

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Monday, April 6, 2026

9:00 A.M. Work Session

MINUTES

Place: Commissioners' Chambers, Second Floor, Durham County Government
Administrative Complex, 200 E. Main Street, Durham, NC

Present: Chair Dr. Mike Lee, Vice Chair Nida Allam, and Commissioners Michelle Burton,
Wendy Jacobs and Stephen Valentine

Presider: Chair Dr. Mike Lee

Zoom Hybrid
Participants: 10

Citizen Comments

The Board of County Commissioners provided a 30-minute comment period to allow Durham County citizens an opportunity to speak. Citizens were given the option to deliver their Citizen Comments in-person or virtually via email to the Clerk no later than Sunday, August 3rd, at 12 noon.

Consent Agenda

The Board was requested to review the following Consent Agenda items for the April Regular Sessions.

26-0134 Budget Ordinance No. 26BCC077 Recognizing \$117,318.17 in Additional Library Revenue from the Durham Library Foundation

County Manager Hager confirmed that staff would follow up and work to ensure that the Durham Library Foundation be recognized for their donation at a future Regular Session.

26-0142 Approve Execution of Design Narrative Contract with CPL Architects and Engineers for the Junction Road Fleet Operations Project in the amount of \$180,500.00 plus (10%) contingency in the amount \$18,050.00, for a total not to exceed \$198,550.00

Peri Manns, Deputy Director, Engineering & Environmental Services, explained that no official site plan was decided as the study with the consulting company would help frame the decision. He also shared that the Planning Department planned to bring an updated building policy to the Board soon; however, the design referenced the policy.

26-0154 Approval of 500 E. Main St. Stormwater Control Measure and Public Pedestrian Access Easements and Plats and to Authorize the County Manager to execute the Second Amendment to the Master Declaration Agreement

Peri Manns, Deputy Director, Engineering & Environmental Services, confirmed the park was conveyed to ZOM to ensure there was continued access and that ZOM would be responsible for maintaining the linear park.

26-0172 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 26BCC078 Cooperative Extension to Recognize a \$600,000 Grant Award from the North Carolina Division of Social Services (NCDSS) for the Welcome Baby Program for Family Support Program Services and Establish a .65 FTE Position

Patience Mukelabai, Welcome Baby Program Coordinator, shared that this position would work up to 25 hours per week to support services that were already in place. She continued to say families who were court ordered to complete programs were referred to them by Durham Social Services (DSS).

There were no questions regarding the items below:

26-0115 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 26BCC071 Recognizing \$72,878 in Grant Funding from the State Library of North Carolina's Libraries Strengthening Connections Grant in Support of Programming Laptop Purchases

26-0138 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 26BCC072 Public Health to Recognize \$1,500 from the Delta Dental Foundation Grant to the Department of Public Health Dental Division's Community Smiles Initiative

26-0139 Approval of Sanford Electrical Contractors, Inc. Contract Amendment for Electrical Services for the Utilities Division in the Amount of \$161,038.53 Bringing the Contract Amount from \$139,504.97 to \$300,543.50 with a Not to Exceed Amount of \$330,000

26-0145 Approval of Contact with Stryker for the Purchase of fifty-five (55) Stryker LIFEPAK 35 cardiac monitor units in the amount \$2,739,043.70, twenty six (26) LIKEPAK CR2 AEDs in the amount of \$40,525.68 for a total purchase price of \$2,779,569.38

26-0160 Approval of a Contract Amendment with Boundtree Medical in the Amount of \$75,000.00 additional in funding to Purchase Emergency Medical Services Medical Supplies for a Total Contract of \$450,000.00.

26-0165 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 26BCC076 Cooperative Extension to recognize \$7,245.83 for Family and Consumer Science Program Expenses from the Fall Fest Plant Sale and EMFV Program.

26-0169 Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No. BCC075 to recognize additional funding from the Durham Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Board in the amount of \$5,000 for the Durham Recovery Court

Discussion Items

26-0161 WomenNC CEDAW Resolution and Student Research Presentation

The Board was requested to receive a presentation from WomenNC. This presentation was intended as a follow-up to the 2017 resolution and as an opportunity to share updated insights while continuing the conversation about how Durham County could build on its commitment to advancing women's human rights and gender equity locally.

At the time, this resolution demonstrated Durham County's commitment to pay greater attention to women's human rights and issues affecting women and girls within the city and county, and we continue to deeply appreciate the leadership Durham showed in adopting it. Durham remains one of the outstanding counties in North Carolina and across the country to take this step, and its leadership was recognized in broader national and global conversations on local Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) implementation. WomenNC had proudly highlighted Durham's commitment to our advocacy work and through our engagement at national and international levels.

The Board heard presentations from the following:

- Noelle Smith, North Carolina Central University Student – *Unmasking Strength: The Impact of the Strong Black Woman Archetype on Health, Coping, and Wellness in Black Women in U. S. Southern Communities*
- Caroline Joo, Duke University Student – *The Smiling Gap: How Medicaid Insufficiency Hurts Oral Health for Pregnant Women and Single Mothers in North Carolina*
- Chalina Morgan-Lopez, North Carolina State University – *Resource Access for Latinx Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in NC*

Questions were raised regarding how residents were utilizing benefits and programs that were federally funded and how any barriers could be removed to allow residents to utilize the benefits and programs. Also, were there ways to work with nonprofits to integrate the CEDAW foundation by filling any gaps.

The Board requested Dr. Rodney Jenkins, Public Health Director, and Lincoln Health Community Center to receive copies of the presentation and individual student reports.

Beth Dehghan, WomenNC Founder and President, confirmed work was done with the Durham County Women's Commission and could create an annual report from their findings.

The Board suggested WomenNC reach out to state senators due to some work required policies on the State level.

The Board also requested an update from Public Health and an update on Durham County numbers related to the number of pregnant women using Medicaid benefits for dental.

Noelle Smith, NCCU Student, shared that by providing educational programming to ensure black women were aware of how to cope with health and wellness and training for medical professionals being implemented in curriculum would help build a trust foundation from providers to patients.

Directive:

- **Staff to provide Public Health Director and Lincoln Community Health center with presentations and individual student reports.**
- **Staff to provide updates from Public Health.**
- **Staff to provide update on Durham County numbers related to the number of pregnant women using Medicaid benefits for dental.**

26-0168 Draft FY27 Durham Annual Transit Work Program Presentation

The Board was requested to receive a presentation on the Draft FY27 Durham Annual Transit Work Program (Work Program). The presentation highlighted the following: Durham County Transit Plan Overview, Durham County FY25 Annual Report, FY25-26 Accomplishments, Durham County FY27 Annual Work Program Overview, Draft FY27 Work Program Budget Overview, and the Draft FY27 Work Program Partner Budget Priorities

As part of the appropriations process for the Durham County Transit Plan, an annual Work Program was developed which included a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The 2023 Transit Governance Interlocal Agreement (ILA) determined the process by which the annual budget was developed and approved. Under the guidance of the ILA, the Work Program required approval by the Durham Board of County Commissioners and the GoTriangle Board of Trustees.

Ellen Beckmann, AICP, Transportation Director, shared that a small easement on Ellis Road was sold to NCDOT and there was still a sizeable amount of parcel left. However, entry access was limited, and an alternate route would need to be addressed.

Steven Schlossberg, Director of Tax District Administration, GoTriangle, stated the \$7 vehicle tax was a County approved tax to residents which helped the launch of the transit plan. The \$3 tax was a portion of the GoTriangle Regional Transportation Authority Tax, who had the ability to allocate funds to the transportation plan.

Mr. Schlossberg, shared the investment earnings were utilized for the next year work programs, giving GoTriangle the ability to add additional projects if need be.

Discussion was held regarding recommendations related to policies. Ms. Beckmann, shared there was a long range plan to go towards big projects which took a while to develop, but now being able to fund everything in the plan. She recommended ensuring projects could be fully funded to address capital funding gaps by coordinating solutions with the City of Durham. Ms. Beckmann added there were operational costs related to rising gas prices; however, the priority recommendation was focusing on maintenance facilities for the City of Durham and the cost share issue.

Ms. Beckmann clarified there was no Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for ways to implement stronger guardrails on funding that the County may give and mainly relied on partners. County Manager Hager added a change in approach would need to be looked at on how to evaluate efforts.

The Board requested to receive reports on the Capital Improvements Plans from the City of Durham on how their bus operations and facility improvements and their paratransit facility and improvements.

Ms. Beckmann explained the fare free services were requested by the City of Durham at the beginning of the plan and were still included.

Directive:

- **Staff to provide reports on the Capital Improvements Plans from the City of Durham on how their bus operations and facility improvements and their paratransit facility and improvements.**

26-0175 An Overview of Medical Services and Detainee Health in the Durham County Detention Facility

The Board received a presentation from the Durham County Sheriff's Office and medical stakeholders at the detention facility to help guide future budgetary and programmatic decisions. The presentation outlined the following: Overview of the Detention Facility Medical and Mental Health Services, Healthcare Delivery Process, Drivers of Cost Increase – Pharmacy, Psych Meds, and Outpatient Cost.

In recent years, correctional medical costs have increased nationwide. Detention facility staff would inform the Board of Commissioners, County Management and the public of data and trends related to diagnosed medical conditions, pharmaceutical costs, outpatient care, emergency care and other data sets to give a comprehensive overview of detainee health and the services provided. The Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer of the detention facility's medical provider assisted in the presentation.

Discussions were held regarding the Capacity Restoration Program located in Mecklenburg, Wake, and Pitt Counties. The program was divided into three (3) regions, with Wake County being chosen for the Triangle area. Wake County was unable to accept patients from other jurisdictions and with no other facilities being created, detainees would need to be transported to Mecklenburg for treatment. Durham County had three (3) detainees who were approved to participate in the program with the cost being covered by the State except for transportation cost – transportation cost was uncertain due to the Durham County Sheriff's Office being held responsible. Sheriff Clarence Birkhead shared there were plenty of moving pieces to understanding the cost of transportation, i.e., staff, coordination efforts with the District Attorney office, the length of visits and the waiting lists across the State.

The Board requested an update pertaining to mental health, the Stepping Up initiatives, the Fit Program, Durham Familiar Faces Pilot, and what would happen when detainees leave the detention center from the Justice Services Department.

Dheeraj Taranath, Chief Medical Officer, Wellpath, shared the outcomes and goals of emergency care were different. He noted some conditions required detainees going to the Emergency Room (ER) and the in-house nurses were unable to manage ER issues.

Questions were asked regarding metrics being collected. Mr. Taranath, stated metrics were collected on how long detainees were incarcerated and were held in compliance with State levels.

Justin Ellerbee, Chief of Detention Services, Durham County Sheriff's Office, shared the mental health pod in the detention centers were still operating for males and females with staff from Justice Services clinicians.

Directive:

- **Staff to provide an update pertaining to mental health, the Stepping Up initiatives, the Fit Program, Durham Familiar Faces Pilot, and what would happen when detainees leave the detention center from the Justice Services Department.**

Adjournment

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs, to adjourn the meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shaunecie Wardrick
Administrative Assistant

DRAFT