

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS &  
CUMBERLAND COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021 – 8:00 AM  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
1225 RAMSEY STREET, 1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Commissioner Charles Evans, Chairman  
Commissioner Glenn Adams, Vice Chairman (arrived at 8:15 a.m.)  
Commissioner Michael Boose  
Commissioner Jeannette Council (arrived at 8:30 a.m.)  
Commissioner Jimmy Keefe  
Commissioner Toni Stewart

ABSENT: Commissioner Larry Lancaster

N. C. DELEGATION

PRESENT: Representative William Richardson, Chairman  
Representative Marvin W. Lucas  
Representative John Szoka  
Representative Diane Wheatley  
Senator Ben Clark (attended remotely)  
Senator Kirk DeViere

STAFF PRESENT: Amy Cannon, County Manager  
Duane Holder, Deputy County Manager  
Tracy Jackson, Assistant County Manager  
Sally Shutt, Assistant County Manager  
Angel Wright-Lanier, Assistant County Manager  
Rick Moorefield, County Attorney  
Dr. Jennifer Green, Public Health Director  
Candice White, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Charles Evans called to order the special meeting of the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners.

1. Welcome

Chairman Charles Evans welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked Dr. Jennifer Green, Public Health Director, for attending to provide an update on COVID-19. Chairman Evans and Commissioner Michael Boose presented each member of the Cumberland County Legislative Delegation a Cumberland County seal as a token of appreciation for all the work being done for the citizens of Cumberland County.

Representative William Richardson, N. C. Delegation Chairman, thanked the Board of Commissioners for holding the meeting and stated it is good to have these meetings before the legislature kicks into full gear to make sure the County knows where the legislature is headed and more importantly so the delegation knows what the County's priorities are and what it can do to assist the citizens of Cumberland County.

2. COVID-19 Update

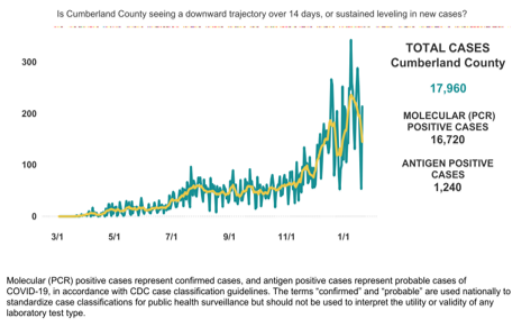
Chairman Evans called on Dr. Jennifer Green, Cumberland County Public Health Director, who provided information about COVID-19 with the following PowerPoint presentation.

COVID – 19 Testing

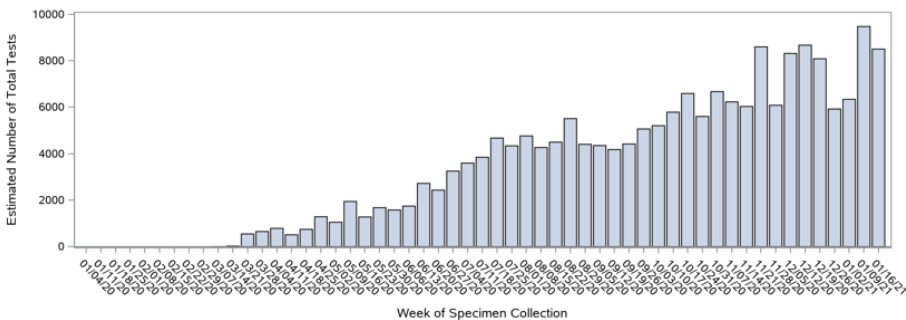
- Case Positivity Rate: 13.7%
  - World Health Organization Target: 5%
  - 20+ Test Sites in Cumberland County

## Cumberland County COVID-19 Cases

- Last 7 days: 1,384
- Last 14 days: 2,993
- Cases per 100,000: 448  
– last 7 days
- Daily average: 190 cases
- County Alert System:  
Critical community spread (Red)



## COVID-19 Testing



### Cumberland County Vaccination Partners

- Enrolled COVID-19 Providers
  - Cumberland County Department of Public Health
  - Cape Fear Valley
  - Goshen Medical
  - Provider enrollment for other private practices began on 1/11/21.
  - All my not receive vaccine immediately.
- Ft. Bragg Public Health, Veteran’s Affairs, and CVS/Walgreens Federal Partnership
  - NC DHHS dashboard does not reflect county level numbers from Ft. Bragg, CVS/Walgreens, or Veteran’s Affairs
  - Federal partnerships with CVS/Walgreens to vaccinate in long term care facilities and skilled nursing facilities.

### Staffing and Volunteers

- Cumberland County
  - Public Health
  - Emergency Management
  - PIO
  - IT
  - Library
- Registered FTCC and FSU nursing students and faculty as CVMS users
  - FTCC began week of December 28, 2020.
  - FSU began week of January 11, 2021.
- NC DHHS assistance – arriving January 21, 2021.
- Additional volunteers from:
  - Team Rubicon
  - Civic Air Patrol
  - CERT team
  - National Guard assets arrived 1/20
  - Crown Coliseum Staff
  - 100+ individuals daily

## COVID – 19 Vaccinations Numbers

- CCDPH First doses received.
  - Moderna – 1,800
  - Pfizer – 4,875
  - All first doses will be used by 1/22/20.

## COVID-19 Vaccinations Numbers:

- CCDPH Second Doses Received
- 1,800 – Moderna and Pfizer second doses are not “due” until later this week and the weeks following.
- Cannot use “second doses as “first doses.

**COVID-19 Vaccinations:**  
Your best shot at stopping COVID-19.

YOU HAVE A **SPOT.** TAKE YOUR **SHOT.**

You have a spot, take your shot. A tested, safe and effective vaccine will be available to all who want it, but supplies will be limited at first. To save lives and slow the spread of COVID-19, independent state and federal public health advisory committees recommend first protecting health care workers, people who are at the highest risk of being hospitalized or dying, and those at high risk of exposure to COVID-19. Keep practicing the 3 Ws—wear a mask, wait six feet apart, wash your hands—until everyone has a chance to get vaccinated.

- 1 Health Care Workers and Long-term Care Staff and Residents **ACTIVE GROUP**
- 2 Older Adults **ACTIVE GROUP**
- 3 Frontline Essential Workers
- 4 Adults at High Risk for Exposure and Increased Risk of Severe Illness
- 5 Everyone

Our goal is to vaccinate as many people as quickly as possible given the limited supply of vaccines. North Carolina moves through vaccination groups by aligning to federal priorities while empowering local health departments and hospitals with flexibility to move to the next priority group as they complete groups and have vaccines available.

For more information: [YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov](https://YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov)

NC Department of Health and Human Services • [YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov](https://YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov) • NCDHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider. • 01/2021

## Timeline

- Vaccination for Group 1 began on December 14, 2020.
- North Carolina opened vaccinations for people age 75 years or older on the week of January 4, 2021.
  - Cumberland County began on January 8, 2020.
  - Expanded to all health care workers with in-person patient contact and people age 65 years or older on January 14, 2021.
    - Cumberland County implemented on January 15, 2021.
- Each county and vaccinating provider may move through the groups at a different pace.
- No estimated timeline for Group 3 available yet.

## Drive Thru Site Plan

- Hybrid model
  - First come, first served and appointments.
- Follow the groups as required.
- Registration outside
- Vaccination inside
- Patient remains in the vehicle.
- Walk-in option available for large vehicles
- Waiting area for observation

## Drive Thru/Site Selection

- Allows for social distancing/avoid potential super spreader events.
- Avoids lines outdoors.
- Allows operation in varying weather conditions (indoor/outdoor)

- Allows us to adjust based on supply.
- Avoids wasted doses due to missed appointments.
  - Limits “All Calls”
- Accommodates long lines.
- On the FAST bus route

#### COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

- Tuesday, Wednesdays, and Fridays
  - Saturday as doses allow.
- Piloting a hybrid model for appointments and first come first served.
- Appointment slots available in morning (9-11 am and 11am – 1pm)
  - Request an appointment using an online form.
  - Call 910-678-7657
  - CCDPH staff will call you to schedule an appointment.
  - Similar to theme park “fast pass”
  - Register in advance.
  - Accommodate first come, first served as able.
- First come, first serve in the afternoon (no appointments)
  - Register individuals on site.

Dr. Green concluded her presentation and responded to questions that followed.

### 3. Discussion of County’s Top Legislative Priorities

#### A. Water Quality

**Seek legislation to improve water quality in North Carolina, especially in Cumberland County.**

Protect the state’s water supply from the impact of industrial products and processes. Chemicals and contaminants, both long-known and emerging, have had a decided impact on the quality of drinking water throughout the state. Heightened timely analysis and scrutiny by state regulators is essential for existing operations.

**Seek state funding of \$45 million for extending public water to areas of the county contaminated by Gen X that are north of the Gray’s Creek Water and Sewer District and east of the Cape Fear River.**

The County has completed a financial feasibility study and Preliminary Engineering Report for extending water lines in the Gray’s Creek Water and Sewer District to address GenX contamination.

In January 2020, the Board of Commissioners, unanimously approved setting aside \$10.5 million specifically for continued exploration of extending water in the Gray’s Creek District through a phased approach. The first phase would extend public water to Alderman Road and Gray’s Creek Elementary Schools. The cost to provide water lines to areas affected by GenX contamination in the district is estimated to be about \$60 million and does not include operational costs. The low population density in the area increases the cost of sustainability of the project.

The County is in discussion with Chemours about funding for the project in the Gray’s Creek Water and Sewer District.

The earlier PER and financial feasibility study did not address areas outside the Gray’s Creek Water and Sewer District. There is contamination north of the district and east of the Cape Fear River from the Chemours plant.

The County is seeking funding of the estimated \$45 million to conduct a feasibility study, PER and to construct water lines to the contaminated areas outside the Gray’s Creek Water and Sewer District.

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Vice-Chairman Glenn Adams presented the information recorded above. Representative Szoka stated this is a complex issue including lawsuits and uncertainty of budget which puts the delegation in a bind. Representative Szoka further stated the House and Senate have had discussions about all options for safe water in Gray’s Creek but this will take some time to resolve. Representative Szoka stated the Governor recently came out with a request for a bond package for failing water systems and he would argue that Gray’s Creek would fall under that criteria. Senator DeViere requested an update on the buildout and a timeline.

Responding to a question posed by Representative Wheatley, County Manager Amy Cannon, stated the County has been working with a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and a Feasibility Report for the Gray’s Creek Water and Sewer District itself and the County’s ask today of \$45 million includes beginning the study phase for east of the river, the Cedar Creek Road area, and north of the district, Sandhill Road area. Ms. Cannon stated there is continuing contamination in those areas and the next study step for the County.

Representative Richardson stated clean water to Gray’s Creek is a major priority of the Delegation and for the County to keep three things in mind: take advantage of the interest rates right now and use bonds, under new legislation PWC is not confined to a boundary line and needs to partner with us to provide water, and Chemours needs to be a partner in this solution.

B. Tax and Finance

1. Food and Beverage Tax

Ms. Cannon presented the information recorded below:

**Amend the Prepared Food and Beverage Tax (Session Law 1993 – 413) to repeal the sunset provision and clarify that food and beverage proceeds may expand beyond the Crown Complex footprint and modify the distribution of the proceeds from the sale of alcoholic beverages in Cumberland County to include a portion to the City of Fayetteville, the Town of Hope Mills, and the Town of Spring Lake.**

- Chairman Evans, Vice Chairman Adams and Commissioner Keefe met December 21, 2020 and January 8, 2021, with Fayetteville Mayor Colvin and Mayor Pro Tem Jensen to discuss mutual support for legislation to remove the sunset provision and clarify that food and beverage proceeds may expand beyond the Crown Complex. The group came to consensus on a four-year phased revenue sharing plan for the unrestricted ABC funds. At the end of four years, the revenue sharing for the funds would be:

<b>County</b>	<b>47.5%</b>
<b>City of Fayetteville</b>	<b>47.5%</b>
<b>Town of Hope Mills</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Town of Spring Lake</b>	<b>2%</b>

- The Board of Commissioners approved a joint resolution with proposed draft language for a local bill at their meeting on January 19, 2021. The City of Fayetteville will consider the joint resolution and draft language at an upcoming meeting.

Representative Szoka stated this has been a lengthy process and he applauds the City of Fayetteville and the County getting together on this issue. Representative Szoka further stated, as Chair of the House Finance Committee, the Delegation is supportive, but a majority of the General Assembly want to add a provision to make any local tax bill subject to a vote of the people which will be an issue. Senator DeViere stated the Delegation needs to know the County will still want to proceed if there is a referendum. Representative Richardson stated prior to introducing a bill he would run it by County Attorney Rick Moorefield and the City of Fayetteville’s attorney.

2. Local Occupancy Legislation

**Amend NCGS 2001-484 to allow Cumberland County to operate under the House Finance Committee Guidelines for Occupancy Tax Legislation for the makeup of the members of the Tourism and Development Authority.**

- The makeup of the Cumberland County TDA does not comply with the House Finance Committee’s Guideline for Occupancy Tax Legislation. This change would allow for a more inclusive and representative TDA.
- Cumberland County’s local occupancy legislation (Session Law 2001-484) dictates the makeup of the Tourism Development Authority and limits the number of eligible individuals to:
  - 2 representatives nominated by hotels and motels within the County which have in excess of 100 rooms subject to the occupancy tax.
  - 2 representatives nominated by hotels and motels within the County which have fewer than 100 rooms subject to the occupancy tax.
  - The President of the Fayetteville-Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce
  - The County Manager, in an ex officio capacity
  - A member of the public who is not affiliated with travel and tourism and who reflects the cultural diversity of the county.
- The House Finance Committee guidelines provide that “at least ½ of the members must be currently members active in the promotion of travel and tourism in the taxing district and 1/3 of the members must be affiliated with organizations that collect the tax”.
- Members serve three-year terms.
- Duties:
  - Expend the net proceeds of the occupancy tax authorized by and levied under Session Laws 2001 Chapter 484, as amended from time to time, for the purposes provided in that act.
  - Promote travel, tourism and conventions in the County, sponsor tourist-related capital projects in the County.
  - Contract for and be contracted with, apply for, and accept grants and gifts for the accomplishment of the purposes provided in the act.

Commissioner Jimmy Keefe presented the information recorded above. There was no further discussion.

### C. Infrastructure

#### **Seek legislation to expand infrastructure and broadband capacity to unserved residents of Cumberland County.**

- On January 12, 2021, MetroNet and Fayetteville announced a partnership designed to bring 100% fiber optic internet, TV, and phone services to Fayetteville and the other eight municipalities and “much of the unincorporated Cumberland County.” The Company intends to buildout the entire City of Fayetteville, all the municipalities of Cumberland County, the overwhelming majority of unincorporated Cumberland County, along with Raeford, Rockfish, and parts of Hoke County.
- \$70 million investment with a three-year build out. The first customers are projected to be connected before the end of the year.
- The company is interested in partnering with the City, County, Fayetteville Cumberland County Economic Development Corporation, Cumberland County Schools and granting agencies to get broadband to those who need it most. This is both a question of available infrastructure and affordability. While this project will install advanced fiberoptics across most of Cumberland County, this will not be economically feasible in the most rural and

least populated areas. However, this can be accomplished through public-private partnerships. Despite the demonstrated need, to date, Cumberland County has not been able to qualify for any of the known “Broadband” grants.

While the extended infrastructure will make connectivity feasible for all families, affordability will remain a barrier for many of our students and citizens. Cumberland County is seeking financial assistance for programs that would provide high-speed internet to those that require it for school, work, and healthcare.

**Provide information about grants and other opportunities for economic development, infrastructure, and broadband services that Cumberland County can leverage as a Tier 1 county.**

Commissioner Jimmy Keefe presented the information recorded above. Discussion and questions followed. Representative Richardson stated he understands the County is requesting the Delegation to examine the restrictions that disqualify Cumberland County from the Tier 1 funding. Representative Richardson stated the County and Delegation can work together to get this information. Representative Richardson stated he would like for the Delegation to meet with the board again sometime mid-way through the bill process and before the deadline to stay in constant communication.

**D. School Funding**

- Support legislation to repeal the statutory authority that allows school boards to sue boards of commissioners over county appropriations.
- Increase lottery funding and/or additional revenues to equitably address public school capital school projects.

Commissioner Boose presented the information recorded above. Ms. Cannon stated she was asked to be a part of a statewide committee to talk about the formula that was put in place which is detrimental to counties. Representative Szoka stated this could be affecting other counties. Ms. Cannon stated Cumberland County was the first county to reach out to NCACC regarding the detriment of the formula but there has not been any recent conversation. Representative Szoka stated it would be important to find other counties that are affected by this to move any kind of legislation to change this issue because there is strength in numbers. Ms. Cannon stated she would reach back out to NCACC about this issue and how it is impacting other counties in North Carolina. Representative Richardson asked Ms. Cannon to set up a three-way phone call with the NCACC to include any delegation member that may want to be on the call.

**E. Unfunded Mandates**

**Oppose unfunded mandates and shifts of state responsibilities to counties.**

Commissioner Michael Boose presented the information recorded above and provided a background on the lottery funds. Representative Szoka stated this is a topic of the legislature every year.

**4. Delegation Roundtable Discussion on Individual Legislative Goals and Planned Proposals**

There was no further discussion.

**5. Closing Remarks**

Representative Richardson stated he would like to see another meeting to follow up in a few months instead of meeting annually because there are some very important issues on the table and a follow up meeting down the road would be beneficial for all. Chairman Evans stated he welcomes that opportunity to meet again and for staff to keep in touch.

**6. Adjournment**

Chairman Evans thanked members of the delegation for attending the meeting and for all they do for the citizens of Cumberland County.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Approved with/without revision:

Respectfully submitted,

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Kellie Beam  
Deputy Clerk to the Board