

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MARCH 17, 2026, 6:00 PM  
1235 RAMSEY STREET  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Cynthia McArthur-Kearney, Registered Nurse, Chair  
Mr. Joseph Fiser, General Public Representative, Vice Chair  
Dr. Nitin Desai, Physician  
Dr. Joseph Ballard, Optometrist  
Dr. Olusola Ojo, Pharmacist  
Mrs. Jermecka Alexander, General Public Representative  
Ms. Cynthia Massie, General Public Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Kingsley Momodu, Dentist  
Dr. Kent Dean, Veterinarian  
Commissioner Vice Chair Woman Veronica Jones

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Jennifer Green, Consultant  
Mrs. Candice York, Business Officer  
Mrs. Kelly Smith, Administrative Assistant III  
Dr. Krystle Vinson, Nursing Director  
Dr. Lori Haigler, Medical Director  
Ms. Sanquis Graham, Local Public Health Administrator  
Ms. Tamra Morris, Deputy Health Director

**WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Dr. Cynthia McArthur-Kearney welcomed all guests and called the meeting to order. Introductions were given. A moment of silence was taken.

**ACTION ITEMS**

A. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Dr. Olusola Ojo moved to approve the Board of Health Meeting Agenda  
SECOND: Mr. Bart Fiser  
VOTE: Unanimous (7-0)

B. Approval of February 13, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Dr. Nitin Desai moved to approve the Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
SECOND: Dr. Olusola Ojo  
VOTE: Unanimous (7-0)

C. Approval of the FY2027 Budget

MOTION: Dr. Nitin Desai moved to approve the FY 2027 Budget

SECOND: Ms. Cynthia Massie

VOTE: Unanimous (7-0)

D. Approval of Letter of Support for CFV

MOTION: Dr. Nitin Desai moved to approve the letter of support for CFV

SECOND: Dr. Joseph Ballard

VOTE: Unanimous (7-0)

**INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Action Item C:**

Candi York presented the proposed budget for 2027 to the Board. Each member had the proposed Budget downloaded to their IPAD and it was displayed on screen. Mrs. York explained several variances in the Expenditures. Pharmacy had a decrease projected for vaccine expenses, specifically COVID vaccines. Immunizations had a decrease to vaccines purchased from Pharmacy, specifically COVID vaccines. Communicable Disease had a decrease in State allocation for Hepatitis services. Child fatality increased in state allocations. Adolescent Parenting was a reclassified position to Nurse Educator and transferred to Administration. WIC CIAO Grant - balance of grant received in FY26 will carry over to FY27. American Rescue Plan - projected balance of ARPA funds. Pregnancy Care Management expenses related to temporary case manager, funded by PCM fund balance. PH Infrastructure was projected balance of Federal allocations. The total Budget Request was for \$33,422,589. Dr. Desai moved to approve the budget with a second from Dr. Ballard and a unanimous vote.

**Action Item D:**

Mr. Bart Fiser presented a letter of support that Cape Fear Valley had requested for the purchase of advanced medical and training equipment for the Physician's residency program. The Board unanimously voted to support the writing of the letter.

**Public Comment**

Dr. McArthur-Kearney opened the floor for public comments at 6:20pm. There being no public comments registered, Dr. McArthur-Kearney closed the floor for public comment at 6:21pm.

### **Financial Reports:**

Mrs. York presented the monthly financial reports for the month ending February 28, 2026. The statement of Revenues and Expenditures exceeded in the amount of \$560,537.35 Expenditures by program was reviewed and overall are at 55.75% for the month ending February 28, 2026. Revenue by source was reviewed as well showing we have earned 57.43% as of the end of February 2026. Accounts receivables were reviewed by clinics as well as the private pay aging report ending February 28, 2026

### **External Reports WIC Audit and CAP:**

Dr. Green reviewed the report on WIC that was completed January 13-14, 2026. The report detailed program strengths, suggestions and findings. There were a few corrective actions which have already been submitted back to DHHS. They identified several strengths to include a strong focus on customer service. The agency's Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program is robust, and the agency is doing a great job promoting a breastfeeding -friendly clinic environment. Clinic staff have a good rapport with participants and make them feel welcome.

### **Director's Report:**

**Legislative Update:** Dr. Green started with saying that a Federal Judge in Massachusetts blocked the government from implementing all vaccine decisions made by the ACIP and by Health Secretary Kennedy Jr. in the last year. This also halted changes to the CDC childhood vaccine schedule that reduced the number of recommended vaccines as well as changes to birth doses for Hep B vaccines. This paused new members to the CDC ACIP committee, and changes to recommendations to the MMVR vaccine. **CMARC/CMHRP Update** - NCALHD, LHDs, and the PHPs have worked collaborative in the past 2 years to prepare new contracts between the LHDs and PHPs. The funding level PHPs receive to provide care management services from Medicaid/Division of health benefits is unclear. The PHPs cannot set the per month/month reimbursement rate for LHDs until they understand the overall budget from DHD. NCALHD and PHPs have met with DHB staff to urge clarity in the budget. Capitation rates are unknown; budgeting for flat funding. NCALHD and PHPs are also working to identify a new care management platform and develop uniform contract language. **Health and Human Services Consolidation:** On March 12th, the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners requested staff gather information about a possible reorganization of human service delivery by consolidating departments (e.g. Public Health and Social Services) into a Consolidated Human Services Agency (CHSA). This model allows counties to align programs and services across departments, such as Public Health and Social Services, to support coordinated services. The Commissioners directed the County Manager to bring back information in the next 30 days. What is human services consolidation? A 2012 North Carolina Session Law provided counties with new options regarding organization and governance of their human services functions (DSS and Public Health). Specifically, the law 1) Allowed any Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) in a county with a county manager appointed to combine two or more human services functions into a single consolidated human services agency (CHSA). 2) Allowed any BOCC to directly assume the powers and duties of one or more of the governing boards responsible for overseeing a local human services agency (i.e., the local board of health, county board of social services, or consolidated human services board). A consolidated agency could also be governed by a Consolidated Human Services (CHS) Governing Board appointed by the BOCC. The Board had a lengthy discussion and gave their opinions on the subject in which Dr. Green took notes to bring back to the County Manager. Dr. Nitin Desai made a motion for the Board to draft a letter of statement opposing the Consolidation. Cynthia Massie second the motion and it was passed unanimously by all 7 members present. Dr. McArthur-Kearney will start working on the Board statement this week. **SIM Taskforce Update:** Sanquis Graham gave an update on the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) which is a strategic framework for understanding how to divert individuals with mental health and substance use disorders away from the criminal justice system and into treatment or support services. Their emphasis is on Comprehensive Intercept Mapping, Resource and Gap analysis, Cross-system collaboration, Data-driven decision making, Community-based behavioral health services, Integration of Public Health and Public Safety Approaches.

The SIM Mapping workshop was conducted with funding from and to support grant requirements from the following funds: SAMHSA - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, First Responders - Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act Grant which supports overdose prevention training and naloxone distribution. BJA- Bureau of Justice Assistance and COSSUP - Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program, which focuses on establishing a SIM Taskforce, expansion of Law Enforcement Assisted Program (LEAD), and implementation of a Recovery Support Services Fund. Opioid Settlement Funds. A one-day SIM Mapping workshop was hosted on January 30, 2025 at the Health Department. The workshop included more than 50 participants from more than 40 cross-sector agencies. The participants identified current agencies/partners providing services and resources, including for youth and adults. They identified current gaps in resources and services. They identified opportunities for cross-collaboration within and across the SIM and prioritized a community action. The SIM report was released in Spring of 2025. Participating agencies included: 14th Judicial District Court, Cumberland County Clerk of Courts, CC DSS, Alliance Health, CC Community Paramedics, CC Public Health, CC Detention Center, CC Emergency Services, CC Justice Services, CC Re-Entry Council, CC School District, CC Sobriety Court, CC WORTH Court, Better Life Partners, Cape Fear Valley Mobile Integrated Health, Carolina Collaborative Community Care, Carolina Treatment Center, C-FORT Recovery Resource Center, Communicare, Costal Horizons, Cumberland County and Adult Drug Treatment Court. The SIM Taskforce meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 3pm at the Health Department. The SIM Taskforce and the existing Alliance Health Cumberland County Crisis Collaborative merged meetings to avoid duplicated meetings. Through shared decision making, we can collect relevant data to support a more informed and coordinated system. SIM Mapping identified key gaps and opportunities to strengthen community education, expand access to resources, and increase naloxone distribution. This year we supported 176 people and 15 organizations by strengthening connections and improving access to essential programs.

Membership Roster/Attendance Roster:

Dr. Cynthia McArthur-Kearney asked the Board Members to review the attendance roster and let Kelly know if there were any errors.

Board Member Comments: None

As a reminder, the next regular meeting is Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 6pm.

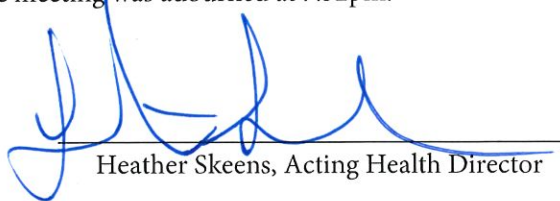
ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dr. Olusola Ojo moved to adjourn.

SECOND: Dr. Nitin Desai

VOTE: Unanimous (7-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm.

  
Heather Skeens, Acting Health Director

4-28-26  
Date

  
Dr. Cynthia McArthur-Kearney, Chair

April 21, 2026  
Date