



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 22, 2017

Department of Public Health

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Health Department Receives State Reaccreditation

FAYETTEVILLE – The Cumberland County Department of Public Health was granted reaccreditation status May 19 by the North Carolina Local Health Department Accreditation Board, an independent entity whose members are appointed by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary.

Cumberland County Public Health Director Buck Wilson received the reaccreditation designation on behalf of the Health Department during the NCLHDA board’s meeting in Raleigh May 19. The reaccreditation period is for four years, from 2017 to 2021. Cumberland County was one of fifteen health departments awarded reaccreditation on May 19.

“I am very proud of our staff and all of their hard work to achieve accreditation for our second time,” Wilson said.

The accreditation board was developed in 2002 by the state Division of Public Health and the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors to develop a standardized system for accrediting local North Carolina health departments throughout the state. North Carolina is the first state in the country to mandate accreditation for its local health departments.

“All of the agencies recently achieving reaccreditation have much to be proud of. They have not only demonstrated their ability to meet a set of important performance standards, but excelled in many areas,” said Amy Belflower Thomas, NCLHDA Administrator. “Through reaccreditation, these agencies demonstrate a strong commitment to continuously work to improve the quality of services provided to their respective communities.”

During the accreditation process, the NCLHDA focuses on the capacity of local health departments to perform at a prescribed, basic-level of quality the three core functions of assessment, assurance, and policy development and the 10 essential public health services.

These minimal standards set by the accreditation process must be provided to ensure the protection of the public’s health, but do not limit the services or activities provided by the agency to address specific local needs.

To achieve reaccreditation, the Public Health Department provided documentation for 41 benchmarks and 148 activities; it hosted a site visitor team of peer public health experts March 28 and 29 who reviewed these completed benchmarks and activities, and its reaccreditation status was granted by the NCLHDA Board.

Local health departments do not receive any funding for accreditation.



Public Health Director Buck Wilson (right), pictured with NC Local Health Department Accreditation Administrator Amy Belflower Thomas (left) May 19. Wilson received the reaccreditation designation on behalf of the Health Department.

If you would like more information about the Cumberland County Department of Public Health's programs and services, health-related data, or community resources, please call 910-433-3600 or visit with someone at the information desk, or visit our website at co.cumberland.nc.us/health.aspx#. Comments are welcome and can be submitted on our website at co.cumberland.nc.us/health/comment_form.aspx. The Health Department is located at 1235 Ramsey St. in Fayetteville.

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