



SAMPSON COUNTY

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Sampson County Health Department Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2026

Committee Members in Attendance:

Dr. Shane Sundlie, Yire Bueno, Russell Devane, Dr. Ted Thomas, Katrina Boykin, Dr. Cynthia Davis, Daniel Cumbo, Commissioner Lethia Lee, Brittany Serafini

Non-Committee Members in Attendance:

Wanda Robinson, Cherish Allen, Kelly Parrish, Kory Hair, Allen Vann, Tamra Jones

- I. Call to Order: Wanda Robinson called the meeting to order.
- II. Invocation: Dr. Theodore Thomas delivered the invocation.
- III. Induction of New Member: Dr. Theodore Thomas was sworn in by Cherish Allen.
- IV. Election for Chair: Russell Devane nominated Dr. Shane Sundlie for Chair, seconded by Dr. Cynthia Davis. All in favor.
- V. Election for Vice-Chair: Russell Devane nominated Daniel Cumbo for Vice Chair, seconded by Dr. Cynthia Davis. All in favor.
- VI. Approval of Minutes: November 17, 2025, meeting minutes: Motion to accept as written by Dr. Cynthia Davis, seconded by Yire Bueno. All in favor.
- VII. Environmental Health Update: The Food and Lodging section is responsible for inspections of regulated facilities across Sampson County, including restaurants, school lunch programs, institutional food services, food stands, nursing homes, residential care services, and public swimming pools. The current workload and staff information is as follows: facilities – 339, required inspections – 839 (to meet 100% state funding requirements), authorized staff – 3 Environmental Health Specialists. Kory reported that maintaining full inspection coverage remains essential to ensure compliance, protect public health, and maintain state funding levels. The Onsite Wastewater section oversees proper construction and use of sewage systems through soil evaluations, permitting, and system inspections. Current workload and staff information is as follows: Application Activity: December- 96 applications, January - 78 applications, February – 22 as of the 10th. There are 322 migrant labor camps and 52% of these must be evaluated between November and March. There was a new Expedited Permit service implemented on 07/01/2025 with 13 permits issued. This service generated \$6,500 in additional revenue. There are currently 2 Environmental Health Specialist in the Onsite department. The department will implement the following temporary operational adjustments: reassign one Food and Lodging staff member to assist with Onsite services until the vacant Environmental Health Specialist position is filled, redistribute Food and Lodging caseloads among remaining staff to provide coverage, Food and Lodging staff will assist with Migrant Housing

inspections, and staff will be in the field by 9:30 AM, daily, to maximize inspection productivity. In addition to these adjustments, the Expedited Permit service will be suspended until the departments turnaround time is 30 days or less, as it is approximately 45 days at this time. Kory reported that the Environmental Health Department is actively managing high inspection volumes (several new housing developments going up across the county) and seasonal workload demands despite staffing challenges. Cross training and temporary reassignment of personnel will help maintain regulatory compliance, meet state requirements, and continue providing public health protection for Sampson County Residents.

VIII. Measles Update: National and State Context

- The U.S. experienced the worst measles activity since 1991, with 49 outbreaks and 2,267 cases reported in 2025.
- Measles transmission has continued into 2026, with 588 confirmed cases nationwide by the end of January.
- North Carolina reported 15 confirmed measles cases between late December 2025 and January 30, 2026.
- The NC Division of Public Health is actively monitoring cases and maintains a measles dashboard updated twice weekly.

Measles Vaccination Requirements in North Carolina

- Measles are one of 12 diseases for which immunization is required by NC law.
- State law requires all children present in North Carolina to be immunized against measles (rubeola).
- The NC Commission for Public Health establishes the immunization schedule:
- Two doses of MMR vaccine are required:
 - First dose at 12–16 months
 - Second dose before school entry
- During an outbreak, early vaccination at 6–11 months may be recommended by NCDHHS (currently applicable to Buncombe County only); this is recommended, not required.

Exemptions Allowed Under State Law

- Medical Exemptions
- Granted when a licensed NC physician documents a medical contraindication, typically based on ACIP guidelines.
- Most contraindications are temporary and must include an expiration date.
- Religious Exemptions
- Allowed when a parent or guardian has a bona fide religious objection.
- Personal or philosophical objections do not qualify.
- Written documentation is required; the state does not provide a standard form.

School, Child Care, and College Attendance

- Proof of immunization or exemption is required for attendance at:
 - Schools
 - Childcare facilities
 - Colleges and universities (with limited exceptions)
- A 30-day grace period is allowed to submit documentation or complete required vaccines.

- Children and students without proof must be excluded from attendance after the grace period.

Public Health Implications

- Measles is highly contagious but vaccine preventable.
- Vaccination requirements are designed to prevent outbreaks, while communicable disease control laws allow for isolation and quarantine when cases occur.
- Public health response efforts include vaccination outreach and free walk-in clinics in some areas.

Bottom Line for the Board

- Measles transmission has reached North Carolina, but state immunization laws provide strong preventive tools.
- Vaccination remains the most effective measure to protect children, schools, and communities.
- Unvaccinated children may not attend school or childcare unless they have a documented medical or religious exemption.

Under North Carolina General Statute 130A-145, the Health Director has the authority to issue a quarantine order to individuals who have been exposed to measles, lack documented immunity, and did not receive post-exposure prophylaxis within 72 hours. Measles is a highly contagious airborne virus that can spread before symptoms appear. Symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes, and a rash. While many recover, serious complications such as pneumonia, encephalitis, pregnancy complications, and even death can occur. Individuals placed under quarantine must remain home for 21 days after their last exposure, avoid school, work, and public settings, and notify the health department if symptoms develop. They are instructed to call ahead before seeking medical care to prevent additional exposure in healthcare settings. Failure to comply with a quarantine order is enforceable under state law, although our primary goal is education, compliance, and protecting the health of our community.

- IX. Communicable Disease Report: The Communicable Disease (CD) Program oversees prevention, surveillance, investigation, and control of diseases in Sampson County, including general communicable diseases, tuberculosis, vaccine-preventable diseases, and sexually transmitted diseases. There are three registered nurses that handle disease surveillance, reporting, case investigation, and follow-up and coordinate with medical providers, laboratories, and the public. All activities conducted in accordance with guidance from the North Carolina Communicable Disease Branch, with required notifications made to state and local authorities as appropriate. The program uses the North Carolina Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NCEDSS) for reporting and case management. Monitored daily to ensure timely investigations and follow-up. This report also includes a COVID-19 update which is as follows: As of May 12, 2023, COVID-19 is no longer reportable under state law (10A NCAC 41A .0101). Providers and laboratories are not required to report individual cases or deaths. The Health Department continues investigating and reporting outbreaks under Rule 10A NCAC 41A .0103, consistent with other non-reportable respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses (influenza, RSV, norovirus). Report available for review.

X. Financial:

- a) Monthly Update: Tamra Jones reviewed the Activity Summary, Medicaid Revenues and the Local Revenues. Current revenues are lower than expected at this time in the fiscal year. No questions from the committee. Reports available for review.
- b) FISCAL Revenue/Expenditure Report: Tamra reviewed the year-to-date summary. No questions from the Committee. Reports available for review.
- c) CPT Code Update: It is requested that CPT Code 20612 (Aspiration and/or injection of a ganglion cyst(s) at \$78.64 and CPT Code 90471(Vaccine Administration Fee) at \$13.71 be added and updated. There were no recommendations or objections from the committee. The CPT Code updates will be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval.
- d) AA 403 – New WIC Funds - \$2,695: There were no recommendations or objections from the committee. The new funds will be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval.
- e) AA 452 – New BCCCP Funds - \$4,875: There were no recommendations or objections from the committee. The new funds will be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval.

XI. Health Directors Report: Wanda stated that two new staff have been hired in the Health Department; one foreign language interpreter and one PHN II. Currently the clinic is experiencing a nursing shortage as there are three nurses out on leave at the same time.

Wanda reviewed new process for board appointments. The County Commissioners will now take all recommendations into consideration; however, they may recommend and appointment someone of their choice. Ultimately, the decision is at the discretion of the Board of County Commissioners. This applies to new appointments and reappointments.

XII. Public Comment: No members from the public attended this meeting.

XIII. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the February 16, 2026, meeting was made by Russell Devane, seconded by Lethia Lee. All in favor.


Dr. Shane Sundlie, Chair Date


Wanda Robinson, Secretary Date