

Table 1. Comparison of Powers and Duties by Type of Board

	County Board of Health	District Board of Health	Public Health Authority Board	Consolidated Human Services Board
Adopt local public health rules	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Make policy for the local agency	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Adjudicate appeals related to local rules or fines imposed by the local health director	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Appoint local health director after consultation with board (or boards) of county commissioners	Yes	Yes	Yes	No, county manager appoints human services director with consent of the board
Impose fees for services	Yes, subject to approval of BOCC ^a	Yes, subject to approval of all BOCCs ^a	Yes	Yes, subject to approval of BOCC ^a
Prepare and recommend the agency budget	Informal role ^b	Yes	Yes	Yes ^c
Approve local public health agency budget	No	Yes	Yes	No
Enter contracts ^d	No	No	Yes	No
Set salaries of employees and professional reimbursement policies	No	Yes, with approval of Office of State Personnel ^e	Yes	No
Employ legal counsel and staff	No	Yes	Yes	No
Construct or otherwise acquire property for use as public health facilities	No	No	Yes	No
Sell surplus buildings, land, and equipment	No	No	Yes	No
Establish and operate health care networks and contract for the provision of public health services	No	No	Yes	No

a. Fees imposed by a county, district, or consolidated board must be based on a plan recommended by the health director and approved by the board of county commissioners (BOCC).

b. It is customary for a county board of health to develop a proposed budget for the county health department.

c. Consolidated human services agency boards plan and recommend the agency's budget (G.S. 153A-77(d)(7)) but are prohibited from transmitting or presenting the budget for local health programs (G.S. 130A-43(b)(2)) and do not approve the final budget.

d. County, district, and consolidated boards do not have the authority to enter contracts. A separate statute authorizes local health directors to enter contracts on behalf of the local health department; however, the director's authority may not be construed to abrogate the authority of the county commissioners.

e. The salaries of district health department employees are based on a plan that the district board of health adopts, but the plan must be approved by the Office of State Personnel.

Table 2. Comparison of Board Membership Requirements by Type of Board

	County Board of Health	District Board of Health	Single-County Public Health Authority Board	Multi-County Public Health Authority Board	Consolidated Human Services Board
Number of members	11	15 to 18	7 to 9	7 to 11	Up to 25
Members of the public or consumers	3	✓	✓	✓	4 or more ^c
County commissioner	✓	✓ ^a	✓	✓ ^b	✓
Physician	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ ^d
Psychiatrist					✓
Psychologist					✓
Social worker					✓
Hospital administrator			✓	✓	
Dentist	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Optometrist	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Veterinarian	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Registered nurse	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pharmacist	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Engineer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Accountant			✓	✓	

Shaded area: Two professionals representing the following fields must serve on the board: optometry, veterinary science, nursing, pharmacy, engineering, or accounting. In other words, not *all* of these professions will necessarily be represented.

a. One commissioner from each county involved.

b. One commissioner from each county involved. The commissioners may designate someone other than a commissioner to serve in this position.

c. At least 4 members must be consumers of human services.

d. Two licensed physicians must serve on the board, one of whom must be a psychiatrist.