

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD  
OF HEALTH  
JUNE 16, 2026 --6:00 PM  
1235 RAMSEY STREET  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Cynthia McArthur-Kearney, Chair  
Mr. Bart Fiser, Vice-Chair  
Dr. Olusola Ojo, Pharmacist  
Dr. Kent Dean, Veterinarian  
Dr. Kingsley Momodu, Dentist  
Mrs. Cynthia Massie, General Public Representative  
Dr. Joseph Ballard, Optometrist

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. Jernecka Hamilton-Alexander, General Public Representative  
Dr. Nitin Desai, Physician  
Commissioner Veronica Jones

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Jennifer Green, Liason to SLT  
Mrs. Candice York, Business Officer  
Mrs. Kelly Smith, Administrative Assistant III  
Dr. Krystle Vinson, Nursing Director  
Mrs. Heather Skeens, Assistant County Manager, Acting Health Director  
Dr. Alba Ayala, Nursing Supervisor  
Ms. Tamra Morris, Deputy Health Director  
Ms. Sanquis Graham, Local Public Health Administrator

**WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Dr. Cynthia McArthur-Kearney welcomed all guests and called the meeting to order. Introductions were given. A moment of silence was taken.

**ACTION ITEMS**

A. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Dr. Olusola Ojo moved to approve the agenda

SECOND: Cynthia Massie

VOTE: Unanimous (7-0)

B. Approval of meeting minutes from May 19, 2026

MOTION: Dr. Kent Dean moved to approve the meeting minutes from May 19, 2026

SECOND: Dr. Olusola Ojo

VOTE: Unanimous (7-0)

C. Approval of Tobacco 21 Resolution

MOTION: Cynthia Massie moved to approve the Resolution on Tobacco 21

SECOND: Dr. Olusola Ojo

VOTE: Unanimous (7-0)

## **INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Public Comment:**

Dr. Cynthia McArthur-Kearney opened the floor for public comment at 6:12pm, and closed the floor at 6:13pm as there were no registered speakers.

### **Action Item C: Tobacco 21 Resolution -**

David Robertson discussed the Tobacco 21 resolution aimed at raising the legal age for tobacco purchase to 21 in North Carolina, aligning with federal guidelines. This is significant as NC is one of 6 states not yet compliant, and the resolution includes enforcement measures and youth advocacy support. The Board approved the resolution to move forward for broader support and implementation.

### **B. Financial Reports**

Candi York presented the financial report for the period ending May 31, 2026, highlighting revenues exceeding expenditures primarily due to Medicaid and maternal child health program payments. The report detailed revenues and expenses by program and payer source, showing overall financial health and budget adherence. Overall, revenues exceeded expenditures by approximately \$1.8 million. The financial report included detailed breakdowns by program, state and federal allocations, Medicaid revenue, fees, and fund balances. Accounts receivable and private pay balances were also reviewed, indicating effective financial management.

### **C. Communicable Disease Annual Update**

Dr. Alba Ayala provided an annual update on communicable diseases, noting an 18% decrease in overall cases from the previous year but a concerning 23% increase in HIV cases. The update covered trends in STIs, syphilis, hepatitis, tuberculosis, and vaccine-preventable diseases, emphasizing ongoing challenges such as funding, stigma, and access to care. Dr. Ayala highlighted a decrease in most STIs but a significant increase in HIV cases, particularly among African American men and women. The report noted challenges including funding cuts, staff turnover, stigma, and cultural and language barriers affecting disease control efforts. Efforts include provider education, outreach, and plans to establish a PrEP clinic to improve HIV prevention and treatment access. The department continues to monitor vaccine-preventable diseases and communicable disease outbreaks with ongoing public health interventions.

### **D. External Reports - Triple P Monitoring Report**

Dr. Green reported on the Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) site visit, noting no corrective actions and successful implementation despite staff turnover challenges. The program focuses on training and supporting providers to deliver positive parenting interventions effectively. The Triple P program received positive feedback from the state site visit with no corrective actions required. Staff turnover remains a challenge due to the unique nature of the program's training and evaluation roles. The program continues to onboard new providers and maintain quality implementation.

## **E. Director's Report**

### **Budget Challenges and Pilot Program Impacts -**

Dr. Green discussed the FY 26-27 budget challenges requiring over \$1 million in local funding cuts. Priority is maintaining mandated services, but three county-funded pilot programs (Connected Care, Uber Health, Healthy Conversations) face potential suspension. Efforts are underway to reassign staff to avoid job losses and seek alternative funding sources. Budget cuts target local dollars, sparing state and federal funds tied to mandates. Connected Care and Healthy Conversations programs have staff positions affected, with plans to reassign employees to vacant roles to preserve employment. Uber Health program partially funded by opioid settlement and federal funds, with plans to seek community foundation grants to sustain it. Leadership emphasizes maintaining employment and service continuity amid financial constraints.

### **School Health Telehealth Services Research**

The board reviewed research on school health telehealth services in peer counties, finding telehealth primarily used to connect students to primary care rather than replace school nurses. Contracts are typically between school districts and Atrium Health, with school nurses facilitating referrals. Telehealth does not fill gaps caused by nurse vacancies. Large counties use telehealth to connect students to primary care but not to substitute for school nurses. Contracts for telehealth services are between school districts and Atrium Health, not the health department. Consent and billing processes present challenges, especially for uninsured students. The board concluded telehealth does not address nurse shortages effectively and should focus on recruiting and retaining school health nurses.

### **Upcoming Board Meeting and Events**

Dr. Green outlined plans for the August board meeting, including policy reviews, workforce development plan updates, and strategic planning. Upcoming community events include provider lunch and learn sessions, health department brunch, immunization clinics, and the annual Fun and Sun wellness fair. August meeting will cover COVID-19, flu, RSV fees, policy updates, and board of health rules assessment. Provider Lunch and Learn focused on HIV and syphilis is scheduled for July. Immunization clinics and swag bag giveaways are underway for back-to-school season.

Fun and Sun event planned for September 19 to promote health and wellness in the community.

### **Membership Roster/Attendance Roster:**

Dr. Cynthia McArthur-Kearney asked the Board Members to review the attendance roster and let it be known if there were any errors.

Board Member Comments: None

As a reminder, the next regular meeting is Tuesday August 18, at 6pm.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION : Dr. Ojo moved to adjourn

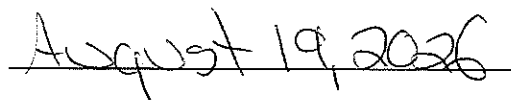
SECOND: Dr. Momodu

VOTE: (7-0)

The meeting was adourned at 7:11pm.

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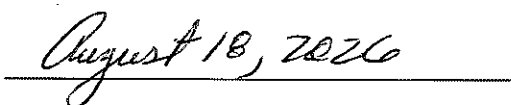
Heather Skeens, Acting Health Director

A handwritten date 'August 19, 2026' in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Date

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Dr. Cynthia McArthur-Kearney', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Cynthia McArthur-Kearney, Chair

A handwritten date 'August 18, 2026' in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Date