



CONSOLIDATED HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING

**Monday, June 2nd, 2025
Ed Emory Auditorium
Lois Britt Agriculture Building
165 Agriculture Drive
Kenansville, N.C. 28349**

The Consolidated Human Services Board met at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, June 2nd, 2025 in the Ed Emory Auditorium located inside the Lois Britt Agriculture Building, 165 Agriculture Drive, Kenansville, N.C.

Present: Commissioners: Chairman Dexter B. Edwards; Vice Chairman Elwood Garner; Jesse L. Dowe, III; Wayne Branch; and Justin Edwards.

Also Present: Bryan Miller, County Manager; Carrie Shields, Deputy County Manager; Tim Wilson, County Attorney; Chelsey Lanier, Finance Officer; Jaime W. Carr, Clerk to the Board; Jasmine Savage, Administration Specialist; Angel Venecia, Health and Human Services Director; and Lance Davis, Health and Human Services Deputy Director.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Edwards.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation was given by Mayor A.J. Connors of Warsaw. Mayor Connors then led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Chairman Edwards asked if the members of the Board approved the proposed consent agenda, and if any Board Member, County Manager/Deputy County Manager, or Clerk to the Board wished to make any changes or additions to the agenda. No changes/additions were made.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dowe, seconded by Commissioner Branch, carried unanimously, to approve consent agenda items as listed: Adopt a Resolution in Support of Tobacco 21 to Protect Our Kids from Vaping and Nicotine Addiction and Authorize the Chairman to Sign.

Approval of the Regular Meeting Agenda

Chairman Edwards asked if the members of the Board approved the proposed meeting agenda, and if any Board Member, County Manager, or Clerk to the Board wished to make any changes or additions to the agenda. No changes/additions were made.

Motion was made by Commissioner Branch, seconded by Commissioner Garner, carried unanimously, to approve the regular meeting agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes – Governing Body

Motion was made by Commissioner Garner seconded by Commissioner Branch, carried unanimously, to approve the minutes of the May 5th, 2025 Consolidated Human Services Board Meeting as presented.

AGENDA

Public Comments

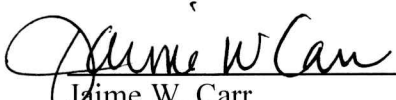
No public comments.

End Public Comments

Annie Murrell, Department of Social Services (DSS) Director, appeared before the Board to give a departmental update. Ms. Murrell stated that her agency had met the benchmark score for the month of April in regards to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State. Ms. Murrell also informed the Board that Duplin County will go live with Partnership and Technology Hub North Carolina (PATH NC) on July 14th, 2025. She also stated that her agency has begun preparing for hurricane season.

Tracey Simmons-Kornegay, Health Director, appeared before the Board to give a departmental update. Ms. Simmons-Kornegay gave an epidemiology report; a FY 2024-2025 Health Department budget update; a personnel update; and an accreditation update. Ms. Simmons-Kornegay also informed the Board of community events that the Health Department has participated in, as well as upcoming events they will be participating in.

Motion was made by Commissioner J. Edwards seconded by Commissioner Garner, carried unanimously, to adjourn until Monday, July 7th, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. for a Consolidated Human Services Board Meeting to be held in the Administrative Building located at 224 Seminary Street, Kenansville, N.C.


Jaime W. Carr
Clerk to the Board



Duplin County Health and Human Services Board
Resolution in Support of Tobacco 21 to Protect Our Kids from
Vaping and Nicotine Addiction

WHEREAS, one of every five deaths in North Carolina is associated with cigarette smoking,¹ and for each death, 30 more people are sick or live with a disability²; and

WHEREAS, 95% of tobacco users start before the age of 21³; and

WHEREAS, as of 2022, 27% of high school students in North Carolina report tobacco use. E-cigarette use has significantly increased among youth since 2011⁴; and

WHEREAS, nicotine is harmful to developing brains, and its use during adolescence can disrupt the formation of brain circuits that control attention, learning, and susceptibility to addiction⁵; and

WHEREAS, in a 2020 study among NC schools, a high proportion of school administrators and teacher respondents believed that e-cigarette use among students is somewhat or very problematic (91%), and that student e-cigarette use it is a somewhat or high priority issue for their school administration (90%)⁶; and

WHEREAS, most North Carolina young people obtain tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, from retailers. NC young people who get e-cigarettes from friends primarily get them from friends who are under 21⁷; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Congress increased the federal minimum legal sales age of all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, from 18 to 21. While a majority of states (43 states, as of October 2024) have increased their minimum tobacco sales age to 21 to match federal law, North Carolina's minimum sales age remains 18⁸; and

WHEREAS, having the same legal sales age at 21 for alcohol and tobacco products reduces the burden on retailers; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is one of only 9 states in the country that do not require tobacco retailers to obtain a license or permit⁹; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina ABC Commission is capable of implementing an efficient and effective tobacco retailer permitting system based on the system also in place for alcohol retailer permitting; and

WHEREAS, establishing a retailer permitting system AND raising the minimum legal sale age to 21 will:

- Allow the state to know where tobacco products are being sold
- Improve merchant education efforts
- Allow the state to inspect for responsible retail practices
- Protect law-abiding retailers by holding non-compliant retailers accountable
- Prevent and reduce youth use of highly addictive nicotine products
- Help eliminate the use of e-cigarettes and other emerging nicotine products in schools
- Reduce any confusion among retailers and consumers by having one legal sales age for state and federal law^{10, 11}; and

WHEREAS, Under the Federal Synar law, states are expected to reduce the illegal sale of tobacco products to individuals under the age of 21. NC could lose over \$5.2 million in annual funding from the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant money (money NC uses to pay for drug treatment) through penalties under the Federal Synar amendment if sales to underage youth are too high in required annual inspections¹²; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Duplin County Health and Human Services Board supports policy changes for North Carolina to protect our children and youth from vaping and nicotine addiction by establishing a tobacco retailer permitting system, raising the minimum age of sales from 18 to 21, and adopting other needed provisions of legal sales of tobacco products to match federal law.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY, THIS 2nd DAY OF JUNE, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-FIVE


Dexter B. Edwards
Duplin County Health and Human Services
Board Chair


Tracey Simmons-Konegay, PharmD
Duplin County Health Department
Health Director



Sources:

- 1) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs—2014. 2014. https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/stateandcommunity/best_practices/index.htm.
- 2) National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (US) Office on Smoking and Health. Reports of the Surgeon General. The Health Consequences of Smoking-50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General. 2014.
- 3) Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2012.
- 4) Source: Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. North Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey Middle & High School Fact Sheet. <https://tobaccopreventionandcontrol.dph.ncdhhs.gov/data/yts/docs/2022-NCYTS-Factsheet-Infographic.pdf>
- 5) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. E-Cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults. A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2016.
- 6) Tanz, L., Heck, C., Herzig, C., Ranney, L., Herndon, S., Martin, J., Hast, M., McGowan, E., Balci, G., Shamout, M., King, B., Tynan, M., Kansagra, S. (2020). Rapid Assessment of the Impact of E-cigarettes on Schools as Reported by School Staff and E-cigarettes Confiscated by Schools — North Carolina, 2019. Unpublished manuscript.
- 7) CDC Foundation. North Carolina Cross-Sectional. Online Survey Summary Tables. 2021: 1-104.
- 8) Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation, Tobacco 21, (2024), <https://tobacco21.org/>.
- 9) State Tobacco Activities Tracking and Evaluation (STATE) System Licensure Fact Sheet, Ctr. For Disease Control (last reviewed: November 1, 2024), https://www.cdc.gov/statesystem/factsheets/licensure.html#anchor_1562854161.
- 10) Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General. U.S. Dept of Health and Hum. Serv. (2014), https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK99237/pdf/Bookshelf_NBK99237.pdf.
- 11) Roee L. Astor, et al., Tobacco Retail Licensing and Youth Product Use, Pediatrics (Jan. 7, 2019), <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/143/2/e201735536.full.pdf>.
- 12) Revision to SAMSHA Guidance on Tobacco Regulation, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (June 13, 2022).

PROTECT YOUTH FROM VAPING AND NICOTINE

Please Sponsor Solly's Law

HB 430 SB 318

Why This Matters

- **Financial Consequences:**
 - N.C. risks losing \$5 million in block grant funding for prevention, treatment, and recovery services.
 - Federal enforcement begins December 2025.
- **Youth Tobacco Use is Rising:**
 - North Carolina has seen a sharp increase in youth tobacco use, particularly e-cigarettes.
 - North Carolina ranks 6th in the nation for youth vaping
- **Early Addiction is Common:** 95% of tobacco users start before age 21.
- **Lack of Licensing:** N.C. is one of only 9 states without a tobacco retailer licensing system.
- **Licensing Protects Communities:**
 - Tracks where tobacco products are sold.
 - Holds non-compliant retailers accountable, protecting law-abiding businesses.
- **Prevents Youth Nicotine Addiction:** Helps curb e-cigarette and nicotine product use in schools.
- **Aligns State & Federal Law:**
 - The federal minimum tobacco sales age was raised to 21 in December 2019.
 - As of October 2024, 43 states have aligned with federal law—N.C. has not.

Proposed Legislation Will

- **Raise the Minimum Age:**
 - Prohibits the sale of tobacco products by individuals under 21.
 - Requires proof of age for all tobacco sales.
- **Establish a Tobacco Sales Permit System:** Retailers must obtain a permit from the N.C. Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Commission to sell tobacco legally.
- **Strengthen Enforcement:**
 - ABC Commission gains authority to issue permits, impose sanctions, and enforce laws in collaboration with the Alcohol Law Enforcement (ALE) Division.
 - ALE agents and Commission employees can investigate and inspect tobacco retail locations.
- **Increase Compliance Requirements:** Retailers must display signage stating:
 - "NC Law PROHIBITS the sale of tobacco products, vapor products, and components by persons under 21. Proof of age required."
- **Set Legal Penalties:** Class 2 misdemeanor for selling or assisting in selling tobacco to anyone under 21.



**NORTH CAROLINA
ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH**

NC Organizations that Support Tobacco 21 to Protect our Kids from Vaping and Nicotine Addiction

Statewide and National Organizations

1. Alcohol Drug Council of North Carolina
2. American Heart Association, North Carolina
3. American Lung Association, North Carolina
4. Association of NC Boards of Health
5. Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
6. Center for Black Health and Equity
7. Cone Health Foundation
8. El Centro Hispano
9. John Rex Endowment
10. Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force
11. Kintegra Health
12. NC Alliance for Health
13. NC Alliance for Public Health Agencies
14. NC Association of Local Health Directors
15. NC Child
16. NC Child Fatality Task Force
17. NC Citizens for Public Health
18. NC Public Health Association
19. NC Society of Public Health Educators
20. Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation
21. Safe Kids NC
22. School Nurse Association of North Carolina
23. Stroke Advisory Council

County and Municipality Commissioners

24. Alexander County Board of County Commissioners
25. Dare County Board of County Commissioners
26. Brevard City Council, Transylvania County

Drug and Substance Abuse Prevention

27. Alexander County Post Overdose Response Team
28. Alexander County Substance Use Disorder Prevention Coalition
29. Cleveland County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition
30. Drug-Free Coalition of Iredell
31. Orange Partnership for Alcohol and Drug Free Youth
32. Rowan County Youth Substance Use Prevention Youth Council
33. All Stars Prevention Coalition, Drug-Free Communities, Surry County
34. Coalition for a Safe and Drug Free Swain County
35. ICGH Treatment Center - Dobson
36. ICGH Treatment Center - Gastonia
37. ICGH Treatment Center - Goldsboro
38. ICGH Treatment Center - Hickory
39. ICGH Treatment Center - Lenoir

- 40. ICGH Treatment Center - Lincolnton
- 41. ICGH Treatment Center - Morehead City
- 42. ICGH Treatment Center - Shelby
- 43. ICGH Treatment Center – Statesville
- 44. Watauga Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

Health Boards and Local Health Coalitions

- 45. Albemarle Regional Health Services Board of Health
- 46. Healthy Carolinians of the Albemarle
- 47. Appalachian District (Ashe, Alleghany, Watauga) Board of Health
- 48. Carteret County Board of Health
- 49. Chatham County Board of Health
- 50. Cleveland County Board of Health
- 51. Minority Health Council of Cleveland County
- 52. Safe Kids of Cleveland County
- 53. Dare Health and Human Services Board of Health
- 54. Durham County Board of Health
- 55. Franklin County Board of Health
- 56. Gates Partnership for Health
- 57. Granville-Vance Board of Health
- 58. Greene County Board of Health
- 59. Halifax County Board of Health
- 60. Henderson County Board of Health
- 61. Hyde County Board of Health
- 62. Jackson County Board of Health
- 63. Jones County Board of Health
- 64. Lenoir County Board of Health
- 65. Macon County Board of Health
- 66. Martin Tyrrell Washington District Board of Health
- 67. Nash County Human Services Board
- 68. Northampton Board of Health
- 69. Northeastern NC Partnership for Public Health
- 70. Orange County Board of Health
- 71. Pitt County Board of Health
- 72. Pitt Partners for Health
- 73. Scotland County Board of Health
- 74. Stanley County Board of Health
- 75. Three Rivers Healthy Carolinians of Bertie and Chowan Counties
- 76. Transylvania County Board of Health
- 77. Wake County Health and Human Services Board
- 78. Warren County Board of Health
- 79. Wilkes Board of Health
- 80. Safe Kids of Wilkes County
- 81. Wilson County Board of Health

Law Enforcement

- 82. Statesville Police Department
- 83. Shelby Police Department
- 84. Wilkes County Sheriff's Office

Local Community Organizations

- 85. 100 Black Men of Charlotte
- 86. AuthoraCare Collective, Alamance Caswell and Guilford Counties
- 87. Avery Youth Coalition
- 88. Children's Home of Cleveland County
- 89. Cleveland County Rescue Mission
- 90. Fifth Street Ministries, Statesville, Iredell County
- 91. I-Care, Inc., Statesville, Iredell County
- 92. OP Smiles, Pediatric Dentist, Wilkes County
- 93. Western Youth Network
- 94. Wilkes Pediatric Clinic
- 95. Wilkes Youth Life Development
- 96. Wilkes Youth Life Development's Teen Action Council

School Boards and School Health Advisory Councils

- 97. Ashe County Board of Education
- 98. Bertie County School Health Advisory Council
- 99. Chatham County School Health Advisory Council
- 100. Cherokee County School Health Advisory Council
- 101. Cleveland County School Health Advisory Council
- 102. Henderson County Board of Education
- 103. Jackson County Board of Education
- 104. Jackson County School Health Advisory Council
- 105. Macon County School Board
- 106. Nash County School Health Advisory Council
- 107. Scotland County School Health Advisory Council
- 108. Transylvania County Board of Education
- 109. Wake County PTA Council
- 110. Wake County School Health Advisory Council
- 111. Watauga County Board of Education
- 112. Wilkes County School Health Advisory Council



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