

**Catawba County Board of Health
Minutes
April 13, 2026**

The Catawba County Board of Health met on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 7:00 pm at Catawba County Public Health, 3070 11th Ave Dr. SE, Hickory, NC 28602.

Members Present: Dr. Bruce Carlton, Chair
Ms. Rebecca McLeod, Vice-Chair
Mr. Austin Allran, County Commissioner
Ms. Susan Knowles
Dr. Eugene Modlin
Ms. Gina Powers
Dr. Steven Sanderson
Mr. Vidal Sipe
Mr. Shad Walters

Members Absent: Dr. Hannah Glenn
Ms. Janice Tice

Staff present: Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Health Director
Ms. Julie Byrd, Assistant Health Director
Ms. Tammy Fickling, Case Manager – CMHRP/CMARC
Ms. Melissa Kirkpatrick, Operations Administrator
Ms. Jennifer Lindsay, Health Services Manager
Ms. Dacy Shute, Community Engagement Specialist/PIO
Mr. Jeremy Stockton, WIC Director
Ms. Megen Thomas, Environmental Health Administrator *
Ms. Marianne Vogel, School Health Nursing Supervisor *
Ms. Elaine Yancey, Clinical Services Nurse Manager *
Ms. Debra A. Young, Administrative Assistant II

*Attended via Zoom meeting

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Dr. Bruce Carlton, Chair, called the Catawba County Public Health Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He welcomed Board members, Public Health managers, and staff.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES

Dr. Bruce Carlton, Chair, stated that Board members received the meeting agenda and the Board minutes for February 09, 2026, in the Board packet that the Board members received via email. Dr. Carlton asked if there were any changes to the agenda or corrections to the prior meeting Minutes. There being none, Dr. Carlton motioned to accept the agenda and previous meeting minutes as presented, and Dr. Steven Sanderson seconded the motion. The agenda and minutes were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Carlton asked if anyone had presented to speak before the Board. Ms. Debra Young, Administrative Assistant II, stated that no one had presented to speak to the board this evening.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Austin Allran, County Commissioner, gave an update from the recent Board of Commissioners meeting, stating that there will be an approved budget by the end of June for 2026-2027, along with an approved Strategic Plan for the county.

He also congratulated Ms. McCracken, who was nominated and awarded the title of Health Director of the Year in North Carolina.

Commissioner Allran announced that the Board of Commissioners recently presented Catawba County Public Health with the Public Health Month Proclamation for April.

A school merger meeting has been scheduled for April 20, 2026.

PUBLIC HEALTH MONTH PROCLAMATION

Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Health Director, read the Public Health Month Proclamation for the Board of Health. Dr. Bruce Carlton, Chair, signed the Proclamation.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION UPDATE

Ms. Melissa Kirkpatrick, Operations Administrator, presented the Board of Health with an overview of the NC Local Health Department Accreditation (NCLHDA) program. The purpose of accreditation is for health departments to perform core public health functions at an affirmed level of quality.

NCLHDA was initiated in 2002 by local health directors and became legislatively mandated in 2006. Catawba County Public Health (CCPH) received initial Accreditation status in 2008 and is currently accredited with honors through December 2027.

Ms. Kirkpatrick stated that there are four assessment domains for Accreditation: Administration and Management, Assessment, Policy Development, and Assurance. Ms. Kirkpatrick concluded her presentation by reviewing the accreditation process.

The presentation is attached to the minutes.

OPERATING PROCEDURE ANNUAL REVIEW

As a best practice and as required by State Accreditation standards, the Board of Health annually reviews the Board's Operating Procedures to ensure they are current and include all appropriate items.

The Nominations and Operating Procedure Subcommittee reviewed and approved the Operating Procedures on April 13, 2026. The Board was also provided with a draft copy of the document in

their Board packet. Dr. Carlton asked if there were any questions or considerations, and there being none, Dr. Steven Sanderson, Chair of the Nominations and Operating Procedures Subcommittee, recommended the adoption of the Operating Procedures as presented, with no revisions recommended. Dr. Carlton acknowledged that no motion was needed, given the subcommittee's recommendation, and asked for a vote by the board members to accept the Operating Procedures. The Board members voted unanimously to adopt the 2026-2027 Operating Procedures.

STATE OF THE COUNTY HEALTH REPORT

Ms. Jennifer Lindsay, Health Services Manager, updated the Board on the 2025 State of the County Health Report (SOTCH). She began with an update on the 2024-2027 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), noting that it has been a collaborative process involving many community members and partners. Ms. Lindsay reiterated what the CHIP is and reviewed the three 2024-2027 health priorities that were identified: (1) access to healthy food, (2) brain health, and (3) safe, engaging, and active spaces. Ms. Lindsay also reviewed the strategy priorities for each health priority and finished out the presentation with an update on emerging issues since the last Community Health Assessment.

Dr. Bruce Carlton, Chair, asked if there were any questions regarding the SOTCH as presented. There being no further discussions, Dr. Carlton motioned to accept the SOTCH update as presented. Ms. Rebecca McLeod seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved the SOTCH 2026 update.

The SOTCH and additional data are available on the Catawba County Public Health website. <https://www.catawbacountync.gov/county-services/public-health/news-publications/community-health-data/>

The Presentation slides are attached to the Minutes.

APPROVE 2026-2027 MEETING DATES

A slate of dates for the fiscal year 2026-2027 was presented as the meeting dates for the Catawba County Board of Health. The proposed bi-monthly meeting dates are as follows:

August 10, 2026
October 12, 2026
December 14, 2026
February 08, 2027
April 12, 2027
June 14, 2027

All meetings will begin at 7:00 pm in the Catawba County Public Health Boardroom. Dr. Bruce Carlton motioned to set the dates mentioned above for the fiscal year 2026-2027, and Dr. Modlin seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the 2026-2027 Meeting Dates as presented.

HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Health Director, stated she had several updates to report for the Health Director's report.

- North Carolina's Measles cases have remained steady at 24. Catawba County does not currently have anyone under quarantine for measles.
- Catawba County Public Health held its annual employee cookout and Employee of the Year recognition event in the first week of April.
- Catawba County Public Health has partnered with Social Services to apply for the Community Services Block Grant. This grant could become a recurring source of funds for the Community Health Worker program.
- Four supervisors from Catawba County Public Health completed their 10-hour OSHA General Industry Class in March.
- School Health Nurse, Holly Bennett, was selected for Hickory City Schools' Making a Difference Award.
- The REACH Crew Chief and Opioid SUD Program Coordinator recently spoke at the Connect Catawba session hosted by Catawba County Partnership for Children.
- Public Health held its annual Shining Star Luncheon for those employees who completed all 12 monthly safety questions in 2025.
- WIC partnered with the Catawba County Library to distribute Born to Read bags to parents of infants.

OTHER BUSINESS

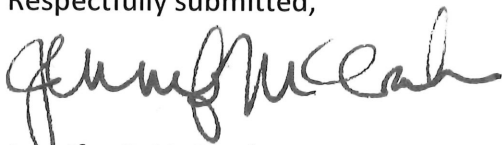
Ms. McCracken was formally recognized with a celebratory cake in honor of her selection as Health Director of the Year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Dr. Bruce Carlton motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Rebecca McLeod seconded the motion. Dr. Carlton adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

The next Board of Health meeting will be on June 08, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer F. McCracken
Secretary to the Board of Health
Health Director

JFM: day

Approved by the Board of Health: June 08, 2026