



Macon County Public Health

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For Immediate Release

Macon County Public Health Director Kathy McGaha to Retire After 30 Years of Service

Franklin, NC — Macon County Public Health announces the upcoming retirement of Director Kathy McGaha, MHS, who will conclude her distinguished career on December 31, 2025, after 30 years of dedicated service to the residents of Macon County.

McGaha has been a cornerstone of the department serving in multiple roles before becoming Director in April 2020. Her leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond has been marked by resilience, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to equity and community well-being.

Throughout her tenure, McGaha championed forward-thinking initiatives that modernized public health infrastructure and expanded access to care, including:

- **Outdoor Recreational Access:** Expanding outdoor recreational access for Macon County residents by spearheading the development of the Little Tennessee Greenway.
- **School-Based Telehealth Services:** In partnership with local schools, Macon County Public Health launched a telehealth program that brings real-time medical consultations directly to students—reducing absenteeism and increasing access to timely care.
- **The Molar Roller:** A mobile dental unit designed for children, the Molar Roller now travels throughout the county, delivering preventive and restorative dental services to underserved youth and promoting lifelong oral health.

“Kathy’s vision and leadership have transformed our department into a more agile, inclusive, and community-centered organization,” said Garrett Higdon, Board of Health Chairman. “Her legacy will continue to shape public health in Macon County for years to come.”