



## Cabarrus Health Alliance Recognized with 2025 Local Health Department Achievement Award

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Kannapolis, N.C. – Cabarrus Health Alliance, September 22, 2025** – Cabarrus Health Alliance has been honored with the 2025 Local Health Department Achievement Award from the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation. The award was presented on September 17th during the North Carolina Public Health Association’s annual educational conference in Wilmington.

This recognition highlights CHA’s commitment to improving health and well-being through the management of care in its primary care clinic, which brings medical, dental, and behavioral health services together in a single, cohesive location. This approach allows patients to receive traditional medical visits, non-invasive dental treatments, and behavioral health support without ever leaving the clinic. By reducing barriers to treatment, CHA has enhanced patient care and improved access for children and families across Cabarrus County. In the past year alone, the Primary Care Clinic served: 632 dental patients (454 pediatric and 178 maternity) and 223 behavioral health pediatric patients last year.

Glaxo Smith Kline also recognized Sonja Bohannon Thacker, CHA’s Behavioral Health Director, as a finalist in the Public Health Staff category. Sonja’s leadership has driven the expansion of behavioral health services at CHA and throughout the community. Sonja’s long-term commitment to access to timely and cost-effective care was lifted as part of her nomination.

“Our public health team is committed to providing the best care to meet the needs of our community,” said Health Director Erin Shoe. “By integrating services, we not only enhance patient care but also value the patients’ time. We are also so proud to have Sonja recognized. Sonja truly represents the best of the best, and we are fortunate to grow and learn under her exceptional leadership in behavioral health.”

### [2025 Child Health Recognition Award Highlights](#)

Picture: From left to right: Melissa Chappell, Executive Director of the NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation, CHA staff members Sonja Bohannon Thacker, Nina Beech, Erin Shoe, Tamara Lunsford-Key, Erin Babbitt, and Kelly Kimple, MD, Director Division of PH, Chief Medical Officer, PH for NCDHHS



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**About Cabarrus Health Alliance:** Cabarrus Health Alliance is the public health authority of Cabarrus County. Cabarrus Health Alliance is an autonomous organization providing services and programs to meet public health needs. Cabarrus Health Alliance is a leader in public health and is nationally recognized for its innovation.

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

**April Sloop**

Public Information Officer / Communications Manager

**Cabarrus Health Alliance**

300 Mooresville Rd, Kannapolis, NC 28081

Office: 704-245-3668

Email: [April.Sloop@CabarrusHealth.org](mailto:April.Sloop@CabarrusHealth.org)



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