

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
BRIEFING OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 AT 3:00 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on September 15, 2020, in the Commission Chambers, 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 3 p.m. where and when the following business was transacted:

The Chairman called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Brownie Newman, Chairman
Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Commissioner
Joe Belcher, Commissioner
Amanda Edwards, Commissioner
Anthony Penland, Commissioner
Robert Pressley, Vice Chair
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Donald Warn, Finance Director; Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director; Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; Heather Hockaday, Attorney

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

During the meeting, the Board and staff will review and discuss agenda items and receive staff updates with discussions as noted:

Review the Board's Agenda. The Board agreed to move the **Discussion of Parental Leave Policy** agenda item from the regular meeting to the briefing.

Staff Updates:

Health Benefits Update. Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director, and Matt McQuide, USI Insurance Services Senior V.P., explained several changes to the health benefit plan. The Health Risk Assessment program was highlighted during their presentation and a RFP was issued for benefits that included medical, dental, vision, basic supplemental life insurance, short-term disability insurance and other voluntary benefits.

COVID-19 Discussion. Stacie Saunders, Public Health Director, provided information on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic data and trends. She stated that pandemic is starting to stabilize in the County with the positive test rate moving toward 3% and 5% in North Carolina. The COVID-19 briefing update will be held bi-weekly until further notice.

Open Discussion: The Commissioners discussed the grants issued by the County and information was provided by Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director, on the process and accountability of the grant recipients.

Discussion of Parental Leave Policy. After an explanation of the policy by Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director, each Commissioner gave their thoughts and ideas on how the policy can be more effective moving forward. The Board requested that staff provide a cost analysis breakdown of 8, 10 and 12 weeks of paid leave in conjunction with the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) law.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS