

February 1, 2023 (Regular)

**BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
REGULAR MEETING**

The Burke County Board of Health met in a regular session on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 5:00p. The meeting was held in the Board Room located at 700 East Parker Road in Morganton, North Carolina. Members present were:

**PRESENT:** Isaac Crouch, Chairman  
Dr. Anthony Frank, Vice Chairman  
Barry Nelson  
Gwen Stephens  
Dr. Joel Welch  
Johnnie Carswell  
Dr. Laura Gratton  
Jessi Stout

**ABSENT:** Dr. Nicholas Thomas

**ALSO PRESENT:** Danny Scalise, Health Director  
Connie Freeman, Administrative Assistant  
Ashlyn Minton, Public Health Education Specialist  
Renee Holland, Notary Public

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Isaac Crouch called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

Chairman Crouch welcomed the new Board Member, Jessi Stout. Renee Holland, Notary Public, administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Stout.

At this time Renee Holland left the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Dr. Joel Welch made the motion to approve the agenda and it stands approved.

<b>RESULTS:</b> APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] <b>AYES:</b> Isaac Crouch, Dr. Anthony Frank, Gwen Stephens, Dr. Joel Welch, Johnnie Carswell, Jessi Stout, Dr. Laura Gratton. Barry Nelson
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**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Dr. Anthony Frank made the motion to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2022 Regular Meeting.

RESULTS: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]  
AYES: Isaac Crouch, Dr. Anthony Frank, Gwen Stephens, Dr. Joel Welch, Johnnie Carswell, Jessi Stout, Dr. Laura Gratton. Barry Nelson

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments

**PRESENTATION**

Ashlyn Minton gave an update on the NC Accreditation review that was conducted on January 11, 2023. She noted that Isaac Crouch, Dr. Anthony Frank and Barry Nelson were the BOH members that were interviewed. She reported the Site Visit Team was able to designate 133 activities out of 147 as met by the Burke County Health Department. It was also noted the BCHD requirement is to meet 136 of the 147 activities to be accredited. The state sent a report showing the areas that needed additional information to move from the 133 met items to the 136 required met items. In addition, she noted the site visit team recommends the Burke County Health Department for Conditional Accreditation until the 136 required activities are met. She then reviewed the Quality Improvement recommendations from the state site visitors.

Ms. Minton reported she continues to work on PHAB (Public Health Accreditation Board) for the national accreditation. She also reported that PHAB requires a statement from the Board approving our application.

The Board statement was reviewed and approved by the Board.

RESULTS: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]  
AYES: Isaac Crouch, Dr. Anthony Frank, Gwen Stephens, Dr. Joel Welch, Johnnie Carswell, Jessi Stout, Dr. Laura Gratton. Barry Nelson

At this time, Ms. Minton left the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No New Business to come before the Board

**BOARD DECISION**

- **Election of Officers:**

Dr. Anthony Frank made a motion to appoint Isaac Crouch as Chairman of the Board. There were no other nominations.

With no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Johnnie Carswell made a motion to appoint Dr. Anthony Frank as Vice Chairman of the Board. There were no other nominations.

With no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

**RESULTS:** APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]ed

**AYES:** Isaac Crouch, Dr. Anthony Frank, Gwen Stephens, Dr. Joel Welch, Johnnie Carswell, Jessi Stout, Dr. Laura Gratton, Barry Nelson

- **Public Statement Regarding the 1.03.23 BOC's Meeting:**

There was open discussion regarding a letter sent to the newspaper editor regarding a presentation made by one of the employees of the Burke County Health Department during a Board of Commissioners' meeting. The Board noted that showing support to the employee(s) is important and that each employee is to be treated with respect. It was decided that a general statement will be drafted by the Board Chairman supporting the Health Department staff. This statement will be read to the Board of Commissioners during the next scheduled meeting.

After discussion, the Board gave Chairman Crouch the authority to draw up a statement and send it to the Board members for review before presenting it to the Board of Commissioners.

- **Strategic Planning Session:**

The upcoming strategic planning session was reviewed and noted that it is scheduled for April 26-27. Mr. Scalise noted that Stephen Orton will facilitate the meeting. Mr. Orton comes from North Carolina Institute for Public Health/Gillings School of Global Public Health

## **POLICIES**

The following policies were presented to the Board for approval:

- Administrative Policies: 1) Community Education and Outreach; 2) Media and Communication; and 3) Purchasing.
- Environmental Health: 1) Cleaning Environmental Health Equipment

**RESULTS:** APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

**AYES:** Isaac Crouch, Dr. Anthony Frank, Gwen Stephens, Dr. Joel Welch, Johnnie Carswell, Jessi Stout, Dr. Laura Gratton, Barry Nelson

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Danny Scalise reviewed the year-to-date budget report with the Board. He discussed the Competency Survey with the Board and reviewed the responses and noted that the survey information can help us with the recruiting of new Board members. Mr. Scalise noted that he had attended the Taskforce Meeting for Senior Services.

He reported that Campbell University will have a small presence at UNC BlueRidge, this will help create a pipeline for providers in the area. The Health Department partnered with UNC BlueRidge and

Campbell University to conduct Health Fairs in the Burke County communities. The State Health Department contacted us about the Regional Dental Hygienist program and he noted that one of the hygienists lives in Burke County. She has an office at the Health Department and will be visiting the school systems as well as doing screenings at the Health Fairs. We have hired a Director of Nursing (DON), a WIC Director and we are currently looking for an Environmental Health Program Coordinator. Bobby Smith came onboard in December as the DON and Kristi Shuping will be onboard on February 6 as the WIC Director. He stated that we continue to recruit for nurses and at this time we will be using travel nurses to meet our current needs. We are working with Maxim Healthcare Staffing to help with the recruitment.

Mr. Scalise reported that he met with leaders at the County Jail to discuss their healthcare plan. He will work with jail administrator(s) and the Burke County Sheriff to update the 2023 healthcare plan. He then reported that Rep. Hugh Blackwell made an unexpected visit to the Health Department to discuss the nursing shortage and to tour the facility. He noted that Rep. Blackwell, Sen. Burgin, and Sec. Kinsley came to Morganton for the Burke Mental Health Town Hall Meeting on January 19.

He then reported that the Community Health Assessment (CHA) was approved by the Board of Health and then presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval. The CHA was approved by the BOCs and will now be sent to the state for review. Mr. Scalise noted that we have partnered with Olive Branch Ministry to help administer the Dogwood Grant opioid settlement funds.

#### COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Carswell reported on the second part of the opioid lawsuit settlement with Walmart and CVS. He noted the first lawsuit was for \$13M and this will be another \$12M in available funds. He reviewed the Burke County reevaluation of taxes and noted there would be an increase to offset inflation.

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Crouch adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Approved on April 5, 2023.



Isaac Crouch, Chairman  
Burke County Board of Health

ATTEST:



Danny F. Scalise II, MBA, MH, CPH, FACHE  
Public Health Director  
Burke County Health Department