

# Mission releases Dogwood Health Trust board names

**Dillon Davis**  
Asheville Citizen Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

ASHEVILLE – Mission Health announced Thursday the composition of a board tasked with spending millions of dollars in proceeds from a proposed deal with HCA Healthcare.

The board of Dogwood Health Trust, which was formed in May, now includes Jack Cecil, president of Biltmore Farms, as well as three current members of Mission's board: Janice Brumit, Dr. John Ball and local attorney Wyatt Stevens.

Brumit, who serves as Dogwood's founding board chair, said the private, nonprofit foundation took into account "skill, competence, willingness, time and capacity" as well as "geographic diversity" in selecting its initial board.

Brumit said Dogwood's board members must also be committed to the foundation's mission, which is to "dramatically improve the health and well-being of all people and communities in Western North Carolina."

"What we have learned from numerous others with deep experience in this area is that the single most important thing for the board to do at this stage is to be deliberate, focused, strategic and not drive by an artificial timeline," Brumit was quoted as saying in a news re-

lease Thursday.

"The activity associated with creating and eventually operating Dogwood Health Trust will involve engaging the community in a collaborative, multiyear process," she said.

Other Dogwood board members include:

■ Michell Hicks, a three-term principal chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians;

■ Sam Lupas of Landmark Realty Group;

■ George Renfro, retired co-owner and COO of Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Affiliated Inc.;

■ Robert Roberts, regional executive vice president for First Citizens Bank & Trust Co.;

■ Martha Tyner of Tyner Construction Co. Inc.

The foundation will be governed by a board of between five and 19 members with the "knowledge, skill, experience and commitment to advance" that goal and "who represent the diversity of the residents of Western North Carolina," its bylaws show. Mission's board has responsibility to choose initial board members for the foundation, Mission President and CEO Dr. Ron Paulus said



**Jack Cecil**



**Dr. John Ball, chair of the Mission Health Board of Directors, speaks during the WNC Conversion Health Foundation Forum on Aug. 3.**

ANGELI WRIGHT/CITIZEN TIMES

Bylaws and articles of incorporation set out several restrictions on Dogwood's operations. It is to be a nonprofit. A vote of 85 percent of its board would be needed to change Dogwood's purpose or board structure, to spend more than 7 percent of its assets in a year or for Dogwood to dissolve itself or transfer its assets to another entity.

However, Dogwood only becomes operational if the proposed transaction between Mission and HCA is finalized. Ball told Blue Ridge Public Radio this week the contract should be ready by the end of September with the deal expected to be finalized by the end of the year. It will be subject to regulatory approval by North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein and the state's Department of Justice.

Once Dogwood is up and running, Mission leaders said it will partner with local nonprofit organizations to "analyze, understand and address core social determinants of health and well-being for the people in western North Carolina."

It is not expected to award grant funding — by some estimates, as much as \$75 million annually — until at least 2020.

*Citizen Times reporter Mark Barrett contributed to this report.*

## Sheriff's office investigating recent Candler bank robbery

**Sam DeGrave**  
Asheville Citizen Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

ASHEVILLE – The Buncombe County Sheriff's Office is investigating the Wednesday morning robbery of a Candler bank branch.

Deputy sheriffs responded to a call for assistance at the Smoky Park Highway branch of PNC Bank — located near the intersection of Sand Hill Road — at 10:58 a.m. Deputies arrived four minutes later, according to a press release from the sheriff's office.

The subject of the investigation is a

man who, according to bank security footage furnished by the sheriff's office Wednesday, was wearing what appeared to be a yellow long-sleeve shirt, a matching cap and a pair of sunglasses.

No further information about the suspect was released, and the sheriff's office wrote in its release that "there is no further information to release at this time."

Further updates will be posted on the sheriff's office Facebook page and shared via press release with the media.

## Effort to combat the opioid crisis continues with forum

**From Staff Reports**  
The News-Record & Sentinel  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Madison County's efforts to combat the opioid crisis will continue with a community forum.

Madison County Government and partners invite you to attend "Understanding and Treating the Opioid Epidemic: A Community Forum" Tuesday, August 28 from 6-8:30 p.m. at Madison County's A-B Tech Campus.

This event is designed to help you learn more about the ongoing opioid crisis in Madison County and across

the region. The forum will provide insight into how addiction affects the brain and what can be done to address it.

Dr. Blake Fagan, Dr. Susan Holman, Rob and Sherry Abbot, and Chief Deputy Coy Phillips will discuss the complexities of the opioid epidemic from medical, personal, and law enforcement perspectives. Organizations from within the community will be on-site before and after the event to answer questions and connect you to available resources.

If you plan to attend please RSVP to [aruckel@madisoncountync.gov](mailto:aruckel@madisoncountync.gov).

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