



## **Press Release**

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### **For Immediate Release**

## **Nash County Health and Human Services Director Bill Hill to Retire After 47 years of Leadership to County**

NASH COUNTY, N.C. — After more than five decades of public health leadership in eastern North Carolina, Nash County Health and Human Services Director William “Bill” Hill, Jr. will retire effective February 1.

As North Carolina's longest serving health director, he will close a 47-year career of service to Nash County, marked by steady leadership, program growth, and a commitment to protecting the health of local families. “It’s been a challenging and rewarding half century ride,” said Hill, “but one that has been very fulfilling and one that I will never forget, especially these very special and dedicated folks I have had the privilege to work with every day.”

Hill’s career in public health began with family inspiration. His grandfather, a physician who transitioned into public health leadership, encouraged him to pursue the field. After earning his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Hill completed a master’s degree in public health and quickly stepped into leadership.

At just 24 years old, he became the youngest health director in North Carolina, serving in Bertie County. He later worked in Greenville with the federal Health Service Agency, supporting 29 eastern North Carolina counties and helping establish rural health centers to improve access to care.

In 1978, Hill accepted the health director position in Nash County, drawn by the opportunity to serve a growing, mid-size community with expanding needs. Over the next four decades, he oversaw traditional public health services while also leading several major county programs, including a multimillion-dollar home health agency, solid waste operations and animal control services.

When Nash County consolidated its human services departments in 2015, Hill accepted the additional leadership role of human services director. While continuing his responsibilities as health director, he began overseeing the county's social services and veterans' services departments.

Colleagues say his steady leadership proved especially critical during the COVID-19 pandemic, when the Nash County Health Department simultaneously maintained routine health services while launching large-scale testing and vaccination efforts across the county. Residents, many who had never been patients at the county's clinics, relied on the health department for screening, vaccines, and daily updates as the virus spread.

"Our team showed up every day, including weekends and holidays, to keep the public informed and protected," explained Hill. "Public health had to take the lead, and I'm proud of how our staff met that moment."

Throughout his career, Hill has emphasized thoughtful decision-making and public trust, often reminding staff to make choices they would feel comfortable seeing explained on the front page of the newspaper. "Our responsibility has been to be transparent, steady, and available," said Hill. "Even when decisions were difficult, we focused on doing what was right for the community."

Colleagues say that philosophy helped shape a culture of accountability and service that will continue beyond his tenure.

As he prepares to retire, Hill said he is confident the county's health and human services departments are positioned for a strong future. "We've built a capable team, and the work will continue," said Hill. "It's been an honor to serve alongside them."

### **About the Nash County Health Department**

The Nash County Health Department serves residents of Nash County, North Carolina by providing a valuable and diverse range of public health services focused on the early detection and treatment of health problems, disease prevention, and the promotion of healthy lifestyles. Through clinical care, prevention programs, health education, and community partnerships, the department works to protect public health, reduce the spread of disease, and support the overall well-being of individuals and families across the county.

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