

NOTICE OF MEETING

TO: Members of the Foothills Health District Board of Health; Public; Press

FROM: Dr. Ben Hall, District Board of Health Chairperson and Karen Powell, Foothills Health Director

RE: **Regular Meeting of the Foothills Health District Board of Health on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 6:30 pm in the Commissioners Chambers at the Rutherford County Administration Building** at 289 North Main Street Rutherfordton, NC 28139.

DATE: May 22, 2020

There will be a regular called meeting of the Foothills Health District Board of Health on **Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 6:30 pm in the Commissioners Chambers at the Rutherford County Administration Building** at 289 North Main Street, Rutherfordton, NC 28160. The meeting will be live streamed on the Rutherford County Government website.

We are working out the logistics for a portion of our Board of Health members, especially those at-risk or with at-risk family members, to remote into the meeting in order to comply with the new Safer at Home Executive Order, which limits attendance in one location to ten persons with social distancing. **In order to assist with our planning, we ask all Board of Health Members to call Karen Powell, Foothills Health Director, at 828-223-3908 or email her at Kpowell@foothillshd.org as soon as possible but no later than 1pm on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 to say they plan to attend the meeting in person or join remotely so she can coordinate remote Board attendance.**

This is a regularly called meeting to discuss matters of the Foothills Health District. Attached is a copy of the Agenda for the Meeting.

The meeting will be live streamed on the Rutherford County Government website. Members of the public who would like to speak to the Board during the Public Comment Period will need to be present at the Rutherford County Administration Building and will be accommodated close by in a different portion of the building until such time as they speak to the Board. A copy of the Public Comment Policy is attached.

Pursuant to NC Gen Stat 143-318.12(b)(2)(i), this notice is published on the principal bulletin Board in each of the Health Department principal offices in the three counties. Pursuant to NC Gen Stat 143-318.12(b)(2)(ii), this notice had been mailed to each newspaper and any persons requesting such notices. In addition, pursuant to NC Gen Stat 143-318.12(e), this notice is published on the website for the District Board of Health.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

Policy Code: _____

Foothills District Board of Health** meetings are conducted for the purpose of carrying on the official business of the Foothills District Health Department system. The public is cordially invited to attend board meetings to observe the board as it conducts its official business.

The District Board of Health also wishes to provide a forum for citizens to express interests and concerns related to the school system. In order that the board may conduct an orderly meeting while providing an opportunity for input, individuals or groups may be heard by the board in accordance with this policy.

A. REQUESTS TO PLACE ITEM ON THE AGENDA

In order that the board may fairly and adequately discharge its overall responsibility, citizens desiring an item to be placed on the agenda for a specific board meeting should direct written requests to the District Health Director at least two working days prior to the meeting.

The request should include:

1. the name and address of the person or persons making the request;
2. the organization or group, if any, represented; and
3. a brief explanation of the nature of the item. Questions and/or materials to be presented to the board are to be submitted along with the request. Additional items may be added to the agenda by the board on a two-thirds vote of the board members.

The District Health Director shall confer with the Chairperson of the Board concerning whether to approve placing the requested item on the agenda and to determine the appropriate meeting for such discussion. The District Health Director, with the consent of the Board Chairperson, will accept or deny a request for inclusion on the agenda for any reason determined appropriate by the District Health Director and Chairperson.

The District Health Director shall notify the requesting party of the response to the request. The Board may, by majority vote and notwithstanding prior denial by the District Health Director, consent to hear a presentation when the appeal to speak is made immediately prior to or during the course of the meeting. The District Health Director shall explain any other processes available for addressing the concerns.

The Chairperson shall establish the amount of time for individual or group presentations.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

At each regularly called board meeting, up to 30 minutes of the scheduled board meeting will be set aside for citizens to address the Board through public comment, unless the Board votes to set aside more time for a particular subject or particular meeting. A sign-up sheet will be available for any individual or group to indicate their desire to address the Board. Each person speaking may have the floor for a maximum of 5 minutes except that if more than six people have signed up for public comment at a particular meeting the Board Chairperson may reduce the time allowed per person and/or ask for individuals representing the same group or organization to appoint a representative to speak for the group. The District Health Director shall develop additional procedures to ensure that public comment sessions proceed in an efficient and orderly manner.

Board members will not respond to individuals who address the Board except to request clarification of points made by the presenter.

Except in cases of emergency, information received during presentations will not be acted upon at the time it is received. It will take unanimous vote of the board members present to take action on a presentation considered to be of an unusual or emergency nature at the time it is presented.

Disruptions by any person or persons of a public meeting will be subject to action in accordance with G.S. 143-318.17.

If the Board does not hold a regular meeting during a month, the board will not provide a time for public comment at any other meeting held during that month, unless a majority of the board votes to allow public comment at such meeting or unless the purpose of the meeting is a public hearing.

Legal References: G.S. 143-318.10 and -318.17;

**Adopted: Adopted by the Rutherford-Polk McDowell District Board of Health on July 7, 2009. All existing local health ordinances or rules of the RPM Health District that were in effect in McDowell and Rutherford counties prior to midnight on June 30, 2019 stayed in place and continue to be in effect unless or until replaced, amended, or revised by the Foothills District Board of Health or other appropriate bodies.