

A Regular Meeting of the Durham County Board of Health was held June 8, 2023, with the following members present:

Roger McDougal, DDS; Rosemary Jackson, MD; Mary Braithwaite, MD, MSPH; Commissioner Nida Allam; Josh Brown; Darryl Glover, OD; Anthony Gregorio, MBA; and James Miller, DVM

Excused Absence: Gene Rhea, PharmD, MHA; Victoria Orto, DNP, RN, NEA-BC

Others Present: Rod Jenkins, Rosalyn McClain, Attorney Wardell, Kristen Patterson, Liz Stevens, Micah Guindon, Rachel Elledge, Jim Harris, Lindsey Bickers-Brock, Dr. Jeff Jenks, Hattie Wood, Marcia Richardson, Marissa Mortiboy, Chris Salter, Josee Paul, Alecia Smith, Cheryl Scott, Patrick Eaton, Randy Rogers, Natalie Rich

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Roger McDougal called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. without a quorum present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

STAFF/PROGRAM RECOGNITION:

Mr. Jenkins recognized the following program/staff:

NC SAFE WEEK of ACTION

Monday, June 5, 2023

Joined Governor Cooper to recognize the launch of NC SAFE: Secure All Firearms Effectively. This is a campaign to encourage people to safely secure their firearms in their homes and vehicles.

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Attended a press conference in front of the courthouse with District Attorney Satana Deberry. Our Gun Safety team now known as the FIPP were their distributing gun locks.

The Durham County Department of Public Health Gun Safety Team was established in 1999 and has distributed over 30,000-gun locks and have helped and assisted thirteen different counties in North Carolina with establishing their gun safety teams.

Rachel Elledge, Nutrition Division Director

Ms. Elledge replaced Michele Easterling as the new Nutrition Division Director effective 5/30/2023. Rachael has more than 20 years of experience as a nutrition professional, much of which has been right here at DCoDPH. For the past 12 years, she has been successfully managing our Clinical Nutrition team, and this experience will serve her well as she transitions to leading the Division. Congratulations Rachel!

Hattie Wood, Nursing/Community Health Division Director

Ms. Wood will retire on June 30, 2023 with 42 years of nursing service with 25 years of dedicated service with Durham County Department of Public Health. A farewell celebration will be held on Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at 12noon in honor of her service.

Chair McDougal: I want to officially congratulate both Ms. Elledge and Ms. Wood on their respective new beginnings and again "Thank You" Ms. Wood for your tireless efforts over the years with the Durham County Department of Public Health. Thank you so much!

Chair McDougal recognized a quorum of the Durham County Board of Health at 5:15pm and the board voted on the following agenda items:

DISCUSSION (AND APPROVAL) OF ADJUSTMENTS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: There were no adjustments/additions to the agenda.

Dr. Braithwaite made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Gregorio seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved by the board members as identified in the attendance roster above.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING/ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL:

Dr. Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes for May 11, 2023. Dr. Braithwaite seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved by the board members as identified in the attendance roster above.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS:

Chair McDougal called for administrative reports/presentations:

FAST-TRACK CITIES OF DURHAM (*Activity 20.2*)

Randy Rogers, Health Education Specialist/EHE Navigator provided the board with an update on Durham County Fast Track Cities Partnership.

Summary Information:

Fast Track Cities is a global partnership between cities and municipalities around the world and four core partners with an overarching goal to end the HIV epidemic and HIV related stigma.

Highlights/Outcomes Fast Track Cities Durham (FTCD):

- The HIV Navigator has coordinated and facilitated 4 productive FTCD Advisory Board meetings to date.
- FTCD Dashboard has been updated to include HIV data and HIV treatment and prevention resources.
- The HIV Navigator was invited to represent Durham as a panelist at the Fast Track Cities International Conference (October) 2022.
- The HIV Navigator curated the county wide World AIDS Day 2022 virtual event and received a proclamation from the City of Durham.
- The HIV Navigator served as a panelist during the Durham National Dialogue on The Intersection of Racism and HIV as a Public Health Crisis webinar (April 2023).
- FTCD will launch a marketing campaign to increase the level of SM engagement and dissemination of initiative aims.

(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation is attached to the minutes.)

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

Chair McDougal: I did have a question but first let me thank you for your presentation. I found it to be quite informative. In regard to the three objectives of 95% can you explain a situation in my mind I'm thinking that once Fast Track Cities of Durham knows that a person is living with HIV; I would think that the person would know that first so give me a situation where Fast Track Cities of Durham knows that a person is living with HIV but the person doesn't know their status.

Mr. Rogers: That's an excellent question so given the role that I am in I would not necessarily know that. The Disease Intervention Specialist or the HIV counselor who actually received the test results would make sure that individual tested positive would get those results and so what the hope is if a person test positive, the individual who actually performed the testing would directly connect with them or The Disease Intervention Specialist would become involved with trying to get in contact with them if that information is directly reported to the state of course. In my particular role I work more with the stigmatic components of looking at

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the data being tracked but I don't actually interface directly with our consumers or patients who are newly diagnosed. Is that helpful?

Chair McDougal: Yes. I can imagine that perhaps there might be a patient that comes in for testing, the results come back and they don't come back to receive the results so that might be a situation to where Fast Track is aware of their status but they are not. I was just curious.

Mr. Rogers: Yes, you are correct. The information would be captured from a tracking standpoint however, it can be some challenges depending upon where those individual live and you're really touching on something a little bit deeper so hopefully there will be another time to discuss what some of those challenges and barriers are in terms of why individuals are not accessible or following up to receive their actually test result. I appreciate your question.

Chair McDougal: Thank you for your response.

ON-SITE WATER PROTECTION SEPTIC REPAIR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (Activity 14.1 & 14.2)

Patrick Eaton, Health Education Specialist/EHE Navigator provided the board with an update on the emerging issues due to increased septic system failure rates that will result in increased enforcement actions. The presentation includes a recommendation to the BOCC to establish a program to provide assistance to owners of malfunctioning septic systems that are in need of repair, replacement, or connection to municipal sewer.

Summary Information:

Areas of Durham County outside of the corporate limits of the City of Durham are almost exclusively served by septic systems. Many of these systems have exceeded or will soon exceed their expected service life. Replacement septic systems can cost homeowners in excess of \$20,000. Many homeowners lack these resources and as residential developments from the 1970's and 1980's increase in age the incidence of septic malfunction will increase. Other jurisdictions in the United States and in North Carolina have addressed this issue through innovative programs that offer grants, no-interest, or low-interest loans to septic system owners. These programs aid in abating the public health hazard, avoiding property abandonment, or eviction via court order.

(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation is attached to the minutes.)

Dr. Jackson made a motion to move forward with a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to propose/establish a program to provide assistance to owners of malfunctioning septic systems that are in need of repair, replacement, or connection to municipal sewer. Dr. Miller seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved by the board members as identified in the attendance roster above.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

Attorney Wardell: We talk about this every month. We fight the fight in the trenches and once it gets to me that means that there's a serious problem but we have been talking about this for at least the last twelve years. I think now is an opportune time to try and get funding for it. There may be some space for some ARPA funds, maybe the availability to use some of the COVID related funds that you are allowed to use for infrastructure programs but it seems like now is a really good time to try and get some funding for this program. The problem is not going away and seems to come in waves. The houses are getting older and as they get older the systems are going to fail. I think now is a good time to get funding for this and there are examples of how to do it in a way that are cost effective and result-oriented and we just need to get the support from the health department as a whole and the commissioners to make it happen.

Chair McDougal: I have a question if no one else has one. Could you speak to us a little bit about...I guessing that we have some rural

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areas...you mentioned three zip code areas (27712, 27703, 27704) where most of the septic issues are present and I'm assuming at this point and time we have sewer lines in those areas as well. What is the average range of cost to transition from septic to sewer as it compares to average repair cost?

Mr. Eaton: I'll start with in 27712, 27703 and 27704 there is a very limited sewer infrastructure. It's almost entirely on-site wastewater and well both. There are some overlap and little bit here and there but by and large in those three zip codes sewer is not an option but for those areas that do have it and we do see several especially if it's a system where people didn't even know they had a septic system until something went wrong and sewer is available. Last I heard and please don't quote me on an exact number but I think the City of Durham tap fee is around five to six thousand dollars these days and then its whatever it cost for a plumber to install the lateral from the house and that's going to range anywhere from a few thousand to a lot more depending on whether that's a gravity line or an ejector pump. I think it runs sort of parallel to wastewater systems and you're looking at probably in the neighborhood of eight to ten thousand to install a sewer connection and of course it goes up from there based on the complexity.

Chair McDougal: Thank you.

Mr. Salter: I think it is very relevant to this discussion that Patrick expand on how many systems do we have in Durham; how old they are, what is the average life expectancy of a system in North Carolina; the impediment to getting repairs done, how far out are installers today on new systems and what their incentive to repair a system versus installing a new one?

Mr. Eaton: Let's start with we estimate that there are approximately twelve to fourteen thousand septic systems in Durham County. We know for an absolute fact almost thirty-one hundred of those that are confirmed and identified are over thirty years old. The average wastewater system life expectancy in Durham is right around thirty-one years. The state-wide average, the last I heard, was less than fifteen. Generally speaking as an industry standard, twenty to thirty years is a reasonable expectation for life span on a drain field and like I said we're seeing our neighborhoods that were built in the 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s and even know we're starting to see systems from the 90s that are starting to show their age so we have thousands that are coming our way. I have heard from some installers their scheduling is as far out as fourteen months for new jobs. I don't want to give a false impression that if we had a pot of money that it's going to result in immediate fixes. There're other factors in play. Some installers especially during building booms they don't even want to deal with repairs they would rather install the construction so there are challenges there just for scheduling and contractor buying but another thing that helps at least in Person County the last time I spoke to those folks were the contractors are amped to want to repair a failing system if they know they're some guaranteed funds, they're going to see a paycheck at the end of day and certainly the county is good from their end so that's helpful as well.

Chair McDougal: Chris or Patrick do you know if the City has any plans for extending the sewer infrastructure into those three zip codes where there is very limited infrastructure at this point and time with the way the City is growing?

Mr. Eaton: From my understanding, they don't because it requires annexation and that in its own is a whole other ball of wax and you often find a great resistance within the community to being annexed so no, I don't foresee public infrastructure any time expanding into these heavily septic dense areas.

Chair McDougal: Okay. Thank you.

Dr. Jackson: I just want to say "Thank you" that really was a very good presentation with very good information.

Dr. Braithwaite: Agreed. Thank you.

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Mr. Jenkins: I will just say for reference, Chris Salter approached me with this plan some time ago, pre-COVID and then of course COVID came and just robbed all our mines of it. Attorney Wardell is correct, there are still ARPA funds available. At the time when we had Interim County Manager, Claudia Hager, I did talk to her about this when those ARPA funds were first coming in. I think it's time to have a new conversation with the new County Manager, Dr. Kim Sowell, just to let her know that I think this is a good thing and this is something that's going to help our citizens.

Chair McDougal: Sure enough. Thank you. Well "Thank you" again for the presentation. Again, very, very informative. Thank you for all the hard work you continue to do to support our citizens that have these septic issues.

PUBLIC HEALTH VACANCY REPORT (Activity 37.6)

The board received a copy of the vacancy report for June 2023 prior to the meeting. The vacancy rate through the end of May 2023 was 16.1%.

(A copy of June 2023 Vacancy report is attached to the minutes.)

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

Mr. Jenkins: I'm very proud of our Leadership and Management Teams as a whole and the work that they've done to recruit talent. We still have our issues when it comes to nursing but divisions like Environmental Health and a couple of others, we are starting to see a lot more people coming onboard which is indicative of the state of the economy, how things are going with the workforce so we have been pleasantly surprised to see the number of new hires that are coming in but make no mistake about it we still have a way to go when it comes to nursing. This is not just us there is a global nursing wide shortage even cross the pond in London, they pretty much said, they are having a hard time recruiting nurses and they have a national healthcare system where everything is paid for and they pay for the education for their doctors and nurses if they come to work for their HHS. It's a constant battle but we're in it for the long haul.

NOTICES OF VIOLATIONS (NOV) REPORT (Activity 18.2)

The board received a copy of the Environmental Health Onsite Water Protection Section NOV report through the end of May 2023 prior to the meeting.

(A copy of June 2023 NOV report is attached to the minutes.)

**Health Director's Report
June 8, 2023**

Division / Program: Nutrition / DINE Classroom Garden Kits

(Accreditation Activity 10.2: The local health department shall carry out or assist other agencies in the development, implementation and evaluation of health promotion/disease prevention programs and educational materials targeted to groups identified as at-risk in the community health assessment.)

Program description

- DINE is a school and community-based nutrition education program targeting SNAP-eligible Durham families.
- DINE works with Durham Public Schools (DPS) and community organizations on Farm to School initiatives to promote local food/agriculture, school gardens, and healthy eating. Farm to School encompasses garden, nutrition, and agriculture education, and is a priority for the USDA and SNAP-Ed.
- DINE developed Classroom Garden Kits for students to grow microgreens in the classroom. Microgreens are small edible plants that are harvested before they grow to maturity. The classroom is a

great place for microgreens because they do not require a lot of space or materials, and they are ready for harvest in 7-21 days. The kits contain seeds, compost, growing instructions, a spray bottle for watering, student garden journals and curriculum connection resources. The students also receive a packet of seeds and growing instructions so they can continue to grow food at home with their families.

Statement of goals

- To reinforce DINE's nutrition education and behavior change goals, focusing on increasing the consumption of vegetables.
- To increase Farm to School and school garden opportunities in Durham Public Schools.
- To provide a learning activity for teachers to lead that aligns with academic standards across a variety of subjects.

Issues

- **Opportunities**
 - The Classroom Garden Kits enable teachers to practice Farm to School and school garden activities in their classroom rather than depending on a shared school garden space.
 - Hands-on growing projects help students understand where food comes from and increase opportunities to try fresh vegetables.
 - School gardening provides opportunities to connect with any academic subject. Teachers have reported using the kits as part of health/nutrition, science, math, reading, writing, and more.
 - Classroom Garden Kits offer an additional learning opportunity for classes in partner schools that are not receiving the full DINE nutrition curriculum.
 - During this second year offering Classroom Garden Kits, DINE served over twice as many classes and over 60% more students than last year.
- **Challenges**
 - Learning how to grow food takes trial and error and some of the classrooms did not have success with the grow kits on their first try. DINE was able to help with troubleshooting such as providing grow lights and hands-on watering assistance. The information from the post-evaluation will enable DINE to proactively address other common challenges and solutions for next year.
 - The demand for the kits increased significantly this year. DINE was able to meet this need, however, we do not have the staff resources to further increase the number of kits provided next year. Staff time is a main limiting factor.

Implication(s)

- **Outcomes**
 - From February-April 2023, Classroom Garden kits were distributed to 112 classes across 17 schools, reaching 1,921 students.
- **Service delivery**
 - DINE originally developed the Classroom Garden Kits in spring 2022. This year DINE staff created updated kit materials and instructions based on teacher and staff feedback.
 - DINE provided educational reinforcements for the garden kits.
 - DINE staff assembled the garden kits.
 - DINE coordinated garden kit distribution with partner schools and offered consultation to help teachers utilize the kits in their curriculum.

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- DINE created a survey to gather feedback from teachers.
- **Staffing**
 - Four DINE staff (three nutritionists and one processing assistant) led this project through initiation, planning, execution, and evaluation.
 - Six additional DINE nutritionists have supported this project through school outreach and assisting with kit assembly and distribution.
- **Revenue**
 - No revenue was generated.

Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies

- DINE plans to offer Classroom Garden Kits for the third time in the winter/spring 2024.
- DINE will make improvements and updates to the Classroom Garden Kits based on feedback from teachers, school staff and DINE team members.

**Division / Program: Population Health / Epidemiology
(Accreditation Activity 38.1: The local board of health shall annually review reports provided by the local health department on the community's health)**

Program Description:

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), designed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is an anonymous voluntary survey given every 2 years. The YRBS assesses physical health, physical activity, nutrition, safety, bullying, sexual behavior, mental health, substance use, tobacco use, disability, and school support. The 2021 YRBS report contains a new section on COVID-19 and its impact on students. The 2021 YRBS was conducted in selected Durham County middle and high schools in the Fall of 2021. Data was analyzed by the CDC and the results were put into the 2021 YRBS report to be published in 2023. The 2021 YRBS was conducted in collaboration with Durham Public Schools (DPS), and Durham County Department of Public Health (DCoDPH).

Statement of goals

- Provide a comprehensive set of valid and reliable information about the health of the youth of Durham County.
- Understand the issues Durham County youth are facing.
- Publicize report to different DCoDPH divisions and ensure external partners have the data needed to inform their initiatives and programs.
- Compare 2017 and 2019 (“pre-pandemic”) data to 2021 data to understand the differences in education and student well-being since March 2020.
- Create two infographics, one for middle school and one for high school, to share with the public and partners to provide a quick and easy to follow report of the findings.

Issues

- **Opportunities**
 - Provide data and context regarding disparities to the stakeholders, partners, elected officials, and community residents.
 - Provide a clearer picture of what impacts the health of the youth in Durham County.
 - Focus intentionally on equity.
 - Provide the report in English and Spanish languages.

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- Utilize 'pre-pandemic' data to compare to the 2021 YRBS data.
- Use a representative sample by weighting the data based on the Durham Public Schools population.
- **Challenges**
 - CDC did not provide raw data, so DCoDPH was unable to run our own analysis.
 - Receiving the data in February 2023 pushed the publication out two years after the survey was conducted.

Implication(s)

- **Outcomes**
 - The final report is 28 pages long.
 - 2,685 students participated (1,325 middle schoolers, 1,360 high schoolers).
 - Student participation increased among high school students since 2019.
 - 12 middle schools and 9 high schools participated.
- **Staffing**
 - The epidemiologist reviewed CDC's analysis and compiled the report.
 - Durham Public Schools distributed and conducted the survey.
- **Revenue**
 - None.

Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies

- Review Spanish translations for the 2021 YRBS report.
- Issue a press release to publicize the report.
- Create and publicize middle school and high school infographics based on the data in the report.
- Hold listening sessions with Durham County youth.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

Mr. Jenkins: Just want to bring to your attention the Population Health Division, we look forward to them possibly presenting the Youth-Based Risk Behavior Survey that's something that we tend to do and of course with so much violence going on with our youth it will be interesting to see the data that came out in COVID to see how our youth responded to it. Our DINE Team continues to be great and doing very innovative things in nutrition and it's no surprise that they had a very good report to share with you.

Chair McDougal: I was reading through the DINE report and just had a quick question. What sort of eatable plants are the young people growing in the garden kits...tomatoes, herbs?

Ms. Elledge: Yes, both of those things. They do often start with herbs because they're small and easy to see a quick result but tomatoes also. Herbs and tomatoes are the primary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no committee reports discussed.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **DRAFT RESOLUTION-SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL**

Dr. Jackson made a motion to approve the Resolution for School Meals For All. Dr. Braithwaite seconded the motion, and the motion was

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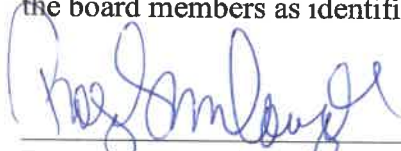
unanimously approved by the board members as identified in the attendance roster above.

- **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING**
 - State of the County Health and Rankings Reports

INFORMAL DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There was no informal discussion discussed.

Dr. Jackson made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:00pm. Dr. Miller seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved by the board members as identified in the attendance roster above.



Roger McDougal, DDS, Chair



Rodney E. Jenkins, Public Health Director