



Item #

**COUNTY OF DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Agenda Action Form**

Item:

National Public Health Week, the week of April 7, 2025, with the theme "It Starts Here."

Date Of BOCC Meeting: April 7, 2025

Request For Board Action:

The week of April 7, 2025, marks National Public Health Week, with the theme "It Starts Here," emphasizing the importance of making a positive impact on our homes, communities, and state; and the 30th anniversary of National Public Health Week celebrates significant achievements, including:

- A dramatic decline in HIV/AIDS-related deaths, with treatment advancements allowing many people with HIV to live full, healthy lives.
- A decrease in smoking rates from 25.5% in 1994 to 11.4% today through public awareness, smoking bans, and tobacco taxes.
- A reduction in childhood mortality, from 13.8 to 5.4 deaths per 1,000 live births, thanks to vaccines, improved healthcare, and better nutrition.
- Progress in mental health care, with more individuals receiving support thanks to expanded services and a growing understanding of mental health needs.
- A significant reduction in childhood lead exposure, from 4.4% to under 0.5%, due to important policy changes.
- Increased recognition of how environmental factors, like climate change, can affect health, with efforts like cooling centers and public health campaigns to address these concerns.
- Advancements in preparedness for health threats, including innovations like mRNA technology and global vaccine distribution.

Alignment With Strategic Plan: This item aligns with Durham County Strategic Goal: Healthy and Inclusive Community.

Resource Persons: Rodney Jenkins, DrPH, MHA, Public Health Director

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board resolve that April 7-13, 2025, shall be designated as "Public Health Week" in Durham County, and call upon all residents to observe this week by recognizing the contributions of public health in improving the health of our county and promoting overall well-being for all. "It Starts Here."

