



North Carolina

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION

North Carolina Local Health Department Accreditation

Reaccreditation Site Visit Report

AGENCY NAME: Toe River Health District

COUNTIES: Avery and Mitchell

HEALTH DIRECTOR: Diane Creek, LMSW

BOARD OF HEALTH CHAIR: Diane Walker

DATE HDSAI SUBMITTED: June 22, 2022

DATES of SITE VISIT: October 5, 2022

Site Visit Team Composition

- Leeanne Whisnant, Public Health Administration (Lead Site Visitor)
- Kim Crump, Public Health Nursing
- Andy Smith, Environmental Health
- Mark Phelps, Board of Health
- Alicia Pickett, Environmental Health (Shadower)

Region Served by the Health Department

Hugging the curves of the mountains of Western North Carolina is the Toe River in Avery and Mitchell counties. The Toe River area is a very tight knit community. With the devastations of this past year and the hardships that have come with the COVID-19 pandemic, the western region of North Carolina has stayed strong and resilient. Unfortunately, this still resulted in much of the population falling below the poverty line. In the past year, Mitchell County has shifted to a Tier 1 ranking, one of the most economically distressed counties in the state. Since 2018, Mitchell has had population decreases of -0.03% with a poverty rate of 14.8% according to the US Census Bureau. Avery is ranked a Tier 2 county and has had a population increase this past year at a rate of 1.67% and a rising poverty rate of 16.4%.

Number of Local Health Department Employees

Toe River Health District now has 28 employees since Yancey County left the District in July 2022.

Local Health Department Budget Information

	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22
Total Expenditures	4,420,352.51	4,248,446.01	3,669,448.94	4,019,861.74	4,434,206.69	4,579,879.24
Total Revenue	4,051,143.07	4,078,039.90	3,608,942.29	3,772,830.58	5,183,371.30	5,421,300.03
Local Appropriation	1,048,136.00	1,067,769.00	1,084,226.00	756,253.00	1,174,567.00	1,324,567.00
Local Appropriation %	25%	26%	30%	20%	22%	24%

Local Health Department Services/Programs

The Toe River Health District (TRHD) is the local health department serving the two counties. The TRHD is devoted to protecting and improving the health of Mitchell and Avery County residents. With this area lacking health services, the TRHD has frequently taken the lead in addressing health-related needs. The TRHD offers many services including: primary health care, child and teen health, women’s health, communicable disease prevention, family planning, environmental health, and other program-based services including health promotion and emergency preparedness. The TRHD continues to improve primary care services in the community. TRHD will continue to work with our community partners to provide high quality services for each and every individual for years to come.

Findings

Accreditation Recommendation

The NCLHDA Site Visit Team was able to designate 147 activities out of 147 as ‘Met’ by the Toe River Health District. Scoring for Accreditation requires that each activity be scored individually and that the Health Department must satisfy at least a minimum for each core function and essential service.

Accreditation scoring Requirements:

Assessment:	The Department met 29 of 29 activities (minimum required 26)
Policy Development:	The Department met 26 of 26 activities (minimum required 23)
Assurance:	The Department met 38 of 38 activities (minimum required 34)
Facilities and Administrative Services:	The Department met 27 of 27 activities (minimum required 24)
Board of Health/Governance:	The Department met 27 of 27 activities (minimum required 24)

The NCLHDA Site Visit Team recommends the Toe River Health District for Re Accreditation with Honors.

Not Met Activities

None

Best Practices Identified

None

Toe River Health District - HDSAI Summary Checklist

CF&ES		M	NM	CF&ES		M	NM	CF&ES		M	NM	CF & ES		M	NM	BOH		M	NM
Assessment				Policy				Assurance				Assurance							
1				9				16				27				34			
	1.1	X			9.1	X			16.1	X			27.1	X			34.1	X	
	1.2	X			9.2	X			16.2	X			27.2	X			34.2	X	
	1.3	X			9.3	X			16.3	X			27.3	X			34.3	X	
					9.4	X											34.4	X	
2					9.5	X		17				28							
	2.1	X			9.6	X			17.1	X			28.1	X					
	2.2	X							17.2	X						35			
	2.3	X		10					17.3	X		29					35.1	X	
	2.4	X			10.1	X							29.1	X					
					10.2	X		18					29.2	X		36			
3					10.3	X			18.1	X							36.1	X	
	3.1	X			10.4	X			18.2	X		F & AS	M	NM			36.2	X	
	3.2	X							18.3	X								36.3	X
				11					18.4	X									
4					11.1	X						30				37			
	4.1	X			11.2	X		19					30.1	X			37.1	X	
	4.2	X							19.1	X			30.2	X			37.2	X	
	4.3	X		12					19.2	X			30.3	X			37.3	X	
					12.1	X							30.4	X			37.4	X	
5					12.2	X		20					30.5	X			37.5	X	
	5.1	X			12.3	X			20.1	X			30.6	X			37.6	X	
	5.2	X							20.2	X			30.7	X					
	5.3	X		13									30.8	X		38			
					13.1	X		21					30.9	X			38.1	X	
6									21.1	X			30.10	X			38.2	X	
	6.1	X		14					21.2	X							38.3	X	
	6.2	X			14.1	X			21.3	X		31							
	6.3	X			14.2	X			21.4	X			31.1	X		39			
					14.3	X							31.2	X			39.1	X	
7					14.4	X		22					31.3	X			39.2	X	
	7.1	X							22.1	X			31.4	X			39.3	X	
	7.2	X		15					22.2	X			31.5	X			39.4	X	
	7.3	X			15.1	X			22.3	X			31.6	X			39.5	X	
	7.4	X			15.2	X													
	7.5	X			15.3	X		23				32				40			
	7.6	X			15.4	X			23.1	X			32.1	X			40.1	X	
	7.7	X			15.5	X			23.2	X			32.2	X			40.2	X	
					15.6	X			23.3	X			32.3	X					
8													32.4	X		41			
	8.1	X						24									41.1	X	
	8.2	X							24.1	X		33					41.2	X	
	8.3	X							24.2	X			33.1	X			41.3	X	
	8.4	X							24.3	X			33.2	X					
													33.3	X					
								25					33.4	X					
									25.1	X			33.5	X					
									25.2	X			33.6	X					
													33.7	X					
								26											
									26.1	X									
									26.2	X									
									26.3	X									

Site Visit Team:

Leeanne
Whisnant
Digitally signed by
Leeanne Whisnant
Date: 2022.10.06
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Public Health Administrator Date

Man K. Cune
Public Health Nursing
10/17/2022

Public Health Nursing Date

Andy Smith
Digitally signed by Andy
Smith
Date: 2022.10.06
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Environmental Health Date

Mark Phelps
Digitally signed by Mark
Phelps
Date: 2022.10.07
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Board of Health Date

Accreditation Administrator:

Amy Bellows Thomas
10.12.22

Accreditation Administrator Date