Madison County Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Thursday July 23, 2026

Members

Dyatt Smathers, Public, Chair
Jeremy Hensley, Commissioner
Cynthia Niles, Pharmacist
Jessica West, Public
Larry Peek, Engineer
Adam Bennett, DVM, Veterinarian
Robin Smith, Public
Shannon Dowler, MD
Nurse Melissa Sluder, BSN, RN
DDS - Vacant
Cheryl Conway, PhD, RN, Public, Vice Chair
Dr. Melissa Robinson, MD. Ex Officio

☒ **Regular Meeting** ☐ **Special Meeting**

Members Present

Dyatt Smathers, Public, Chair
Shannon Dowler, MD
Nurse Melissa Sluder, BSN, RN
Larry Peek, Engineer
Adam Bennett, DVM, Veterinarian
Robin Smith, Public
Cynthia Niles, Pharmacist
Jessica West, Public
Cheryl Conway, PhD, RN, Public, Vice Chair
Dr. Melissa Robinson, MD. Ex Officio

Staff in Attendance:

Tammy Cody, MHS Health Director
Wendy Owenby, RN Director of Nursing
Bradley Hodges, HR Director, Preparedness/Accreditation Coordinator

I. Welcome and Call to Order — Chair, Smathers — 3 min

Chair Dyatt Smathers call the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

II. Consent Agenda — Chair, Smathers — 5 min

a. **Agenda**

Dyatt Smathers suggested amending the Agenda by adding "c. Update on Subcommittee on Personnel" under New Business. There was a motion to approve the Agenda as amended by Larry Peek. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robinson. There was no further discussion. The Agenda was approved as amended unanimously by the Board of Health.

b. **Board of Health Minutes, May 28, 2026**

There was a motion to approve the Minutes by Dr. Shannon Dowler. The motion was seconded by Dr. Adam Bennett. There was no further discussion. The Minutes were approved unanimously by the Board of Health.

III. Public Input Session — Community

One community member signed up and spoke.

IV. Announcements — All

a. **OTC Event August 7th, 2026 9am-2pm Madison High School**
   i. **Need Volunteers on the 6th and 7th**
b. **Judicial Park Opening July 31**

V. New Business

a. **Communicable Disease Report** — Wendy Owenby, RN — 15min

Madison County communicable disease surveillance data show that Lyme disease remains the county's most frequently reported communicable disease, with 51 cases in FY 2025-26, followed

by Chlamydia (34 cases) and Chronic Hepatitis C (31 cases), while three-year trend data indicate a gradual increase in Hepatitis C and continued concern for sexually transmitted infections and tick-borne illnesses. Current public health priorities include Lyme disease prevention, early recognition and treatment of tick-borne diseases, and continued STI screening and outreach. In addition, national and state surveillance data report 4,173 cases of cyclosporiasis in the United States and 561 cases in North Carolina as of July 21, 2026, highlighting the importance of foodborne disease awareness and prevention.

b. **Rural Health Transformation** Dr. Shannon Dowler 15 min

Dr. Dowler provided an overview of Impact Health, the organization who was awarded the Region 1 Rural Health Transformation Funding by NC DHHS. A timeline of current actions was reviewed including receiving nominations for the Governing Body was reviewed. Impact Health is also interested in adding a Madison County resident as a board member since Madison is not currently represented on their board.

c. **Update on Subcommittee on Personnel** Dyatt Smathers 15 min

Had inaugural meeting last Monday with all members present. Discussed next steps and composed a seven-page vacancy posting. MCHD HR Director is vetting candidates through the state. Approved applicants will be forwarded to subcommittee. Tammy has offered to stay on and is willing to stay on for up to a month to help with a smooth transition with new Health Director.

VI. Administrative Reports

a. **Medical Director's Report** Dr. Melissa Robinson 15 min

Nurse Megan Ruckman has been hired to fill the FNP role and will be starting September 1. Providers collaborate with MAHEC. Gratitude expressed to Rachel Potter for 9 years of service in Specialty Clinics. Dr. Robinson spoke on the Hepatitis C program, the history of Hepatitis C, and current Hepatitis C treatment.

b. **Health Director's Report** Tammy Cody 15 min

There will be overlap with Dr. White and Nurse Ruckman that will be at no additional cost to the taxpayers of Madison County. MCHD is combining Office Based Opioid Treatment (OBOT) position with RN position and will be interviewing applicants very soon. We are still looking for a Environmental Health Specialist Director and a Contract Dental Hygienist. Budget was approved, providing cost of living and salary adjustments for staff. Numerous program audits have taken place and all passed without concern. Back to school bash is Aug 8th 11-2 at the new fairgrounds.

c. **Financial Reports** Tammy Cody 15 min

Revenue is 88.6% and expenses at 80%. There were no unexpected expenses or revenues of note in June. Tammy reviewed the approved budget. Tammy Reviewed expenditures and revenues.

VII. Other Business

Dr. Bennett joined the Spring Creek Community Center board and offered the business center there for classes to be taught.

Dyatt Smathers read the BOH Minutes Book from the mid 1900's. Dyatt shared some noted moments from the book with the BOH.

IX. Adjournment Chair Smathers

A motion to adjourn was made by Nurse Sluder. The motion was seconded by Dr. Adams. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved unanimously by the BOH. The meeting was adjourned at 7:11pm.

Next Meeting: September 24, 2026, at 6pm

Dyan F Smathers
Chair, Board of Health

Sept. 24, 2026
Date

Tammy Cody MHS
Health Director

Sept 24, 2026
Date