

## Mecklenburg County Manager's "Board Bulletin"



**From** Mecklenburg County <web@subscriptions.mecklenburgcountync.gov>  
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### COVID-19 Update

As of 8:30 a.m., there were 81,983 cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) with 739 deaths due to COVID-19 reported among Mecklenburg County residents.

Click [here](#) for the latest data report.

### BOCC FY2022 Virtual Annual Retreat

The Board of County Commissioners will hold its annual retreat for Fiscal Year 2022 Jan. 27 – Jan. 29, 2021.

During the three-day event, Board members will receive an update on fiscal policies for FY2022 and the financial status of the County.

The retreat will be held virtually this year due to the pandemic and may be viewed on the Government Channel (Spectrum Cable channel 16) or [watch.MeckNC.gov](http://watch.MeckNC.gov).

Click [here](#) for the full agenda.

### FY2022 Virtual Community Budget Workshops Begin in February

Starting next month, Mecklenburg County residents will have another chance to weigh in on the budget process for FY2022!

Mecklenburg County is hosting five virtual Community Budget Workshops beginning on Feb. 13, 2021. The Community Budget Workshops will be featured on Webex.

The meetings are designed to allow Mecklenburg County residents to share their input on the FY2022 budget, before the budget is finalized.

Residents will learn about the budget process, engage in interactive discussions, as well as hear from Mecklenburg County Manager Dena R. Diorio.

Information gathered during the event will be considered during planning for the FY2022 budget.

The workshops are free and open to the public. Residents may register for the event by visiting <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/138268584057> .

#### **Event Details:**

- Saturday, Feb. 13 – 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 18 – 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 20 – 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 24 – 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 27 – 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

For more information on the virtual Community Budget Workshops, contact Management & Budget Director [Adrian Cox](#).

#### **2021 Point-in-Time Count Preparations**

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Continuum of Care is preparing for the 2021 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. [Mecklenburg County Community Support Services](#) manages the work of the PIT Count, which is a mandated activity of all Continuums of Care (CoCs) as a condition of receiving federal homelessness assistance from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). The PIT Count is intended to capture the number of people experiencing homelessness in an emergency shelter, safe haven, transitional housing facility, or in an unsheltered location unfit for human habitation.

Typically, this work takes place during the final Wednesday of January. Referred to locally as "EverybodyCountsCLT," this work has historically been supported by staff and hundreds of volunteers who go out, often in the middle of the night or in the early morning hours, to survey those individuals experiencing homelessness and to deliver donated winter weather supplies. As with many things during the past year, communities have had to adjust how they conduct the 2021 Point-in-Time Count due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to COVID-19 and in alignment with 2021 HUD guidelines, there are two notable changes to the 2021 Point-in-Time Count in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. The first modification is that there will be no local survey questions administered during the 2021 census. Including these questions during the PIT Count requires significant in-person interaction with more than 1,000 individuals. In recognition of the fact that the data from these questions are important to local decision-making, and the desire for continuity, staff are exploring opportunities to integrate these questions into regular workflows so that this data can be both captured and shared year-round. In addition, staff are considering new, COVID-19-related impact questions that could be helpful to community decision-makers.

The second major change is that HMIS data (and not in-person surveys) will serve as the primary source for the unsheltered census count. This shift will enable Charlotte-Mecklenburg to conduct a more accurate census

without risking the health of volunteers and individuals experiencing homelessness. To accomplish this, staff who are already engaged with individuals and families experiencing homelessness will complete the count.

Although the 2021 PIT Count will not utilize volunteers to conduct surveys, there are multiple ways individuals and groups can still meaningfully support the homeless service organizations who will shoulder most of the work. To learn more about the 2021 updates and how to support the Point-in-Time Count, please click [here](#).

For more information, contact Community Support Services Director [Stacy Lowry](#).

### **Public Health and Partners Launch '*Change for Life: Tobacco-Free Recovery*'; McLeod Center Takes Early Step with Tobacco-Free Campuses**

This month, Mecklenburg County's [Tobacco Prevention and Control](#) team is leading the launch of [Change for Life: Tobacco-Free Recovery](#), an initiative to empower behavioral health organizations to enact tobacco-free policies, integrate tobacco treatment into their services, and promote a tobacco-free culture.

Among the first organizations to embrace *Change for Life* is [McLeod Addictive Disease Center](#). Beginning Jan. 1, 2021, all McLeod locations went 100% tobacco-free, prohibiting smoking and the use of tobacco products anywhere on any McLeod property. McLeod Center is one of North Carolina's largest behavioral health treatment organizations, with nine facilities in Mecklenburg County and across the region.

People with mental health and/or substance use disorders have the highest tobacco use rates. Research shows that integrating tobacco-use treatment into programs for mental health and substance use disorders can boost a client's chances of long-term recovery, while dramatically reducing other health risks associated with tobacco use.

*Change for Life* comprises a coalition of behavioral health partners from across Public Health Region 4 (Alexander, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly and Union counties) and offers resources to help behavioral health organizations integrate tobacco-free policies into their services and programming. Those resources include trainings, coaching, access to medications, and communication and motivational tools.

For more information, contact Public Health Director [Gibbie Harris](#).

#### **News Releases:**

- [Mecklenburg County COVID-19 Data for Jan. 20](#)
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Click [here](#) to view a full list of news releases.

#### **COVID-19 Symptoms:**

As the pandemic continues to have an impact on the community, click [here](#) to view a list of COVID-19 symptoms.

#### **COVID-19 Testing and Medical Advice:**

Residents who believe they may have been exposed to the virus can contact the County's Public Health Hotline at 980-314-9400 to speak with a medical professional or for guidance on testing.

Testing locations can be found [here](#).

### **What to Do If You're Feeling Sick:**

Click [here](#) for more information on what to do if you think you may have been exposed to the virus.

### **Frequently Asked Questions - Residents:**

Click [here](#) to view a list of the most frequently asked questions related to COVID-19.

### **Resources for County Employees:**

#### **Employee Rights Under Families First Coronavirus Act**

On April 1, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act was signed to help provide additional paid leave for government employees affected by COVID-19.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the act.

## **CALENDAR REMINDERS**

- Wednesday, Jan. 27 – Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners Annual Retreat – Virtual, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 28 – Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners Annual Retreat – Virtual, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 29 – Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners Annual Retreat – Virtual, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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