

Health Director's Report
October, 2015

- **Board of Health Priorities**

- Thanks to Coby's great leadership we hosted a statewide Tobacco Control Sustainability Workshop that included local, state and national leaders in tobacco control. I gave a brief presentation on raising the legal sale age of tobacco to 21 and it became quite clear that we need to keep educating and advocating for this item.
- I've had great preliminary conversations with key stakeholders about our proposed syringe exchange pilot program. I look forward to our sub-committee meeting this week and the full discussion by the Board in January.

- **Various**

- We had a great visit by Rick Brajer, Secretary of Health and Human Services. It was his first visit to a local health department and we had 40 minutes of his undivided attention. He was joined by his Deputy Secretary, Dr. Randall Williams, who back in the late 90's did a rotation through the Health Department. I think both enjoyed their visit, learned a lot and were glad they invested the time.
- The County Manager has created "Functional Leadership Teams" to encourage collaboration among related tasks across departments and our key partners. The Health Department has been assigned to two of these teams, "Public Safety" and "Human Services and Education". This week I have two, four-hour goal setting meetings, so I should be able to report-out about what our joint work together will entail after that.
- Last night I attended the CHA community listening session at the Hillsborough Hospital. It was relatively well attended and the participants brought new energy and enthusiasm to these discussions. I've heard from Ashley that there has been good Board of Health member representation at these meeting throughout the county and I greatly appreciate it!
- We hosted our 3rd annual UNC School of Public Health "PHield Trip" where SPH students come to Hillsborough and through a scavenger hunt learn about services the health department provides. This year it was raining, so Donna and her crew had to get extra creative. They, of course, pulled it off like pros and students and leadership from the SPH were extremely happy.
- In my role as an officer of the Health Director's Association, I am continuing to work on finding a resolution to the \$60 million problem created by a change in cost-settlement calculations. I am eternally optimistic that we will resolve this issue.