coordinators.

Division of Public Health – Dr. Kelly Kimple

Dr. Kimple mentioned that the AAR Helene report just reviewed would be sent to everyone very soon. She thanked Stacie for supporting and facilitating the Health Directors meetings.

- Flu activity has increased across the state. Respiratory communications toolkit has been sent out. Yesterday was the first pediatric death in NC.
- Measles exposure at RDU airport with unvaccinated persons.
- We are also seeing a lot of pertussis and varicella across the state and monitoring measles in South Carolina.
- ACIP meeting on December 4th and 5th – media swirl around Hepatitis B vaccine. We are highlighting that shared decision making is important and is covered through the VFC program. Dr. Kimple noted this creates a great deal of confusion with the public and has created a toolkit to assist providers.
- Lumbee Tribe will receive official designation and become the 575th designated Native American tribe.
- Rural Health Transformation grant proposal with over 420 stakeholders and that local public health continues to be lifted up and thanked everyone for the feedback submitted.
- Jonathan Kapler, Deputy Secretary DHHS, last day was this past Friday.
- BCCCP - Question asked by Lillian Koontz (Davidson Co.) about BCCCP funds becoming competitive. Stacie Saunders noted this would affect the AA for the upcoming fiscal year. Patrick noted this would need immediate attention to be ready for the rollout of the February AAs. Sharon Nelson (DPH) stated that language around the AA would be sent out today. Patrick noted that a virtual meeting to approve the language would come out next week.

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

Stacie Saunders gave or a shout out to Warren and Alamance counties for their employee wellness goals. Both have Self-Care goals as part of their annual performance evaluations.

State Lab - Scott Shone from the State Public Health Lab joined virtually to give an **ETOR update**. Last week all Laboratory Managers were emailed, and a training is scheduled on January 13th. A new message with additional details is being sent out. The onboarding and rollout will be a phased approach. NCID will be required and Dr. Shone asked that each LHD's NCID administrators assist local lab staff.

Title X Updates – Belinda Pettiford noted the 6% Title X reduction that reduced funding \$432,000 and DPH took \$70,000 of this cut along with \$13,000, which left a \$343,000 deficit. A stop work order for AA151 occurred so LHDs could draw down September and October funds. At that point 22 counties did not have enough funds to take the 6% cut. Seventy-five percent of Title X funds go to LHDs with 25% going to DPH. The reduction that would have gone to the 22 counties was absorbed and the other 62 counties absorbing a 6% reduction. The goal is the reduction be implemented by January 1st. There will be a 6% reduction in Title X for next year.

Federal Funding – Stacie mentioned the federal rules have changed around funding. New language notes that “funding can be changed if it does not meet the priority of the administration.” The last few months have been relatively calm but the whole funding cycle will begin in early 2026. We anticipate that Notice of Awards (NOAs) will be delayed and funding levels will be reduced.

Ryan Jury gave the following updates regarding funding – these types of discussions about public health funding started before the current Trump Administration. Any new grants require extra scrutiny, and current grants are reviewed. The rules for terminating grants have been revised to include termination if an award is no longer meets the program goals or agency priorities. Certain grants are no longer required to be funded. Each federal division is advised to spend the minimum amount. Funding as we have it is good through January 2026. DPH receives 50 grants with the most from March to September.

Going forward it will require flexibility along with gated funding. There are now more federal scrutiny and documentation required, which will require Smartsheets for all AAs. Overall, the future of federal funding is uncertain.

Updates from Stacie:

- Kerry Young CFPT is back in the office.
- Rule Review for 46 Rules has begun.
- PH Leaders Conference will be March 12th and 13th at the Embassy Suites.

DCFW Updates – Yvonne Copeland

Ms. Copeland provided the following updates:

- Financial Reporting will start in January 2026.
- Expects the same Federal funding challenges in 2026.
- Thank you to the Officers and to Rod Jenkins as President.
- She noted that the goal is for DCFW to work with the NCALHD when they have the opportunity and noted that sometimes they also learn things after the effect.

Work Groups

Partner Update – Patrick Brown

- None

PH Funding and Investments – Jen Greene

Jen Greene stated that recommendation to accept AA 575 changes along with Low Cap option on the spreadsheet. Motion passed.

Workforce Recruitment and Retention – Janet Clayton

Presentation and slides to come out.

PH Data and Performance Measures – Wes Gray

Dr. Erika Samhoff gave an update on the CDC Data Modernization Plan for infectious diseases. We are in the middle of this project with more updates to come. Amanda Blackwelder presented results of the Performance Measures Survey. The first set of measures will be – STD, Childhood Immunizations by age 2, and Family Planning metrics. A reminder to answer the survey went out on the listserv Tuesday to help the Institute of Public Health incorporate an AI question into their annual Foundational Capabilities survey that is planned for late February.

Communications – Bethany Milford

No updates or action items. Email to be sent with Public Health image library.

Nominations and Bylaws – Quintana Stewart

No updates.

Education and Awards – Helene Edwards (Rod Jenkins presented)

Award packets to be emailed this week with the due date February 2026.

Region Reports

- Region 3 – thank you for the Rabies Memo. The lead Health Department is where the bite victim resides.

District Health Department Update:

- Lisa Harrison mentioned planning that Districts are doing due to Federal funding uncertainty.

Health Director Open Discussion

No discussion.

Partner Reports

NCAPHA – Janet Clayton

Annual meeting in January that coincides with the Association meeting and an open Health Director position.

NCPHA – Rod Jenkins

The Governing Council and Executive Council met this week and expect advocacy around professional degrees and Hepatitis B Vaccinations. Patrick noted a focus on Tobacco 21 going forward.

NACCHO – Lisa Macon Harrison

No updates.

CETAC (Continuing Education and Training Advisory Committee) - Tonya Baldwin

Registration has begun for CETAC's upcoming biennial **Kelly Spangler Public Health Social Work Conference**. Beginning on Jan. 1, 2026, CETAC welcomes Dolly Clayton as the new CETAC Chair for 2026-2027!

NCIPH – Amy Joy

- **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](#).
 - **Are you interested in how AI is being used in LHDs across the state?** Vote [HERE](#) on whether you'd like NCIPH to include AI-related questions in the NC Foundational Capabilities Assessment.

- **The Annual Foundational Capabilities Assessment will launch in February!** Be on the lookout for promotional materials in January. Remember – if your LHD has sufficient participation, you will get **local** data back via the NCFC Dashboard in June 2026. Sign up for Dashboard access [HERE](#).
- **NC Local Health Department Accreditation**
 - Be on the lookout on January 2 for new 2026 accreditation documents to align with the new 45 activities! We will be posting updated operational guidelines and an approved draft of the new interpretation document which will go into effect starting with fall 2026 site visits. Links to all new materials will be included in our January Monthly Highlights newsletter.
 - Learn more about the upcoming accreditation transitions by registering for the Annual Update Webinar on Tuesday, January 27! We already have 58 LHDs registered. Help us reach all 86! More information will be in your NCALHD newsletter.

ANCBH – Merle Green

- Merle announced she will be on Medical Leave for two months starting January 1 and will be back March 1 and the contact person will be Karl Johnson.

NC-SOG – Jill Moore

- No updates

NC SOPHE – Rose Haddock

- NCSOPHE recently welcomed its new slate of officers during our last meeting of 2025. Our new president is Ashlyn Wadsworth, who is a health educator with Gaston County Health and Human Services department.

Installation of 2026 NCALHD Officers – Dr. Kelly Kimple led the Public Health Pledge.

Dr. Rod Jenkins – Past President

Jen Greene – President

Wes Gray – President-Elect

Joshua Swift – Vice President

Jennifer McCracken – Secretary/Treasurer

Adjourn

Motion: Meeting was adjourned at 11:57am.

North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors, Inc.
Statement of Financial Position
As of December 31, 2025

ASSETS

Bank Accounts (SECU)

Certificate of Deposit	40,000.00
Checking	470.42
Money Market	8,848.82
Savings	44.24

Total Bank Accounts (SECU)	\$ 49,363.48
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Bank Accounts (TowneBank)

Checking	108,135.12
Insured Cash Sweep	304,259.58
Money Market	250,567.95

Total Bank Accounts (TowneBank)	\$ 662,962.65
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Accounts Receivable	9,936.93
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Prepaid Expenses	1,894.70
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Investment in NCPHI	10,000.00
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TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 734,157.76
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LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	9,227.14
Deferred Revenue	39,761.46

Total Liabilities	\$ 48,988.60
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Equity

Temporarily Restricted Funds

Accreditation Fund	239,283.29
Legal Fund	59,886.40

Total Temporarily Restricted Funds	\$ 299,169.69
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Unrestricted Net Assets	159,844.46
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Change in Net Assets	226,155.01
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Total Equity	\$ 685,169.16
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 734,157.76
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North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors, Inc.
Statement of Activities - Budget vs Actual
July - December, 2025

	Actual	Budget	Amt over Budget	% of Budget
Revenue				
Accreditation Revenue	279,500.00	279,500.00	0.00	100.00%
Grant Revenue	40,897.50	50,000.00	(9,102.50)	81.80%
Interest/Dividend Income	9,196.79	30,000.00	(20,803.21)	30.66%
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	\$ 521,791.77	\$ 599,157.00	\$ (77,365.23)	87.09%
Expenses				
Accreditation Expense	128,853.99	279,500.00	(150,646.01)	46.10%
Administrative Services	37,500.00	75,000.00	(37,500.00)	50.00%
Awards	0.00	700.00	(700.00)	0.00%
Bank Charges	6.00	12.00	(6.00)	50.00%
Licenses	0.00	1,509.00	(1,509.00)	0.00%
Marketing/Sponsorships	272.73	500.00	(227.27)	54.55%
Meetings/Travel	10,082.09	12,000.00	(1,917.91)	84.02%
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	72,945.20	142,000.00	(69,054.80)	51.37%
Total Professional Services	\$ 72,945.20	\$ 144,000.00	\$ (71,054.80)	50.66%
Technology/Website	45,976.75	84,345.00	(38,368.25)	54.51%
Total Expenses	\$ 295,636.76	\$ 597,666.00	\$ (302,029.24)	49.47%
Change in Net Assets	\$ 226,155.01	\$ 1,491.00	\$ 224,664.01	15168.01%