



**Stanly County
Health and Human Services Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 5, 2026 – 6:00 PM**

I. Call to Order/ Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance

The Stanly County Consolidated Human Services Board met in regular session on Thursday, March 5, 2026 in the Health and Human Services Auditorium, Stanly Commons. Chair Koohestani called the meeting to order, providing the invocation and leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present:

County Commissioner Patty Crump
Board Member Diane Robinson
Board Member Neal Speight
Board Member James Link
Board Member Shaun Morgan
Board Member Kristi Small
Board Member Victoria Ramos
Board Member Wendell Drye
Board Member Seena Koohestani
County Commissioner Trent Hatley
Board Member Sharon Efir
Board Member Jennifer Lehn

II. Swearing In Ceremony - Oath of Office

Seena Koohestani, Consumer of Human Services Member Dr. James Link,
Veterinarian Member

Teri Bowers, Notary Public, administered the Oath of Office to Dr. James Link,
Veterinarian Board Member and Seena Koohestani, Consumer of Human Services
Member, both for their first four year term.

III. Adoption of Agenda

Board Member Link moved to Approve, seconded by Board Member Small and Passed by a 12 - 0 vote.

Result:	Passed
Mover:	Board Member Link
Seconded:	Board Member Small
Ayes:	Patty Crump, Diane Robinson, Neal Speight, James Link, Shaun Morgan, Kristi Small, Victoria Ramos, Wendell Drye, Seena Koohestani, Trent Hatley, Sharon Efird, Jennifer Lehn

IV. Scheduled Agenda Items

A. 2025 State of The County Health Report

Presenter: Wendy Growcock

Wendy Growcock, Human Services Program Specialist with the Health Department, presented the 2025 State of the County Health Report (SOTCH). She reviewed a slide presentation for the Board explaining the requirements and the community health assessment cycle. She reviewed morbidity and mortality changes since the last Community Health Assessment (CHA) including diseases which have declined and increased in Stanly County, while reviewing emerging issues as well. Also, a new initiative, Kidney Disease Disparity Initiative, was discussed as the Minority Health Council is addressing higher kidney disease deaths among black/african american residents, stating presentations are being planned to increase awareness and education across the county. The Stanly County Suicide Prevention Council was established as a new initiative as well, which is coordinated by the Health Department with community partners. She also highlighted an event, Golden Shoe, which encourages outside activity in local parks, that the Health Department sponsors, which starts March 14th, ending March 28th. After discussion and questions by the Board, Mrs. Growcock was thanked for her presentation.

After the presentation, Mrs. Clayton announced that Wendy and her team received the Health Department Excellence award in the 2025 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), recognizing all the hard work they accomplished.

V. Consolidated Human Services Updates

A. D.S.S. Updates

1. DSS Board Report - January 2026

Mrs. Dolly Clayton reviewed the DSS Report of Services through January 2026,

included in the Board packet, sharing that revenue was at 41% while expenditures were 57%. There are currently 73 children in foster care, Medicaid recipients were up from the previous month while FNS recipients had a small drop in numbers. There continues to be issues with finding placement for foster kids, as there are currently three children being supervised in the DSS office. Mrs. Clayton states they are still challenged with filling vacancies and staffing across the department. They continue to work on issues in FNS with meeting timeliness with applications and recertifications. They are currently working on a program improvement plan. Also, a request for additional staffing was denied, but will be revisited at the end of March.

Mrs. Clayton passed out the 2024-25 DSS Annual Report to Board members. She explained this report is done each year and contains numbers of clients served and information on the types of services offered. She shared that March is Social Worker month with this years theme, being Social Workers: Uplift, Defend, Transform. She also gives each social worker a pin at each department to acknowledge the hard work they are doing. Mrs. Clayton also had flyers on hand regarding the Pinwheel Planting and Walk Away Child Abuse events on March 31st to kick off Child Abuse Awareness for the month of April.

B. Health Department Updates

1. Budget Performance Report

Mrs. Clayton reviewed the Budget Performance Report included in the Board packet, stating revenues were at 44% while expenditures were 55% through January, 2026.

2. Activity Report

Mrs. Clayton had no specific updates for the report. However, she reminded Board members of the social media strategy they have deployed highlighting all health department services. In highlighting the great work by staff, she mentioned Wendy Growcock and the health education team again for their excellent work on the Community Health Improvement Plan. One of the nurses, Lindy Seiler, completed the requirements to be designated as a Certified Public Health Nurse. Also, one of the management support staff received a promotion to Administrative Office Coordinator. She states the CMARC and CMHRP programs are still scheduled to end at the end of June, but the local Health Directors association has requested a six month extension while they negotiate potential contracts to continue those programs. Also, she shared that she conducted interviews last month for the Deputy Director position and a candidate selection is being finalized and could be starting soon. She mentioned the Health and Human Services Strategic Plan finished up in 2025 and will need to be updated for 2026-28, which will require input from the Board and Partners. Some other reminders include the Budget Committee will meet soon; Lunch and Learn about Chronic Kidney Disease is March 19th at the EE Waddell Center, sponsored by the Minority Health Counsel; the Golden Shoe event starting March 14th.

Mrs. Clayton shared that she has been asked to be a presenter at the Kelly Spangler

public health social work conference at the end of the month at Guilford Tech Community College, also, she has been nominated to receive the Hometown Hero recognition later this month.

VI. Adoption of Consent Agenda

Board Member Ramos moved to Approve, seconded by County Commissioner Crump and Passed by a 12 - 0 vote.

Result:	Passed
Mover:	Board Member Ramos
Seconded:	County Commissioner Crump
Ayes:	Patty Crump, Diane Robinson, Neal Speight, James Link, Shaun Morgan, Kristi Small, Victoria Ramos, Wendell Drye, Seena Koohestani, Trent Hatley, Sharon Efird, Jennifer Lehn

A. Minutes

1. Meeting minutes from 2-05-26 regular meeting.

VII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VIII. Adjourn

Chair Koohestani declared the meeting adjourned.

Seena Koohestani, Chair

Teri Bowers, Administrative Assistant