



FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
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**CUMBERLAND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
FORT BRAGG & CUMBERLAND COUNTY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL
AGENDA**

Monday April 6, 2026, 6:00-7:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Shannon Gettings, Healthcare Representative
Melissa Pennington, Do Not Work in Local Gov Representative
Beth Maynard, Cumberland County Schools
Kenny Bailey, Local Government
Clifton Johnson, Cumberland County Co-Chair
Roni Winston, Do Not Work in Local Gov Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Joyce Adams, Higher Education
Alexis McClain, Farming/Agriculture Representative
Shella Korch, Public Health Representative
Robert Elliott, Farming/Agriculture Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Tamra Morris, Deputy Health Director
LaToya Bell, WIC Outreach Coordinator
Sheena Butler, Public Health Educator Supervisor
Kyara Crocker, Public Health Educator I

Visitors:

Demi Tucker



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Item 1. Call Item 1. Order: *Dr. Clifton Johnson* welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Item 2. Action Items:

The meeting initially lacked a quorum, preventing approval of the agenda and minutes. After additional members joined, quorum was established. The council then approved the April agenda and March meeting minutes through proper motions and seconds, with no opposition. *Clifton Johnson* conducted attendance counts and noted the absence of quorum at meeting start. After more members joined, quorum was confirmed with seven members present. Roni Winston moved to approve the April agenda, seconded by Beth Maynard; the motion passed unanimously. Kenny Bailey moved to approve the March minutes, seconded by Shannon Gettings; the motion passed unanimously.

Item 3. Items for Discussion

WIC toolkit interviews- The toolkit is progressing well, with completed interviews and upcoming focus groups, aiming to meet deadlines and gather feedback on nutritional support within the community.

Legislative Updates/WIC/SNAP- *Tamra Morris, Deputy Health Director*

Key points included increased administrative costs not fully reimbursed, expanded SNAP work requirements effective December, and proposed budget cuts at the federal level impacting SNAP and WIC funding. The Modern WIC Act and potential expiration of virtual certification waivers were also discussed. These legislative changes have significant implications for program funding, participant eligibility, and service delivery.

- Tamra Morris reported on county legislative priorities focusing on strategic partnerships and funding allocations.
- She highlighted increased administrative costs for SNAP and Medicaid that are not fully reimbursed, impacting local agencies.
- Expanded SNAP work requirements and new non-citizen eligibility rules affect participant certification and recertification.
- The President's proposed FY27 budget includes substantial cuts to SNAP and WIC funding, including value-added benefits for fruits and vegetables.

The Modern WIC Act may provide future funding support, and virtual certification waivers are set to expire in October, prompting advocacy for continuation



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NC Rural Health Transformation Grant

The council discussed the NC Rural Health Transformation Grant, which aims to address health challenges including food insecurity through NC Roots hubs. These hubs focus on workforce development, partnerships, and nutrition access under the 'food is medicine' strategy. Funding will support infrastructure, training, and coordination but not direct meal provision. Two local hospital systems applied with council support, with awards expected by May 1 and program start in June.

- Tamra Morris explained the grant's focus on healthy foods, mental health, and workforce shortages.
- NC Roots hubs will coordinate non-medical drivers like nutrition education and electronic referral systems.
- Funding is allocated per Medicaid region, with \$1.4 million for food as medicine initiatives in the local region.
- The council provided letters of support to two hospital systems applying for the grant.
- Award notifications are expected by May 1, with contract negotiations in May and program launch in June.

Summer Feeding Program Report and Updates

A recent report on summer feeding programs revealed that North Carolina's ratio of summer lunches to national school lunch program averages is low, ranking 43rd nationally. The number of meal sponsors decreased slightly, while meal sites increased. Beth Maynard provided updates on local summer meal initiatives, including expansion of non-congregate meal delivery to rural areas and increased meal distribution. Challenges include funding, reimbursement rates and participation levels.

- Tamra Morris shared national data showing North Carolina's low summer lunch participation ratio.
- Beth Maynard clarified that 'sponsors' refers to agencies providing meals, not monetary donors.
- Beth detailed plans to expand home delivery and mobile meal distribution in rural areas for summer 2024.
- Reimbursement rates per meal are below actual costs, causing deficits for meal providers.

Last summer, over 120,000 meals were served locally, with continued efforts to increase access and participation.

Legislative Priority Group Discussion- *Dr. Clifton Johnson, Cumberland County Co-Chair*

- No changes to report.



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Item 4. Conclusion - Dr. Clifton Johnson, Cumberland County Co-Chair

a. Introduction of Visitors: Demi Tucker introduced herself as a new council member with a background in agriculture, food security, and food sovereignty. She recently moved back to the Fayetteville area and expressed enthusiasm about contributing to the council's work. The council welcomed her and noted that her membership has been officially processed.

- *Demi Tucker shared her professional background and interest in the council's mission.*
- *Tamra Morris confirmed that Demi's membership was processed by the county clerk.*
- *Council members welcomed Demi and expressed anticipation for her involvement.*

b. Public Comment: *No public comments were provided during the meeting.*

c. Announcements: Council members shared upcoming public health events and advisories. A pet vaccination and vector self-event is scheduled for April 18 at the county health department, offering low-cost vaccines and walk-in services. Members were also advised to monitor local disease exposure reports, such as measles cases in North Carolina, especially when traveling during spring break. These announcements aim to promote community health and safety.

- *Tamra Morris announced the April 18 pet vaccination and vector self-event with specific services and times.*
- *Dr. Clifton Johnson advised members to check North Carolina's disease exposure website before traveling to reduce health risks.*
- Information about available vaccines for school-age children and COVID-19 was provided. Walk-in services for STD testing and immunizations will be available during the event.

ADJOURN

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:
Monday, May 4, 2026, 6-7:30 pm
Virtual meeting on Webex