

**Madison County Board of Health Meeting**

**Thursday, July 22, 2021 6:00 pm**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81092063187?pwd=bS8vMXN0dG9ReEY2WHhCQzkwak9TZz09>

**Members**

Dr. Robert Adams DDS, Chair  
Dr. Suzanne Sheldon, DVM  
Andrew Thomas, Public  
Crystal Webb, Public  
Larry Peek, Engineer  
Dr. Shannon Dowler, MD

Rachel Smith, RN, Vice Chair  
Matthew Wechtel, Commissioner  
Hanna Hardin, Pharmacist  
Diana Rogers, RN, Public  
Cheryl Conway, PhD, RN  
Dr. Melissa Robinson MD. Ex Officio

x Regular Meeting    o Special Meeting  
Absent:

Crystal Webb, Public

Hanna Hardin, Pharmacist

Dr. Shannon Dowler, MD

**I. Welcome and Call to Order**

Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

**II. Consent Agenda - Approval of**

- a. Agenda: Chair Adams asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Larry Peek made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and Rachel Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to approve. The agenda was approved unanimously.
- b. Board of Health Minutes, May 27, 2021: Chair Adams asked for a motion to approve the BOH minutes for May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021. It was noted that there was a typo in the budget section. It should say unanimously instead of anonymously. Typo will be corrected. Rachel Smith made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted change and Andrew Thomas 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**III. Public Input Session:**

Robert Steinglass, community member was present for the public input session. Five weeks ago, Mr Steinglass stated that he sent an unsolicited e-mail to a few Boards of Health members. In his e-mail he expressed concern about the Delta variant and felt that we would have an outbreak due to lax mask wearing, school reopening and low vaccination. In his e-mail he had hoped that a call to action be done with a reverse 911 call to the residences of Madison County. He also stated that he was introduced to Dr. Betsy Tilson Chief Medical Officer. He met with her and some of her staff to discuss the pandemic. His takeaway from that was that there are resources available to help with vaccines but it's up to each county to use the resources. Mr. Steinglass feels that we have an opportunity to amplify the call for action. He stated, "the Board of Health members are the experts in the county." He felt we need to be ready to increase our response. The BOH thanked Mr. Steinglass for his time and dedication to help our residents. The BOH does feel concerned about the delta variant.

**IV. Announcements:**

The Blackberry Festival will be this weekend and the Health Department will have a couple of staff there to administer Covid vaccines, and answer questions about vaccines and COVID. This is an outdoor event. Staff will have the ability to social distance while outside.

The back-to-school kickoff will be August 11<sup>th</sup> up at the Fairgrounds and we will be there as well to administer COVID vaccines and provide health education to our community. MSAC will also be doing a drug take back.

**V. Case Study:**

Dr. Robinson presented a case study on how the VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System) system works and her involvement.

It is important to note that adverse effects from the COVID vaccine are rare! >339 million doses in U.S. alone. Information is constantly collected from across the nation. It is not the responsibility of the provider to determine if the event was caused by the vaccine. It is their responsibility to document the event. Out of the 339 million doses given, it is possible that anaphylaxis has occurred in 2-5 people per million.

- Out of 13 million doses of J&J, 39 blood clots were reported post administration.
- No reports of death have been found to be directly related to vaccine other than through TTS.

Dr. Robinson has recently documented a case as a potential adverse reaction. Patient was seen at the hospital, but no specific diagnosis was made.

Dr. Robinson provided a brief update on the May case study patient. The uninsured young lady, who was seen at the MCHD and diagnosed with cervical cancer, had a total hysterectomy, She is expected to make a full recovery and be cancer free. Very thankful, the MCHD has this life saving program.

**VI. New Business**

- a. COVID-19 Update: Tammy presented the following update:

- MCHD has provided 80 COVID vaccines since July 12
- 41 new cases since July 12
- 105 COVID tested performed at MCHD since July 12
- 2 currently hospitalized
- Total county cumulative lab confirmed positives 1800, again noted that cases are always underreported.

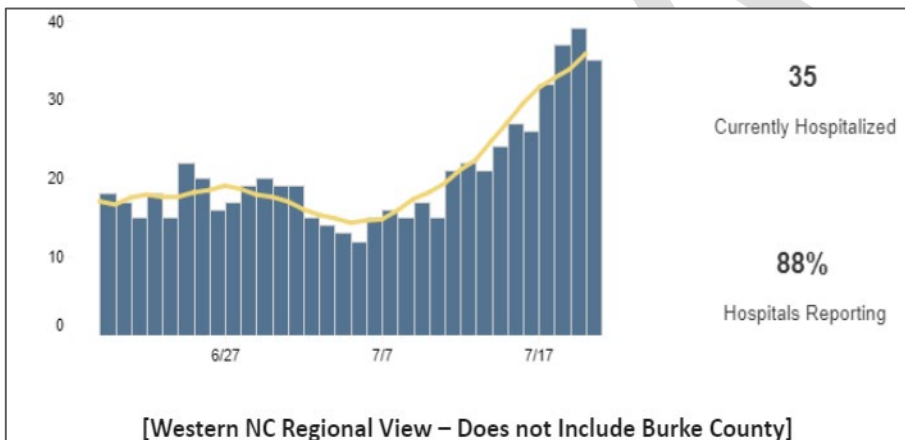
Carolina – 39th – 39.9% fully vaccinated  
 Tennessee – 43<sup>rd</sup> – 38.5% fully vaccinated  
 Georgia – 44th – 37.9% fully vaccinated

For comparison – Top 5 states and their vaccination rates:

Vermont – 1<sup>st</sup> – 67.0% fully vaccinated  
 Massachusetts – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 63.2% fully vaccinated  
 Maine – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 62.8% fully vaccinated  
 Connecticut – 4<sup>th</sup> – 62.4% fully vaccinated  
 Rhode Island – 5<sup>th</sup> – 60.5% fully vaccinated

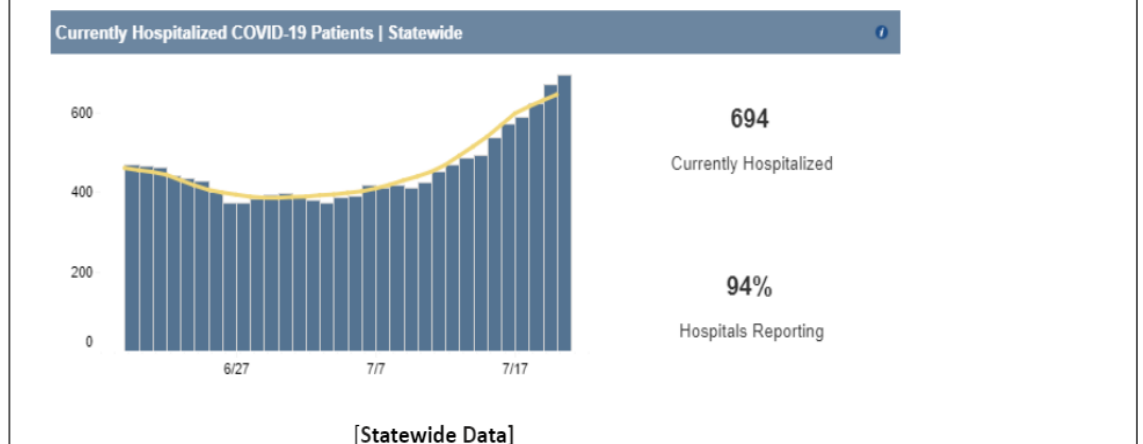
**WNC Vaccine Totals by County** \* as of 7/14/21 – includes Federal Pharmacy  
 Sorry if that addition is confusing – please let me know if you would like

County	1st dose	2nd dose	% of Population 1st	% of Population 2nd
Avery	9006	8388	51.30%	47.78%
Buncombe	174702	167631	66.89%	64.18%
Burke	40510	37929	44.77%	41.92%
Cherokee	11856	11203	41.44%	39.15%
Clay	4880	4711	43.45%	41.95%
Graham	3385	2980	40.10%	35.30%
Haywood	34996	33108	56.16%	53.13%
Henderson	65493	62660	55.78%	53.37%
Jackson	19429	18473	44.22%	42.04%
Macon	19186	18294	53.51%	51.02%
Madison	10943	10540	50.30%	48.45%
McDowell	20244	18921	44.24%	41.35%
Mitchell	6418	5975	42.89%	39.93%
Polk	9750	9178	47.05%	44.29%
Rutherford	25205	23365	37.60%	34.86%
Swain	5407	5045	37.89%	35.35%
Transylvania	18435	17766	53.61%	51.67%
Yancey	8071	7595	44.67%	42.03%
EBCI	6200	5626	54.00%	49.00%
<b>WNC Total</b>	<b>494,116</b>	<b>469,388</b>	<b>53.39%</b>	<b>50.72%</b>



**Hospitalizations and Deaths:** 2 new deaths in WNC since last week compared to 3 new deaths last week.

The number of people currently hospitalized across the state went up sharply this week from 487 to 694. Regionally, (County) hospitalizations went up from 21 to 35.



NC total COVID related deaths are currently 13,550 with a positivity rate of 7.9%.

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor and Dr. Cohen said school districts in NC should require masks indoors for all students and staff in elementary and middle schools, regardless of their vaccination status. Unvaccinated students and personnel at all schools should wear masks indoors as well. The American Academy of Pediatrics [released new guidance for schools](#) this week, recommending that everyone over the age of 2 wear masks, even if they are vaccinated. The Centers for buildings and Disease Control Prevention has said that unvaccinated students and staff should wear masks in school

- From ABC News 11 Raleigh, NC *U.S. life expectancy fell by a year and a half in 2020, the largest one-year decline since World War II. The decrease for both Black Americans and Hispanic Americans was even worse: three years. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released the calculations for 2020 early Wednesday. The drop is due mainly to the COVID-19 pandemic, which health officials say is responsible for close to 74% of the overall life expectancy decline.*
- *Houston Methodist Hospital, a major Texas hospital system, has reported its first case of the lambda COVID-19 variant, as the state reels from the rampant delta variant.*
- North Carolina is at 43.1% of total population fully vaccinated and remains ranked 36th on the US vaccine administration rankings this week (per GE Health – 7/21/21). For comparison, the US is 47.7% fully vaccinated. Here is how NC and our neighbors are stacking up the week of July 18, 2021:
  - Virginia – 13th – 53.6% fully vaccinated
  - N Carolina – 36th – 43.1% fully vaccinated

Board members discussed the above information. Dr. Sheldon stated that she would be willing to partner with us and do some smaller events to administer vaccines for our resident’s and their pets at the same time. Bring your pet and get a rabies vaccination and your COVID vaccine. She asked that the Health Department think about it and get back to her to discuss details.

Robin Wallin, DON also reported that we will be doing several events with Mars Hill University. Student athletes are scheduled to return several weeks before the other students. We will offer vaccinations opportunities on the campus, multiple times.

Communicable Disease Report: Robin Wallin presented the annual Communicable Disease report:

**Communicable Diseases Reported To N.C. Communicable Disease Control Branch 2020**

Diseases	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Hepatitis A	0	0	0	2	0
Campylobacter	10	17	10	6	7
E. Coli Shiga Toxin Producing	2	1	0	1	2
Lyme Disease	0	4/8	3	4	5
Rocky Mtn Spotted Fever	0	2/3	1	1	0
Salmonellosis	5	1	5	1	2
Listeriosis	0	0	0	0	1
Legionellosis	0	0	0	8	1
Streptococcal Invasive infection, Group A	0	1/2	1	1	0
Hepatitis B	1	2	0	0	0
Influenza Death over 18	0	3	3	1	1
Influenza Death under 18	0	0	0	0	1
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0	3	0	0
Hepatitis C Acute	0	2	3	2	0
Chlamydia	56	56	71	72	54*
Gonorrhea	4	16	16	18	22
Pertussis	3	1	5	1	0
Hib Invasive	1	2	3	0	0
LAC		1	0	0	0
Encephalitis					
Tuberculosis	0	1	1	0	0
Ehrlichiosis	0	2	0	0	1

**Communicable Disease Activities 2020**

1. Legionellosis case was in someone who worked in heating and air industry. Hospitalized but survived.
2. Listeriosis case hospitalized. Unknown etiology of case.
3. Hepatitis C Chronic cases for Madison County reported totaled 50. Down from 55 last year.

**Control Measures Implemented Year to Date 2021**

1. Hepatitis A case identified. Control measures instituted including prophylaxis of contacts, investigation of case and notification of provider for enhanced surveillance at facility. Additionally, facility cleaned with disinfectant.

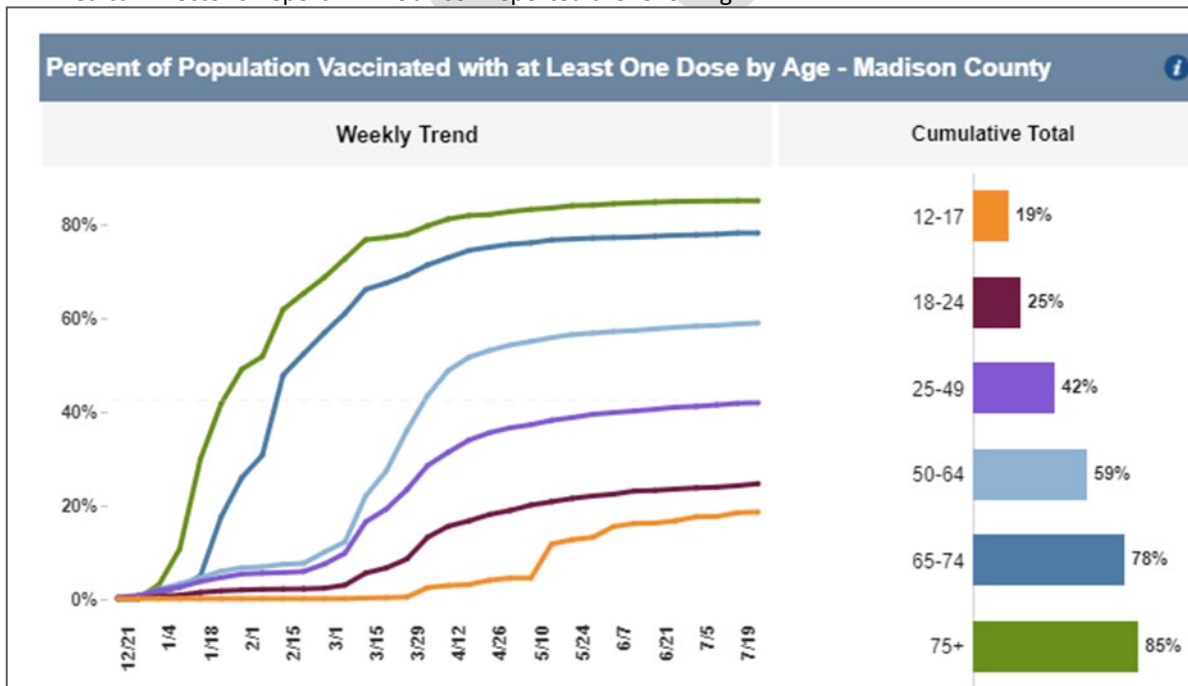
C. Health Department Plaque: Diana Rogers reported to the board members that she had been contacted by Jan Lonsbury concerning the move of the Health Department from a 50-year-old building to a more modern building. Dianna reports that Jan told her that it took 6 months of hard work and she would like to see this accomplishment noted in or on the building as an important moment in public health history for the Madison County residents. She asks that a plaque be installed recognizing the following people and stating the following: *In January 2007, the Madison County Health Department was moved to this location thru the efforts of the following people, Health Director: Janice Coates Lounsbury, RN; Chair County Commissioners: Vernon Ponder; County Manager: Ricky McDevitt; Board of Health Chair: Pat Franklin*

The board felt like they needed more information and would like for Diana to go back to Ms. Lonsbury and ask her how big she thought the plaque would be and if she had or could get some quotes for the cost?

Tammy also asked Kathy to take a picture of the plaque that was put in our dental clinic when the dental clinic opened, and Tammy would send the picture to everyone, when she sent the minutes.

**VII. Administrative Reports**

- a. Medical Director's Report: Dr. Robinson reported the following:



A few cases of breakthrough illness after COVID vaccination, all with mild symptoms.

MAT grant awarded

Pharmacy grant approved

AmeriCorps fellow starting with us

Participated in various meetings – MSAC, CCPT/CFPT

- a. Health Director's Report Tammy gave updates on the following topics:

- Staffing Report: WIC administrative assistant still vacant will start interviews soon, School RNs 5 hired, Temp admin positions worked well for last year, those positions ended July 1 with the start of a new year, BCCCP RN ha been hired and working out great, Doug McVey recently retired from Bun Co and is now working with us as Temp Part time with EH
- Staff Health Issues – Several of our staff have had health issues including surgery.

- Dr. Bendik Clark has completed his internship with us. He was a huge help.
- We continue providing COVID vaccine at the MCHD daily, as well as community events and homebound residents. This Sat, BlackBerry festival at Ebbs Chapel, Early August Mars Hill University, possibly the store heading to Hot Springs, Back to School Events including the Back-to-School Event (Previous events include Local School Staff event, Mars Hill University numerous events, Print Pac events for all shifts, Weekend Events, Evening Events, Middle School Events, High School and Early College Events, Spring Creek Events, Spill Corn Event)
- Regional Vaccine Meetings and swap shop
- Summer Vaccine Cash Card
- 93,000 Americans died from drug overdoses last year. This is up 30% from 2019. MAT Grants
- DPI and DHS meetings
- Continue to work with researcher from Georgetown University, Jessica Kritz. Jessica is a native of Madison County and is guiding us through a process of examining how we all responded to the Covid Pandemic.
- Routine WIC Audit
- Public Health Bills
- Downstairs EH workspace
- Playground work, Playnation came out and looked at the site, had a couple of suggestions. Contractor to start work in the near future.
- Pisgah Health Trust, Health Champions, group went to Givens Estate Gerber location for tour. Staff spent time talking with us about the program as we evaluate the possibility of a similar model for Madison County. County manager was unable to attend as originally planned due to a conflict.
- Hep B Program, awarded \$30,000
- WART and local paper interviews to provide updates and community health information
- Hep A
- Decedent Affairs, HCA
- EH Updates

b. Financial Reports: Tammy presented the financial updates:

**July 2021 Finance Report**

Total Revenue \$2,228,334.41 FY 2020/2021

\$2,033,381.00 FY 2019/2020

Difference \$194,953.41

Total Expense \$3,034,799.28 FY 2020/2021

\$2,935,162.16 FY 2019/2020

Difference of \$99,637.12

COVID AA Health 619	\$51,254.41
Dogwood Dental	\$22,376.73
CDC Vax Program AA 716	\$39,238.48
Temp Positions	\$16,880.50
CARES	\$171,000.44
COVID AA 539	\$20,509.17
COVID AA 11	\$24,149.69
Enhanced Detection AA	\$26,023.57
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$371,432.99</b>

## VIII. Other Business

### a. Health Director Performance Evaluation

Chair Adam's reminded the Board members that its nearing time for the Health Director's Performance evaluation. The board agreed that the evaluation should be done via Survey Monkey as has been the process for the last 6 years.

Dr. Robinson asked for a update on staff bonus: Chair Adams submitted a letter to the chair for the county commissioners regarding the need to expedite payment to the MCHD staff for the many hours of uncompensated time worked during the pandemic. These staff have worked tirelessly for the last 18 months and with the upcoming surge hitting again, this payment is essential. The letter was mailed. The commissioners have asked for data from a certain period. Mr. Wetchel shared the Commissioners are very supportive and appreciative of all the hard work. The

Commissioner's want whatever is decided, to be fair and equitable. Realizing that a precedence would be set. The Commissioners are wanting to come up with a blueprint that would work with all departments in the county. Dr. Sheldon asked when the Commissioners would have a plan in place. Mr. Wetchel reported that he was hoping within 30 to 60 days, the Commissioners would have a plan. Chair Adams asked if this did not work could the Commissioners give guidance on what will work. Mr. Wetchel reported that the county has a 1.3 million unfunded liability of comp time. Tammy reported that the Health Department has not had any issues with comp. The past 18 months have been usual, and all of this uncompensated time is directly related to the tremendous amount of new tasks related to the COVID pandemic. The Sheriff's Department is the bulk of the 1.3 million. Mr Wetchel stated that he and one another commissioner feel that its best to pay people when they earn the money. The BOH agrees that employees want to be paid and deserve to be paid when the time is worked and therefore this request should be expedited.

**IX . Adjournment**

The decision to meet in person or via Zoom will be made closer to the next meeting.

Chair Adams asked for a motion to adjourn. Rachel Smith made the motion to adjourn, and Andrew Thomas seconded the motion. Chair Adams adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM

**Next Meeting: September 23, 2021**

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