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NEWS

For Immediate Use

## XXXXXXXXXXXX Awarded Reaccreditation Designation

Eight health departments were awarded reaccreditation status by the North Carolina Local Health Department Accreditation (NCLHDA) Board on May 17, 2024. They are Caswell County Health Department, Forsyth County Department of Public Health, Madison County Health Department, Moore County Health Department, Northampton County Health Department, Onslow County Health Department, Randolph County Public Health, and Transylvania Public Health Department.

“We celebrate each health department who has newly completed a reaccreditation cycle. Reaccreditation is a quality improvement process that assures that agencies are continually assessing the needs of their communities and striving to provide their highest quality of service to meet these needs. It is a team effort that requires dedication from health department staff, Boards of Health members, site visitors, and Accreditation Board members. Each reaccredited agency has demonstrated their ability to maintain and/or exceed the standards established by the NCLHDA program, including throughout their COVID response. Congratulations!” comments Margaret Benson Nemitz, NC Local Health Department Accreditation Administrator.

Reaccreditation with Honors designation was awarded to four agencies – Madison County Health Department, Northampton County Health Department, Onslow County Health Department, and Randolph County Public Health. This honorary designation was implemented for the first time in Fall of 2017 to recognize agencies that especially excelled in their accreditation assessment by missing one or less activities within each of five standards set by the NCLHDA Program. The program is pleased to see that this special recognition was achieved by such a diverse group of local health departments.

North Carolina is the first state in the country to mandate accreditation for its local health departments. The purpose of the Accreditation Program is to assure a basic level of capacity and services in each of the local health departments across the state.

The process of reaccreditation includes three major components – a self-assessment completed by the agency, a site visit by a multidisciplinary team of peers to review performance standards, and determination of accreditation status by an independent Accreditation Board comprised of state and local public health officials, Board of Health members, County Commissioners, and at large members.

The NC Local Health Department Accreditation Program is a collaboration of the North Carolina Institute for Public Health (part of the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) and the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors.

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