

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS’
BRIEFING OF MARCH 21, 2023 AT 3:00 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 21, 2023, in the Commission Chambers, 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 3:00 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
Amanda Edwards, Commissioner
Martin Moore, Commissioner
Parker Sloan, Commissioner
Terri Wells, Vice Chair
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Tiffany Iheanacho, Justice Services Director; John Hudson, Budget Director; Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director; Rafael Baptista, Strategy & Innovation Director; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Taylor Jones, Emergency Services Director; Derrick Ruble, Public Safety Communications Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Curt Euler, Staff Attorney

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:02 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.

Staff Updates:

Homeless Initiative Advisory Committee (HIAC) Update. Matt Cable, Planning, explained the Continuum of Care program that guides local communities in effectively responding to homelessness as a unified system. The Within Reach plan is intended to identify needs and develop recommendations to guide homelessness work. Both of these strategies are important parts of HIAC’s work.

Resident Well-Being Follow-Up. Tiffany Iheanacho, Justice Services Director, shared information related to reducing the jail population and enhancing public safety. Considerations were discussed and offered related to failures to appear, since they can have some lingering effects on and within the system.

Overdose Deaths. Commissioners Beach-Ferrara, Sloan, and Moore provided detailed information and led the discussion about responding to the crisis of overdose deaths. The conversation centered around how can current efforts be expanded to save more lives in Buncombe County related to substance abuse. Polysubstance overdose deaths are increasing and overdose deaths are disproportionately impacting the BIPOC communities. High-Impact efforts, collaboration, and new strategies were discussed to help respond to the crisis.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS