



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

Monday January 5, 2025, 6:00-7:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

*Shannon Gettings, Healthcare Representative
Roni Winston, Food Insecurity Representative
Melissa Pennington, Food Insecurity Beth
Maynard, Cumberland County Schools,
Kenny Bailey, Local Government Shella
Korch, Public Health Representative, Clifton
Johnson, Cumberland County Co-Chair*

MEMBERS ABSENT:

*Joyce Adams, Higher Education Alexis
McClain, Farming/Agriculture Representative
Robert Elliott, Farming/Agriculture
Representative*

STAFF PRESENT:

*Tamra Morris, Deputy Health Director
LaToya Bell, WIC Outreach Coordinator*

VISITORS:

Tia Castille-Moore, Nutritionist II/ Notetaker

Item 1. Call to Order:

Dr. Clifton Johnson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Item 2. Action Items:

A quorum was present to approve the January agenda, as well as the October, November, and December meeting minutes. A vote was held to keep the 2026 meeting schedule unchanged, with meetings continuing the first Monday of each month in a hybrid format, excluding July and September, while still allowing public comment.

Legislative Updates – WIC/SNAP *Tamra Morris, Deputy Health Director* reported that local legislative updates are scheduled to be reviewed with the leadership team and the federal advocate. She outlined the following proposed federal legislative priorities:

1. Full funding of the WIC program to ensure continued services for all current and eligible participants.
2. Permanent authorization of virtual service options, including certification by phone or video appointment, which have improved program accessibility and increased enrollment. These flexibilities are currently set to expire on September 30, 2026, without congressional action.
3. Increased investment in the WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program and the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program to enhance nutrition support for WIC families and provide economic support to local farmers and small vendors.
4. Continued support for USDA efforts to modernize WIC service delivery, including anticipated rulemaking related to online shopping.

Tamra Morris, Deputy Health Director clarified that these items represent proposed federal funding priorities. She noted that if these proposals are not enacted, WIC services will continue through existing federal and state funding, as well as locally allocated program funds.

Farmer's Market: It was reported that funding opportunities related to the Farmers Market Nutrition Program may be expanded to include agencies that were not previously eligible. As a result of this expansion, the agency may have the opportunity to apply for funding in the coming months.

If approved, local WIC participants would be able to use their benefits to purchase eligible foods at farmers markets, including markets outside the local area. Although there are currently no local farmers market authorized as a WIC vendor, participants could use benefits at approved markets in other locations. This expansion could also support future efforts to establish or authorize a local farmers market as a WIC vendor.

Additionally, a Go Live session for the Agricultural Business Assistance Program was announced. The county has created a Facebook event for this session, which is intended for eligible farmers and producers. The session will be held on Thursday, January 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The program offers up to \$50,000 in financial assistance for eligible for-profit agricultural businesses. Contact information is available for additional questions regarding the application process.



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Legislative Priority Group Discussion: In the absence of *Dr. Green, Tamra Morris, Deputy Health Director*, along with *Heather Skins, Assistant County Manager*, will attend local health directors' meetings. Information shared at these meetings typically aligns with legislative priorities or includes updates related to public health and health and human services programs at the local level.

Beth Maynard, Cumberland County Schools and *Shannon Gettings Healthcare Representative* made a motion to approve the proposed 2026 priorities as presented.

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

- a. Introduction of Visitors: *Tia Castille-Moore, Nutritionist II/ Notetaker*
- b. Public Comment No public comments were provided during the meeting.
- c. Announcements

ADJOURN

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:
Monday, February 2, 2026, 6-7:30 pm
Virtual meeting on Webex