

Person County Board of Health Recognized During Public Health Week

By Mackenzie Clayton

Person County Health Department (PCHD) is celebrating National Public Health Week, April 1 – 7, with this year's theme, "Protecting, Connecting and Thriving: We Are All Public Health". The department would like to recognize the Person County Board of Health, which is an important part of PCHD.

The Board of Health is tasked with having "the responsibility to protect and promote the public health," as stated in North Carolina General Statute (NCGS) 130A-39.

The Person County Board of Health is made up of 11 members, all of which are appointed by the county commissioners. The board must have representatives that include a licensed physician, dentist, optometrist, veterinarian, pharmacist, a registered nurse, county commissioner, professional engineer, and three representatives of the general public.

The board of health acts as a governance board for the health department, advocating for both the department itself and its programs, which work to improve public health. According to Jeffrey Noblett, a local dentist and current board chair, those on the board must have a "burning desire to serve in public health."

Pharmacist Benjamin Tillett, who has served on the board of health multiple times since 1988, says that being a member "gives us an opportunity to serve our community."

The Person County Board of Health works closely with the local health department. "We get to see how busy a health department is and how amazing the staff are, that they are able to pull so much stuff together and provide so many programs within the health department," mentioned Tillett.

"I consider the board of health and the health department as a vital component of our community because we monitor what goes on, everything from immunizations to, COVID, and emergency preparedness," said Noblett. "The health department was really leading the charge with the COVID vaccines, and if you didn't know about the health department before, you knew about it then."

Both Noblett and Tillett spoke highly of their time spent on the board of health, saying that it has been "very satisfying and very rewarding." Tillett went on to say, "We'd love to have anyone on this board if they're really interested in public health."

Applications for the Person County Board of Health can be found on the Person County website www.personcountync.gov, or by contacting the Health Department Director, Janet Clayton, at (336) 597-2204.