



Public Health Authority of Cabarrus County
Board Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2025

A regular meeting of The Public Health Authority Board was held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Board members attended in-person at CHA.

Members Present: Lara Pons, MD, Chair
Mark Spitzer, Vice-Chair
Natasha Lipscomb
Amy Jewell
Kerry Dove
Cecilia Plez

Members Absent: Asha Rodriguez
Daryle Adams

Guest and Members of the Public: None

Staff Present: Erin Shoe, Rolanda Patrick, Mariah Kendrick, April Sloop, Cynthia Wise, Sue Yates, Alicia Primus, Tamara Lunsford-Key, Jamie Newman, Suzanne Sutton, Udoka Obiechefu

Call To Order

Chairperson Dr. Lara Pons called the meeting to order at 5:37pm.

Adoption of the Agenda

Chairperson Dr. Lara Pons requested a motion to adopt the agenda. Cecilia Plez moved. Kerry Dove seconded. Motion and approval carried unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

Chairperson Dr. Lara Pons requested a motion to approve the December Minutes. Natasha Lipscomb moved. Mark Spitzer seconded. Motion and approval carried unanimously.

Approval of Closed Minutes

Chairperson Dr. Lara Pons requested a motion to approve the December Closed Session Minutes. Cecilia Plez moved. Amy Jewell seconded.

Recognition

Chairperson Dr. Lara Pons introduced CHA staff member Cynthia Wise as the 2025 Recipient of *The Spirit of CHA Award*. Cynthia Wise is the first person to hold this honor.

Chairperson Dr. Lara Pons shared kind words of Cynthia's character, describing her as vibrant, giving, and well-deserving of the award.

Informal Public Comments

No public comments.

Reports

School Health Update

School Health Director, Tammy Alexander presented a School Health update.

- CHA celebrated the 25th year of a nurse in every school
- Nurses are no longer required to have certifications although we support and encourage the certification
- Expressed the importance and need for having a full-time nurse on every school site
- Works closely with Atrium Health in the Cabarrus Family Residency Program, and Lion's Club of Concord
- Collaborates with internal partners to provide immunizations to students and accommodations in schools
- The community expects to have a nurse in every school and recognizes the value of nurses

Tammy Alexander asked Board members to advocate for the school health program and continue to educate community members on the importance of nurses.

- Amy Jewell expressed appreciation for a nurse being on every site.
 - Tammy Alexander stated she enjoys the collaboration and is blessed to be a part of the initiative

Epidemiology 2024 Year End Review

Epidemiologist, Udoka Obiechefu presented the Epidemiology 2024 Year End Review.

- There are positive shifts in overdose data
- Overdose deaths went down by 31% from 2022 to 2023
- Opioid prescriptions are going down with an increase in illicit opioid overdoses
- Adult smoking has declined since 2021. Increased awareness of health issues associated with smoking have impacted the downward trend
- Access to food resulted in an increase in SNAP benefits. SNAP benefits were low in 2021
- Decline in food insecurity since 2021. Down by 10% in 2024 from 2023. Decrease in barriers, increase in access to stores such as Aldi and Dollar General
- Covid cases in the ER have decreased in 3 years due to vaccinators and preventative care
- Increase in Colorectal Cancer Screening cases in the last 5 years
- Mark Spitzer asked Udoka Obiechefu what is concerning for CHA regarding this data?
 - Udoka Obiechefu replied to chronic illnesses and tooth decay in children should be considered
- Natasha Lipscomb asked Udoka Obiechefu considering food security, SNAP benefits, and federal benefits may be impacted, what would that look like?

- Udoka Obiechefu stated it is difficult to forecast however it is best to plan the future and continue to utilize data

Communicable Disease Report 2023

Program Director of Communicable Disease & Adult Health, Tamara Lunsford-Key presented the Communicable Disease Report 2023.

- Reporting is clinical and non-clinical
- Data of trends is color coded for past and current trends. Data reflects NC & US numbers
- Increased illnesses in 2023 due to farms and international travel
 - Preventative care included: promotion of vaccines, how to properly clean poultry, and how to cook with eggs
- Malaria increased due to lift of restrictions
- Lyme disease testing changed. Outbreaks were mostly in nursing facilities and vulnerable care facilities
- There is a downward trend of Lyme disease in ages 15-28.
- HIV exposure concern includes:
 - Not using preventative care such as PrEP, routine testing, education to reduce new infections
 - Lack of understanding on how to use tools

Finance Committee Reports

Chief Finance Officer, Sue Yates presented the Finance Committee Report

- Financial Summary ending of the 6 months
 - Revenues are at a net positive of \$293,581
 - Medicaid cost settlement is estimated for 6 months and included as an accrual
- Snapshot
 - School Health revenue for expenses is received a month later
 - Community Impact revenue for expenses is received a month later
 - Dental Health cost study; \$1,759,224. Revenue has been added
 - Clinical Services will continue to be monitored as we invest in Adult Primary Care. Cost study and one quarter of direct payment has been added in; \$126,371
 - WIC will continue to be monitored as we invest in WIC. Revenues for expenses is received a month later
 - Support Services will continue to monitor Adult Primary Care
 - Financial Policies are reviewed by Leadership & Support Services

Consent Agenda

Sue Yates presented the Financial Policies. Policies are reviewed at least annually for accreditation purposes and revisions are made when necessary

- Subaward Policy; no changes
- NC Debt Setoff Procedures Policy; no changes
- Public Health Primary Care Services Debt Management Policy; no changes

- Reserve Policy; no changes
- Internal Control Policy; no changes
- Dental Clinic Debt Management Policy; no changes
- Public Health & Primary Care Services Eligibility Policy; minimal changes; reworded for better clarity; Updated Poverty Level Sliding Scale Fee
- Public Health Primary Care and Dental Services Billing Policy; minimal changes; updated wording around remaining balances after insurance is billed
- Credit Card Processing Policy; updated technology security wording

The reviewed/revised policies were discussed & approved at the Finance Committee meeting. Sue Yates presented the Budget Revisions

- Budget Revisions are being requested due to changes in revenues and expenses. These changes are due to either an increase or decrease in a funding source, new source of funding, or realignment and/or expenses:
 1. State Agreement Addendum; *Adolescent Parenting Program*. \$25,000
 2. State Agreement Addendum; *ARPA TSF Public Health Services*. \$50,000
 3. Department of Health and Human Services; *Elevate Grant*. \$53,438
 4. Department of Justice; *STOP Grant*. \$49,239
 5. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services; *Recovery Supportive Housing Grant*. \$19,277
 6. Child Fatality Case Reporting; *Child Fatality Case Reporting*. \$2,743
 7. Department of Justice; *PTS STOP Grant*. \$333,334
 8. The Department of Health and Human Services; *Drug Free Communities Grant*. \$44,550
 9. Partners Health Management; *Prevent Drug Overdose Grant*. \$6,631
 10. Cabarrus County Opioid Settlement Funds; *Vital Strategies*. \$17,157

Fiscal Year 2026 Meeting Schedule

Erin Shoe announced the Fiscal Year 2026 Meeting Schedule. The Board will not meet in the months of: July, September, February, April.

Announcements

Erin Shoe provided announcements on the status of federal funds being reviewed.

- CHA currently has seven (7) federal grants
- Staff are awaiting direction from Program Officers on whether grants will continue, cease, or if program plans will be altered

A motion for a closed session was proposed during the meeting, with Mark Spitzer making the first motion and Natasha Lipscomb providing the second. The board proceeded to discuss the matter further before moving into the closed session.

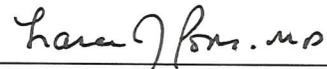
Motion to Adjourn

No further business to come before the Board.

Chairperson Dr. Lara Pons requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kerry Dove moved. Amy Jewell seconded the motion. Motion to adjourn carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04pm

The next meeting of the Board will be March 18, 2025, at 5:30pm



Chairperson Lara Pons, MD
Public Health Authority Board of Commissioners

ATTEST



Erin Shoe, MPH
Public Health Director

Minutes Taken by



Mariah Kendrick, Board Clerk / Governance Program Manager