The Cleveland County Consolidated Human Services Board met on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Cleveland County Health & Social Services Building.

Board members present: Kale Meade, Robert Miller, Marty Hamrick, Christina Alexander, Paula Canipe, Mary Accor, Rick Dixon

Staff present: Tiffany Hansen, DeShay Oliver, Andrea Power, Rebecca Johnson, Sherry Vess, Anne Short, Lindsay Bralley, Chris Breese

County Attorney present: Logan Roberts

## CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Tiffany Hansen called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm and explained that both the Chair and Vice Chair were unable to attend the meeting. Due to their absence, a nomination was needed for a Chair Pro Tem to preside over this meeting only.

**Motion: Robert Miller made a nomination that Kale Meade to serve as Chair Pro Tem. The nomination was seconded by Marty Hamrick and the motion carried unanimously.**

## CITIZEN RECOGNITION:

No citizens were recognized.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 8, 2026, CONSOLIDATED HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING:

Chair Pro Tem Kale Meade presented the proposed agenda for the September 8, 2026, Consolidated Human Services Board meeting for consideration of adoption.

**Motion: A motion was made by Robert Miller with a second by Christina Alexander to adopt the agenda for September 8, 2026, Consolidated Human Services Board meeting as prepared. The motion carried unanimously.**

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR AUGUST 11, 2026, CONSOLIDATED HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING:

Chair Pro Tem Kale Meade presented the August 11, 2026, Consolidated Human Services Board Meeting Minutes for consideration of approval.

**Motion: A motion was made by Mary Accor with a second by Marty Hamrick to approve the August 11, 2026, Consolidated Human Services Board Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.**

**PHARMACY PRESENTATION:**

Kale Meade introduced Chris Breese with the Pharmacy Presentation. Chris began by explaining that the Health Department pharmacy serves all health department clinics, manages formulary system and incentive programs for County employees and provides pharmacy programs and services for residents County-wide. Some of the services that the Pharmacy offers are free Narcan that is available in our drive-thru with no prescription necessary, free Nicotine Replacement Therapy which can include patches, gum and lozenges, and free Over-the-Counter medications such as Ibuprofen, Acetaminophen, Allergy Relief, Nasal Spray, etc. while supplies last. Our AccessMeds Program is an affordable medication assistance program for low-income, uninsured, and underinsured individuals that are residents of Cleveland County. This requires a quick eligibility screening that will be sent in for approval through the program. If approved, you can receive a 30-day supply of medication for $5 and in some instances they will be free. The medications offered in this program are primarily generic, cost-effective, affordable and formulary based. Eligibility requirements include being a resident of Cleveland County, uninsured (can have NC Medicaid), underinsured & cannot afford prescription deductible or copayment, and a household income at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty level. The Medication Assistance Program (MAP) offers free medications through drug manufacturers and NC MedAssist. We have an in-house coordinator with a pharmacist that helps create an access plan. The MedAssist program can help with brand-name medications, diabetes medications (including insulin), heart medications, Asthma/COPD medications, and many other prescription medications. To apply, you must be an uninsured Cleveland County resident, low-income, experience a gap in coverage or prescribed expensive medications that you are unable to afford. These programs help improve health outcomes for County residents, help prevent avoidable healthcare costs, and fills gaps in medication access and coverage. Your support in spreading awareness and referring County residents is greatly appreciated. Together, we can help more residents access needed medications. Chris did ask if anyone had any questions about the Pharmacy and its programs. Mr. Miller asked if you must qualify to receive medications at no cost. Christ answered that there are income and household requirements along with being a Cleveland County resident. Mr. Miller also asked if we receive grants for medications or is it sponsored by the County. Chris explained that we do receive a grant that covers the salary for the programs coordinator, but for the medications we are a part of a group purchasing organization where we can purchase medications at a cheaper rate. Mary asked how this program could help those that are temporarily unemployed. Chris answered that the individual would complete the screening and once approved the person can usually receive free or reduced medications for a full calendar year. We do ask that the clients keep us updated with any income changes and household size.

**SCHOOL HEALTH PRESENTATION:**

Kale Meade introduced Lindsay Bralley with the School Health Presentation. Lindsay opened by reading the goal for school health which is “School health staff is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of our children, and thus the future of our community.” The school health team consists of 12 registered nurses that serve the Elementary, Intermediate, Turning Point Academy, Cleveland Early College and North Shelby Schools. We have 4 registered nurses

operating the 4 middle school health centers, 4 nurse practitioners that are in each of the high school health centers, 1 clerical support staff, 1 nursing supervisor and a medical director. We are very proud of the fact that we have 9 nurses on our team who are Nationally Certified School Nurses. We contract with Cleveland County Schools for services in serving the 28 school sites. School nurses provide assessments and screenings, communicable disease prevention, referrals and follow-up, case management of chronic health issues and health care plan development, education and training of both students and school staff, and support in Exceptional Children's Program and multi-tiered system of support collaboration. Cleveland County schools have approximately 14,500 students enrolled. During the 2025-2026 school year there were 31,359 nurse encounters with students. After being seen by the nurse, 26,617 students were returned to class, and only 1,742 were sent home. We did have thirty-six 911 calls. The total number of health conditions being treated has declined during the years 2025-2026 as we are no longer able to count asthma as a health condition. We have seen a steady up-tick for the need to have Emergency Action Plans for seizures in the middle and high schools over the past 5 years. School Health also performs dental screening at the elementary school across Cleveland County where we were able to identify the percent of students in each school with high needs for dental care and we were able to refer them for care either at their current dental practice or for treatment here at the Health Department Dental Clinic. We were able to screen 4813 students during the 2025-2026 school year and identified 752 children with high needs. We have started screenings for the 2026-2027 school year and have started identifying those with high needs as our mobile dental clinic has started its rotation at each of the elementary schools. The unit is currently located at Casar Elementary and plans to move to Jefferson elementary over the next couple of weeks. This unit will provide much-needed care to students in our elementary schools without having to leave the school or take parents away from work.

**LETTER OF SUPPORT-TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION GRANT:**

Kale Meade introduced Anne Short with the Letter of Support-Teen Pregnancy Prevention Grant. Anne began by explaining that in order to receive grant funds for the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program, our CHS Board must submit a letter of support for the program. The Health Department's proposal for funding builds upon our program's successes since our original funding in 2015. Our AP3 program uses the Rights, Respect, and Responsibility curriculum as the basis for instruction to 9$^{th}$ grade students enrolled in health/physical education classes in three Cleveland County High Schools. Upon parent consent, we served 563 students in the 25-26 school year with 85% of these students meeting the minimum attendance threshold of 75%. Our five health education staff members are trained in the delivery of this curriculum to ensure that this information is delivered with fidelity to students participating in this program. We are asking if the Board feels the importance to continue this work, that they approve the draft letter of support that has been presented to them.

**Motion: A motion was made by Robert Miller with a second by Mary Accor to approve the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (AP3) Letter of Support. The motion carried unanimously.**

**REVIEW OF BOARD OF HEALTH RULES & POLICIES:**

Kale Meade introduced DeShay Oliver with the Review of Board of Health Rules and Policies. DeShay explained that in order to maintain accreditation we are required to conduct assessments of the Board of Health rules and policies. This must contain all BOH rules currently in effect, a review of potential rules that may be needed to improve the health of the community, and a review of any BOH policies that may be needed. The BOH does not have to conduct the assessment, this can be done by the local health department. However, the BOH must review and discuss the assessment, and we must provide evidence of the BOH review and discussion of the assessment. Passage of local BOH rules may only address health-related matters that impact the public at large, applies throughout the County including within municipalities, not just police-power jurisdiction, can prohibit citizens from doing something (i.e. prohibit smoking in public places), can require citizens to do something (i.e. requirements beyond state standards for installation of a septic system). Addressing public health concerns includes animals, buildings and building regulations, minimum public health and safety standards, offenses and miscellaneous provisions, parks and recreation, and waste management. We also will need to review potential new rules that would consist of potential needs identified by public health topic as follows:

- Communicable Disease Prevention—None identified
- Environmental Health—None identified
- Food and Lodging—None identified
- Chronic Disease Prevention—None identified
- Tobacco, Nicotine, and Emerging Products
    - Section 6-3. Update definition of tobacco to include electronic nicotine delivery systems and smokeless tobacco.
    - Section 6-3. Revise language addressing tobacco use in county vehicles to not allow an exception for tobacco use if all vehicle occupants smoke and consent.
    - Section 7-29/30-Update ordinance to address tobacco use in public parks and recreation areas.

The next steps will be to take no action, request additional information, research or guidance, consider adoption of new BOH rules, or request Board of County Commissioners to consider revisions to ordinances. DeShay explained that we will be reviewing current Board of Health policies at our October meeting and will revisit the assessment of BOH rules and policies at that time. Policies that are up for review in October will include the following:

- Adjudication Policy
- Conflict of Interest
- Operating Procedures
- Orientation
- Participation in Community Health Improvement
- Policy on Policies
- Staff Training and Continuing Education
- Tobacco Free Campus Policy
- Workforce Diversity and Development
- Financial Eligibility and Fee Collection Policy

DeShay did open the discussion to the Board members for questions. Mary asked if BOH rules are new to Cleveland County. DeShay explained that it was previously addressed through ordinances. Mary also asked if there is a tool in place to help in accessing the feeling of employees for policies and procedures that are in place. Tiffany explained that we survey staff as part of our strategic plan every 4 years and annually as part of our quality improvement survey. Mr. Miller asked if we could send out information ahead of the next meeting to aid in clarity and decision making for the assessment of policies and DeShay answered that we would be able to do that.

**CCHD BUDGET AMENDMENTS:**

**ITEM NUMBER ONE:**

Cleveland County Health Department has received a one-time grant in the amount of $19,710.46 from Community Care of North Carolina, Inc. (CCNC). We request that these funds be budgeted in the Primary Care Department (550) and used towards patient engagement as well as expenses for our upcoming Healthy Habits community event.

**Motion: A motion to recommend the proposed CCHD budget amendments to the Board of Commissioners was made by Robert Miller and a second was made by Henry Gilmore. The motion carried unanimously.**

**DSS BUDGET AMENDMENTS:**

**ITEM NUMBER ONE:**

The John H Chafee Foster Care Independence Program provides funds to support eligible LINKS youth and young adults aged 14-21 in achieving self-sufficiency through support services and resources. Cleveland County has been awarded a one-time increase in Chafee funds of $15,000. We are requesting permission to budget this amount in Social Work (504) Department.

**ITEM NUMBER TWO:**

We are requesting to budget insurance proceeds from vehicle 1727 that was totaled in an accident. The insurance settlement was $6,213.31 and we are requesting permission to budget this amount in DSS Admin (506) Department.

**Motion: A motion to recommend the proposed DSS budget amendments to the Board of Commissioners was made by Robert Miller and a second was made by Mary Accor. The motion carried unanimously.**

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Kale Meade asked if there was any miscellaneous business that needed discussion. No miscellaneous business was discussed.

**ADJOURN: 7:18 PM**

There being no further business, Chair Karner called for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion: Marty Hamrick moved that the Cleveland County Consolidated Human Services Board meeting be adjourned and Robert Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Tiffany Hansen, Secretary
Cleveland County Consolidated Human Services Agency