



FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

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

Monday November 3, 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*

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

*Joyce Adams, Higher Education  
Shella Korch, Public Health Representative  
Alexis McClain, Farming/Agriculture Representative  
Kenny Bailey, Local Government  
Robert Elliott, Farming/Agriculture Representative*

**STAFF PRESENT:**

*Heather Skeens, Assistant County Manager  
Dr. Jennifer Green, Public Health Director  
Tamra Morris, Deputy Health Director  
Martina Sconiers-Talbert, AOIII  
LaToya Bell, WIC Outreach Coordinator  
Ashley Curtice, Toolkit Director*

**VISITORS:**

*Anne Smiley, Organizing Against Racism*

**Item 1. Call to Order:**

*Martina Sconiers Talbert welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.*

Due to the absence of many members *Beth Maynard* and *Shannon Gettings* agreed to adjust the November agenda for the night and skip the approval of October meeting meetings.



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## Item 2. Items for Discussion

### a. Food Insecurity Saturday Event Update

*Anne Smiley* provided an overview of the structure for the upcoming community event focused on food insecurity. The event will include a light breakfast, a guest speaker from Bread for the World, and three rotating tabletop sessions led by local organizations. Scribes will document participant stories for later transcription and submission to legislators along with advocacy postcards.

Confirmed or pending participating organizations include Public Health, DSS, Cumberland County Schools, WIC, Bread for the World, and local food pantries. The council discussed the importance of securing representation from military families. Event marketing includes flyer distribution, media outreach, social media posting, and notification of elected officials. *Roni Winston* will host an FPC information table.

### b. Board and Commission Orientation Update

*Martina Sconiers-Talbert*, shared with members that the county's upcoming orientation session is not required for the Food Policy Council at this time. Members will be invited to the next session following appointment cycles in early 2026. The council will continue using its internal orientation process for new members.

### c. Legislative Updates – SNAP, WIC, and Child Nutrition Programs

*Tamra Morris* provided an update on WIC and SNAP benefits.

WIC: Funding has been secured through the month of November, allowing all local sites to operate at full capacity. Redemption levels remain slightly elevated but stable.

---**SNAP:** USDA issued a temporary pause on November benefits due to the federal shutdown. Clarification is pending regarding potential partial distribution. DSS remains fully operational and continues to serve over 33,000 households.

---**Child Nutrition Programs:** School meal programs will continue through January using advance USDA funding and existing district reserves.

### d. Proposed Legislative Priorities for 2026

*Tamra Morris* presented recommended legislative priorities including full funding for major federal nutrition programs, restored SNAP funding, and full funding for WIC expansion efforts. Members requested a draft be posted to Basecamp for review. Additional discussion included creating a standalone priority focused on supporting local farmers.



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### **Item 3. Conclusion**

a. Introduction of Visitors

No visitors provided formal remarks during this meeting.

b. Public Comment

No public comments were provided during the meeting.

c. Announcements

*Beth Maynard* shared updates regarding school meal funding and noted that USDA has advanced funding allowing operations through January. Cumberland County received 18 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program grants for elementary schools.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING will be held in person on Monday, December 1, 2025, 6-7:30