

September 20, 2022

Dr. Chris Padgett and Board of Health Members
Beaufort County Board of Health
1436 Highland Drive
Washington, NC 27889

Board Members and Health Department Staff,

I am writing to inform you that I will be retiring. My last day with Beaufort County Health Department will be December 30, 2022. This was a difficult decision to reach, and I am grateful for the time I've spent as your Health Director. The Board of Health and the staff have provided me excellent support and guidance during my tenure, and I greatly appreciate your confidence through the years.

Looking back through my nine years as your Health Director, I am proud of the direction the organization has grown in response to health and wellness matters of the county. We have made great strides in addressing diabetes, infant mortality, cancer awareness, teen pregnancies, behavioral health, substance abuse, access to care, and health disparities. I appreciate county leadership, agency partners and community advocates that worked diligently towards healthy outcomes. I believe that the health department navigated the COVID-19 pandemic with exceptional professionalism, determined staff, and clear communication. The health department team consists of truly dedicated individuals that find purpose in helping others. Working here with them has been some of the most rewarding years of my life.

I plan to remain in Eastern North Carolina following my retirement. Many exciting plans await me shortly, including volunteering, fishing, vacations with my wife, and visiting children and grandchildren. I am enthusiastic with the prospect of quality time to spend with my family and the opportunities to pursue a relaxing yet active and healthy lifestyle.

Respectfully,



James A. Madson, RN, MPH
Beaufort County Health Director