



FORT BRAGG  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
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**CUMBERLAND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
FORT BRAGG & CUMBERLAND COUNTY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
February 02, 2022, 12PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** *Sandy Ammons, Cumberland County Co-Chair  
Dr. Anicca Cox, Community Representative  
Nathan Crew, Farming and Agriculture Representative  
Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Kenjuana McCray, Local Government Rep.  
Natasha Randall, Local Government Representative  
Candace Scott, Public Health & Food Representative  
Dr. Dana Kolbfleisch, Higher Education Representative  
Shella Korch, Healthcare, Public Health, Food Representative*

**EXCUSED ABSENCE:** *Stephanie White, Ft. Bragg School Representative  
Yaya Nadermann, Secretary & Public Health, Food Representative  
Veronica Feliciano, Community Representative*

**STAFF PRESENT:** *Sheena Butler, Food Policy Council Liaison  
Hannah Darr, UNC Intern  
Travis Greer, Food Environment Assessment Liaison  
LTC Lydia Hudson, Fort Bragg Representative  
Martina Sconiers-Talbert, Grants Manager*

**Item 1. Call to Order:**

*Sandy Ammons* welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 12PM.

a. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by *Sandy Ammons*. Quorum was met.

**Item 2. Action Items:**

a. Approval of Minutes: *January 05, 2022 and Special Meeting January 11, 2022*

Candace Scott mentioned the spelling of her name

Sheena Butler requested edits to the following sections: Members Present, Item 3b., and Summary.



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MOTION: *Candace Scott* moved to approve the Food Policy Council meeting minutes for the regular meeting and special meeting.

SECOND: *Dr. Anicca Cox*

VOTE: *Unanimous*

### Item 3. Executive Reports:

- a. Co-chairs

*No Reports*

- b. Secretary

*No Reports*

### Item 4. Informational & Discussion Items:

- a. *Cumberland County CHA*      *Tamra Morris*, PH Educator Supervisor at CCDPH

*Tamra Morris* introduced the Cumberland County Community Health Assessment. Cumberland County partners with Health ENC to conduct community health assessments (CHA) every three years. The purpose of the CHA is to identify the needs and resources within the communities, then to develop initiatives to improve these health challenges. The priorities identified in the 2019 CHA included access to health services, the economy, exercise/weight/nutrition, public safety, and substance abuse.

The scorecard system used by Cumberland County tracks the results and indicators and is currently being updated with the 2022 CHA data. *Tamra* also provided information about Cumberland County that is relevant to the Food Policy Council. 17% of households use SNAP benefits in the county, which is 4% higher than the rest of the state.

An estimated .5% of Cumberland residents commute via public transit, which is slightly lower than the rest of North Carolina. However, 5.9% walk to work which is higher than the rest of North Carolina. According to the preliminary data from the 2022 CHA, the top 3 quality of life issues in the community are low income/poverty, violent crimes, and drug/alcohol abuse. Residents felt that there was good healthcare in the county but a lack of affordable housing. *Tamara* stated that the goal was to finish the data analysis and release the 2022 CHA in April.



The top priorities from the 2022 CHA are substance abuse, economy, public safety, and mental health. The team is working on creating a results-based accountability plan with the data to create a community health improvement plan (CHIP).

*No further questions or comments from the council.*

- b. Ft. Bragg Community Survey *Hannah Prentice-Dunn*, Project Manager at UNC

*Hannah Prentice-Dunn* reviewed data from the 2019 Fort Bragg Community Health Assessment, 2021 Fort Bragg Community Health Survey, and Fort Bragg Food Pantry. Statistics are provided regarding social and economic factors comparing children in poverty, unemployment rate, and uninsured populations in Cumberland County, North Carolina, and the United States. 26% of children live in poverty in Cumberland County, compared to 24% in North Carolina, and 21% in the United States. An overview of adult obesity, diabetes, heart disease is presented comparing Cumberland County, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and the United States. Overall, the prevalence of obesity, diabetes, and heart disease among Fort Bragg soldiers are much lower than the rest of the county, state, and country. This is likely due to soldiers being younger and more active than the rest of the population. Nevertheless, injuries, poor diet, and overweight/obesity are the top health concerns of soldiers on base.

In April-May 2021, the Fort Bragg community Health Survey was disseminated to the Fort Bragg community. Out of the 3281 participants, 67% of respondents indicate worry about food insecurity in the last year, and 64% of survey respondents have experienced food insecurity over the last 12 months.

Food insecurity was more likely to be experienced by soldiers living in the barracks or living in a household with children. Both service members and non-service members stated that they want to eat healthier. They claimed that availability, price, and quality of healthy options are some barriers to accomplish this.

Lastly, *Hannah Prentice-Dunn* covered the services and hours of operations for the Food Pantry on Fort Bragg and the demographic data that they have collected from January 2021-October 2021.

*Sandy Ammons* asked for clarification on the time frame of the food insecurity questions. *Hannah Dunn* confirmed that the range for the food insecurity questions was within the last twelve months.



*No further questions or comments from the council.*

- c. Food Environment Assessment Report *Dr. Jared McGuirt*, Asst. Professor at UNCG

*Dr. Jared McGuirt* introduced the Food Environment Assessment Report that was a collaborative effort between UNC-G and Cumberland County Department of Public Health to better understand the food environment in Cumberland County and Fort Bragg. The survey was structure but not overly complicated to allow the participants to easily access and complete the survey. The first step of the FEA was to collect secondary data about food options and food deserts to create a mapping system. An interactive map was provided to be able to explore the characteristics of the area.

Cumberland County has 22 census tracts that are considered food deserts, which is approximately 1/3 of all census tracts. Additionally, 43 census tracts have less than 10% of stores in the healthy category. This helped narrow the focus on the assessment on corner stores and convenience stores instead of grocery/chain stores. The assessment found that 70% of stores had few or no healthy options. Only 3 stores had fresh vegetables and 14 offered fresh fruit (mostly apples and bananas). The assessment report located five opportunity sites as well as other potential retail partner sites based on community auditor comments. The report was finished with policy and program suggestions with resources.

*No further questions or comments from the council.*

- d. Murchison Choice NP- Project Update *Adam Rosa*, COLLABO Planning Coordinator

*Adam Rosa* introduced the community planning initiative, Murchison Choice Neighborhood Plan. Choice neighborhoods focuses on people, housing, and neighborhoods. Their two-year grant covers project planning to improve 1 out of 11 cities selected with the end goal of obtaining an implementing grant to rebuild housing and put projects to work. Murchison is about halfway point. The final plan is to submit a plan for an implementation grant of \$40-\$50 million dollars.

The team is hosting community conversations and working with the five community ambassadors to learn about the neighborhood and the community goals.



Five working groups work together to address the goals (History, Equity, and Inclusion; Housing and Commercial Development; Education and Job Training; Safety and Security; Transportation and Open Spaces). The main goals are to grow green areas, create a community of learning, and preserve the historical and cultural community. Encouragement to join one of the five groups was provided with direction to visit the website for further details. Adam Rosa covered their big, medium, and smaller goals. The small goals are starting a community garden, re-opening the Bronco Square Farmers Market, and expanding healthy eating programs. The medium goals are to improve transportation to grocery stores/food pantries, establish a community kitchen, and recruit healthier restaurant options in the area. The big goals are to recruit a full-service grocery to the community and establish an urban farm/orchard.

*Sandy Ammon* asked about their grant process. Adam Rosa clarifies that they are on their first planning grant and are looking to move to their second grant to implement the plans.

*Sandy Ammons* replies that the information provided is relevant and how the theme of transportation or lack of seems to be a reoccurring theme when addressing certain neighborhood issues.

Candace Scott is part of one of the five groups from the Murchison Choice Neighborhood Plan and highly encourages us to join for it is engaging and productive.

e. Greater High Point Food Policy Summit Review *Travis Greer*, FEA Liaison, CCDPH

*Travis Greer* introduced the Greater High Point Food Policy Summit. He values the main speaker Dr. Rachel Zimmer and her content around food insecurities and interventions. He mentions there is lack of data and inconsistencies. Ways to improve measurements were provided in the videos.

*Candace Scott* comments about High Point and their involvement in the farmer's market. Suggest that we have an opportunity to do something similar in this area.



*Dr. Anicca Cox* enjoyed *Dr. Rachels* presentation and how she highlighted elaborated among different sectors.

*Sandy Ammons* mentions that we need to digest all this information, use the resources, and come back with ideas for next meeting.

f. Introduction of Visitors

*Sandy Ammons* asked for visitors to introduce themselves. Only visitors are our presenters who have already introduced themselves.

g. Announcements

*Sandy Ammons* announced our next virtual meeting and finalized the meeting to reapprove the meeting minutes with suggested edits.

*Motion to re-approve the minutes: Dr. Anicca Cox*  
*Second: Candace Scott*  
*Vote: Unanimous*

**ADJOURN**

MOTION: *Candace Scott* moved to adjourn the meeting.  
SECOND: *Dr. Anicca Cox*  
VOTE: *Unanimous*

The meeting was adjourned at 1:14pm.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:** *Next Meeting March 2, 2022 @5PM*