



**North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors
Association Business Meeting
January 19, 2023
Minutes**

Patrick Brown, Executive Director, Welcomed the group and invited Dr. Kansagra to begin the installation of Officers for 2022.

Installation of 2022 NCALHD Officers –

Dr. Kansagra led installation of officers by leading the pledge. The following officers were installed:

- Lillian Koontz (Davidson) –President
- Quintana Stewart (Orange) –President Elect
- Rodney Jenkins (Durham) –Vice President
- Jen Greene (Appalachian) –Secretary/Treasurer
- Scott Harrelson (Craven) –Immediate Past President

Meeting Called To Order – Lillian Koontz

President Koontz (Davidson)*called the January NCALHD in-person meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. and welcomed all to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes – Lillian Koontz

Minutes were distributed with the packet via email. President Koontz entertained a motion for approval of the Minutes.

Motion: Motion was made by John Rouse (Harnett County) and seconded by Dennis Joyner (Union County). Joshua Swift (Forsyth) made a small technical correction recommendation to remove a repeat section in the minutes. With the changes, Mr. Rouse affirmed his motion, Mr. Joyner affirmed his second. President Koontz invited the group to vote to approve; No objections were made; Minutes were approved by vote of membership.

John Rouse –motion; correction shared by Joshua Swift (Forsyth). With the correction noted; 2nd by Dennis Joyner (Union); no further discussion; approved.

Treasurer’s/Financial Report – Lillian Koontz

The Treasurer’s/Financial Report was also included in the emailed packet. President Koontz entertained a motion to accept the Treasurer’s/Financial Report.

Motion: Motion was made by Jessica Wall (Yadkin) and seconded by David Howard (New Hanover). President Koontz welcomed a vote. All ayes. No objections were made; Treasurer’s/Financial Report was approved.

President’s Report – Lillian Koontz

Lillian gave thanks for Scott Harrelson’s leadership over the past year. He led as a convener and helping work through the new workgroup Wednesday structure. Lillian commented that she looks forward to working over the next year. She shared that the Association is in a growth period right now and that some of the membership feedback received about Workgroup Wednesday. She encouraged members to watch for more information as the goal is to make it easy for everyone to participate and be engaged.

She asked members to please reach out to Lillian if you have an interest in the opportunity to participate or taking on more of a leadership role.

EDITORIAL ADDITION: Lillian stated she had only been President for about 30 seconds, but she is already working to engage members! Shout out to the Health Directors who have already reached out before the meeting was over! Alyssa Harris (Rowan), Jennifer McCracken (Catawba), and Erin Shoe (Cabarrus), we see you. 😊

We know you've thought about it and MUST want to get involved. You have a passion for public health –that's why you are here. Contact for [Lillian Koontz](#) to tell her your interests about getting involved in the NCALHD.

She thanked Patrick Brown for his incredible start as our new Executive Director.

Lillian asked for introduction of any new health directors –Ashley Stoop introduced Janell Octigan as the new Health Director in Beaufort County with Jim Madson's retirement (Jim was bragging on her in 2022); Brittain Kenney was introduced as the Health Director for Gaston County by her predecessor/rockstar public health-er Steve Eaton. Kudos to Steve for taking on the leadership role of Gaston Health & Human Services!

David Howard announced his transition as Health Director from New Hanover to Brunswick County. Best wishes, David.

Erin Shoe introduced herself as the new Health Director of the Cabarrus Health Alliance. Erin has also been a terrific leader in her region for the ARPA Workforce project.

Cinnamon Narron with Wilson County introduced herself as the new Health Director in Wilson County. Cinnamon is no stranger to public health and took over with Teresa Ellen's retirement.

EDITORIAL ADDITION: Welcome to the newly named health directors! We are happy to have you in the public health family. I believe it has been said –find your people –get a mentor or a few–and watch out for environmental health, personnel, and politics.

Executive Director's Report – Patrick Brown

Patrick thanked Scott Harrelson, past president, for his leadership since hiring him and also thanked Lillian for her leadership. He echoed President Koontz's comments about engagement of the membership of the Association. He expressed his goal is to seek opportunities to have this association engaged across partnerships at the state level which could help the Association engage more across other stakeholders. He shared his interest in supporting the membership in being able to be connected, but also to be able to connect back with the Health Directors to also engage with opportunities for partnerships.

He commented on the ongoing development of the Workgroup Wednesdays. He shared his goal is to embed staff into workgroups so that the association staff can take on some additional roles to support the Workgroups. He shared thanks to NC DPH for their engagement in workgroups as well.

Patrick shared that the NCGA members were sworn in and there will be more information to come. He shared the ongoing connection and planning with lobbyists hired by the association. First and foremost, the funding for communicable disease continues to be top priority, along with other legislative priorities already voted on by the association.

He shared the connection with Care4Carolina –how much uncompensated care is provided by LHDs and there is an idea floated to provide an Op Ed around the reduced burden on uncompensated care from LHDs. Expect Patrick to be reaching out about data to work on this opportunity.

EDITORIAL ADDITION: [Care4Carolina](#) is doing great work to move the conversation forward to action for expanding Medicaid.

He asked for Health Directors to watch for a survey to collect additional input about how the association shares information with the members –to make sure there is a way to compile and be thoughtful about important information sharing.

EDITORIAL ADDITION: Thank you, Patrick. For realizing we hit our email consumption limit routinely. Bandwidth limits are real.

Patrick thanked NC DPH leadership for bringing in the Association into the workgroup planning for the new CDC Infrastructure funding. He shared that the NC DPH team has brought in representatives at the ground floor to provide opportunity for the Health Directors to be involved in this opportunity.

He commented about the ongoing involvement with leaders from the association on the Kate B Reynolds Charitable Trust grant.

Finally, Patrick shared another memorable story about Bill Smith.

EDITORIAL ADDITION: These minutes are a small attempt that will inadequately reflect the positive impact that Bill Smith had on NC public health, that of his role in Robeson County, or the many friends, family members, and colleagues. One thing this note taker is adding on reflection –he stood up for what he believed, he wasn't afraid to stand out and shake things up if it was for what's right, and he definitely kept the humor going. Must be why he was able to do so much in his tenure.

Year in Review Report 2022 – Scott Harrelson

President Koontz recognized Past President Scott Harrelson. He began by giving comments about Bill Smith –a soccer coach, Vietnam Veteran, and he shared his treasured mentorship received by Bill as well as multiple initiatives that Bill began –including being a founding memory for NCAPHA.

Scott shared that a lot of the projects began are going to continue, but one of the major changes this year including restructuring the membership meetings into Workgroup Wednesdays. He further commented about the ongoing work with Medicaid and PHPs to work through challenges with billing and Medicaid Cost Settlement. He shared his interest to continue working with NC DHHS leadership and PHPs and that there have been recognized improvements, though the work needs to continue. Scott also commented on the analysis being done by the NC Alliance staff under Steven Garner's leadership, for reviewing Medicaid claims reports and quarterly direct payments.

Scott mentioned the other work that the Workgroup Wednesdays have been working on including nursing, environmental health specialists, and more work to be done in social work professionals. He emphasized the importance of this workforce focused work.

Scott shared the importance of the Communicable Disease funding request. He commented on the work of retired Health Director, Jim Madson, about the work to quantify the cost of providing the services.

He thanked workgroup leaders for their involvement and leadership that has begun –including the work on communications, the public health data and performance measures group. He outlined the vision for creation of a performance dashboard that would provide statewide data by county.

Scott shared that he was thankful for the partnership with the NC Community Health Center Association to evaluate the Community Health Grants and explore funding opportunities.

He thanked his fellow officers for their shared leadership over the past year and gladly passed the gavel!

EDITORIAL ADDITION: In all seriousness, serving as President of the Association on top of leading in your health department is a big role. Scott did a terrific job helping advocate for important issues, implementing new initiatives driven by the executive leadership in regions and officers. He deserves major thanks for his role last year.

NC DHHS Assistant Secretary for Public Health – Dr. Susan Kansagra

President Koontz recognized Dr. Kansagra for her leadership. She thanked Scott Harrelson for his leadership over the past year and collaboration. She said she looked forward to working with Lillian and the officers next year. Dr. Kansagra shared her acknowledgement of Bill Smith. She commented that Bill was one of the first to win the Ron Levine Award, which he received in 2006.

She commented on her excitement to have Stacie Turpin Saunders on the DPH team. She encouraged the local health directors to know that Stacie is a great point of contact.

EDITORIAL ADDITION: Your contact for [Stacie Turpin Saunders](#) (Stacie, you can thank me later 😊)

Legislative Agenda for NC DHHS is still in process. She commented that DHHS will have close to \$400 million in asks and DHHS is being asked to cut that request to \$100 million as part of the Governor's Budget. She shared the challenges ahead in making very difficult decisions about what will be proposed. NC DPH has submitted requests relating to Vital Records, OCME, Communicable Disease (especially as COVID funding is spent out), and Environmental Health. She shared that fiscal research at

NCGA is being asked about spend down. She emphasized the importance of LHDs to review funding that is available and pending to be spent. She also shared the state team's desire to do the same.

Dr. Kansagra emphasized FEMA reimbursement will end soon and that supported state funding for vaccination sites, testing sites. She shared that there is still some COVID funding that will likely expire at 2024 and they would be working on tapering over the coming year. She expects the Federal Public Health Emergency may not be extended again at the end of March, 2023. This allowed for Medicaid ongoing coverage. She also shared that commercialization of vaccine is expected. She urged us to think about this in the future –likely to occur in the March-April timeframe –especially uninsured adults that will have gaps.

She shared that the FDA would be meeting later this month on the FDA to evaluate the current formulation and scheduled timing for COVID vaccinations.

She commented on Vital Records and DPH will be sending out a customer satisfaction survey to collect information. She shared that contractor support is being worked on to support staff and are working to seek funding to digitize more records which will add to efficiency. She asked Health Directors to watch for this survey.

She shared thanks from Dr. Tilson for the work on Healthy Opportunities Pilots and the linkages to NC CARE 360.

She commented on the work being done for the CDC Infrastructure grant planning for funding going out to local health departments.

Reminder that NC Public Health Leaders Conference is scheduled for March 16-18, 2023. She thanked Kim Dittman for her work with the team to plan the conference and said she hoped to see us there!

Deputy Director, Section Chief, Local & Community Support, DPH – Stacie Turpin Saunders

Stacie shared her treasured memory of Bill Smith.

Stacie encouraged HDs to reach out to her. She explained that there are several new health directors and interim health directors. She reminded the group that the NCGA 130A-40 that establishes min. qualifications as a local health director, including a master's degree in a field related to public health. She shared that if the LHD is under *or not* under OSHR, every HD must comply with the statute recruitment requirement. She shared that there will be an email coming with details. She mentioned that OSHR review should be retained locally to document meeting minimum requirements. Bottom line, please ensure the standard is met prior to hiring completion.

Any time there is a change in health director leadership, please notify Deputy Director's office of the LHD and contact information.

EDITORIAL ADDITION: Your contact for [Stacie Turpin Saunders](#) (added again for good measure)

INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS – from Work Groups

Partner Updates –Patrick Brown (Executive Director)

Dr. Carl Williams shared about rabies, Tim Davis around COVID testing Kiosks and targeted counties for locating these (See slides and contact Tim for more info); Yvonne Copeland shared DCFW will be sharing AAs soon; Terrie Snowden shared update about liability coverage and she recommended that Health Directors plan for 15% budget increase based on the insurance market.

EDITORIAL ADDITION: Okay, so read the slides, and as you are working on next FY budgets, pay attention to the potential increase in medical malpractice liability coverage if your health department utilizes the Snowden Company for this service.

Communications – Lisa Harrison (Granville-Vance)

Lisa shared the team reviewed the Charter for the group; she mentioned the NCIOM task force report. The primary announcement is that there is a plea from those doing communications that there is a space in NCPHA or upcoming PH Leaders. She welcomed anyone who wants to join to contact Lisa or Jessica Alexander, Communications Director to get added to the list.

EDITORIAL ADDITION: This is a great group. Please invite your Public Information Officer/Health Educator/person who creates your communications to join this group. Your contact for [Jessica Alexander](#) with NCAPHA and [Lisa Harrison](#) with GVPH

Emerging Issues – Iulia Vann (Guilford)

NC DAVE letter was reviewed again and final edits are being made by Patrick for review by the officers. She shared that the membership should watch for the letter coming next week.

She also shared there is some comments about potential legislative regulatory changes to EH for restaurant inspections that would allow for establishment to decline having an inspection, having notice to the visit, and changing the frequency of the visit. Mainly coming from the NC Association for Food and Lodging and Retail based on the information that some commented that there are reports of taking 5 hours+ inspection. She shared there is not a source of data to validate this broadly, but encouraged Health Directors to watch for outliers and why they may exist. She is keeping a running list to better understand why this could occur. She shared that Larry Michael and the DPH team was included in this conversation.

EDITORIAL ADDITION: Since we met, there has been a survey shared across the Environmental Health listserv to collect inspection data. Connect with your EH team to learn more and stay tuned for the next workgroup.

PH Funding and Investments – Jen Greene (Appalachian)

Did not meet.

PH Data and Performance Measures – Wes Gray (MTW)

Wes commented on the proposal received by i2i for performance metric data extraction project. The project will begin with the following LHDs: Craven County, MTW Health District, and Appalachian Health District, to start the pilot project end February and be able to launch in May, 2023.

Amanda Blackwelder was introduced as the new Data Manager. Her work will begin focused on the ongoing efforts of the workgroup to gather performance measures for Environmental Health, Communicable Disease, and collection of basic data around public health funding including sources of funds, total funds, etc.

The workgroup also reviewed the CD Funding one-pager ask for the NCGA which was also reviewed by the Communications workgroup.

PH Workforce – Janet Clayton (Person)

Did not meet.

Nominations and Bylaws – Scott Harrelson (Craven)

Did not meet. No announcements.

Education and Awards – Tracey Kornegay (Duplin)

Awards Luncheon today!

EDITORIAL ADDITION: Congratulations again to Wanda Robinson (Sampson County) who won Health Director of the Year! Wanda has had a major impact on her community and we got to hear about her accomplishments. It was fantastic to see her surprise and the pride in her staff's eyes when they saw her win. Kudos to Kim Smith for having a few good tricks up her sleeve!

😊

Region Reports

No regional updates.

Partner Reports

NCAPHA Report – Janet Clayton

Janet welcomed everyone to join the Alliance luncheon following this meeting.

EDITORIAL ADDITION: Thank you to the Alliance, on behalf of all of us, for sponsoring lunch.

NCPHA Report – Rod Jenkins

Rod invited the group to register for the upcoming Public Health Leaders Conference planned to begin March 16, 2023. Strategic planning retreat planned for NCPHA in Blowing Rock, NC soon

NACCHO – Lisa Harrison

Lisa reminded that the registration for annual conference is held July 10-13 and encouraged Health Directors to check with ARPA regional directors to see if this could be funded. She encouraged us to think about best practices being shared. Angel Calicutt shared that DPH would be speaking

NCIPH/SPH Update – John Wiesman

No report.

ANCBH/NALBOH – Merle Green

No report.

UNC-School of Government – Jill Moore

No report.

NC SOPHE – Ashley Rawlinson

No report.

Lillian thanked the group for sharing fond memories of Bill Smith, former Health Director of Robeson County. She shared the value of his historical knowledge. She opened the floor for the group to acknowledge Bill's contribution.

Angel Calicutt (DPH), Carolyn Moser (Pender) shared memories of Bill. These minutes for sure will not measure up to the ones that Bill created years ago. Future hospitality suites will feature more fun stories of Bill as we honor his legacy to NC Public Health.

Patrick shared the importance of spending the funds allocated for CD. He shared there will be a need to compile information about ideas for CD funding. He commented that work will continue with the Association lobbyists.

Closed Session

President Koontz invited the group to make a motion to enter into closed session. Rod Jenkins (Durham) made the motion to enter closed session; Janet Clayton (Person) seconded; All voted in favor to enter closed session.

Rod Jenkins (Durham) made a motion to enter open session. Lisa Harrison (Granville-Vance) seconded. All ayes.

Rod motioned of two actions: (1) we make no immediate changes to our current medical malpractice plans and continue with individual county decisions to renew as in previous years county's elected and (2) to authorize the association to start a new for-profit business entity under the NC Association of Local Health Directors, that could further evaluate business opportunities for NCALHD, and to authorize a start-up cost up to \$15,000. Seconded by Lisa Harrison. No further discussion. President Koontz called for a vote; 7 nays (Jessica Wall, Yadkin County, Rachel Willard, Wilkes County requested they be recorded as a dissenting vote); remaining group approved, motion carries to move forward as presented.

Next Meeting – February 16 at 9:30 a.m., DPH, Cardinal Room, 5605 Six Forks Road, Raleigh, NC

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted with editorial additions that did make this document longer, but hopefully more informative or entertaining to read.