



Media Contact: County Manager's Office
(336) 570-4044

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Alamance County Establishes a Consolidated Human Services Agency

The Alamance County Board of Commissioners voted Monday night to establish a new consolidated human services agency, positioning the county's health department, veterans' services department, and Family Justice Center under a single organizational structure.

As part of this change, the Alamance Board of Commissioners also created a new human services board and dissolved the former board of health. A nominating committee, as required by law, submitted a list of recommended appointees for the new board. Commissioners approved all recommendations and officially appointed members during the meeting.

The new human services board will assume many of the authorities outlined below, along with most responsibilities previously held by the board of health. The board will set service fees based on recommendations from the agency director, ensure compliance with state and federal laws, review and audit programs, and recommend new services to meet community needs. It will also advise county officials, promote public engagement and advocacy, assist in developing the agency's annual budget, and help create fair and transparent dispute-resolution processes for clients and contractors.

County Manager Heidi York said the new agency represents a major step forward in how services are delivered across Alamance County. "The Consolidated Human Services Agency will align the Alamance County Health Department, the Family Justice Center, and Veterans Services," York explained. "This alignment will allow for more holistic customer services and support while creating new opportunities for improving services."

The new human services board held its first meeting Tuesday night. Although the agenda focused mainly on procedural items, the board also met in closed session to provide advice and consent to the county manager for selecting the agency's first director. After returning to open session, County Manager York announced that Tony Lo Giudice will serve as the new Human Services Agency Director, while continuing to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the local health director.

Board Chair Richard Blanchard said the members are eager to get started. "This new board is excited to carry out its duties to improve the human condition in Alamance County," he said.

Blanchard added that each department will continue its important work. "We want our veterans services department to continue its mission providing first-class support to our veterans," he said. "We want our Family Justice Center to remain a well-coordinated safe and supportive place for victims of violence. And we want our health department to keep promoting health and preventing the spread of disease."

He concluded, "The new variable is together. As a harmonized agency, we will keep advancing the customer experience and strengthening the overall well-being of Alamance County."