

**Lowndes County of Board of Health**  
**September 27, 2016**  
**Minutes**

---

**Members Present**

Dr. Mark Eanes, Chairman  
Dr. Mary Margaret Richardson, Vice-Chairman  
Dr. Randy Smith, Secretary  
Wes Taylor

**Members Absent**

Myron Faircloth  
Mayor John Gayle  
Bill Slaughter

**Others Present**

Dr. William R. Grow  
Tad Williams  
Teresa Giles  
Sherrie White  
Lauren Bewley  
Karen Craft  
Ken Lowery  
Percy Chastang  
Patrina Bowles  
Courtney Sheeley  
Abby McCook  
Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald  
James Howgate  
Diane Durrence  
Norma Jean Johnson  
Kyle Coppage  
Brenda Nash

---

**Call to Order**

- A meeting of the Lowndes County Board of Health was held September 27, 2016 at 7:30 a.m. in the large conference room at the Lowndes County Health Department.
- Dr. Eanes welcomed Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Health, James Howgate and Diane Durrence, also with the Georgia Department of Public Health.

**Public Comments**

- There were no public comments.

**Approval of July 19, 2016 Minutes (Attached)**

- The minutes from the July 19, 2016 Lowndes County Board of Health meeting were approved with no opposition.

**Business**

**Financial Information – Sherrie White (Attached)**

- The Revenue and Expense Summary Report through August 31, 2016 was reviewed.
- The Fee Income Chart was outlined with no problems noted.
- The Five-Year Comparison Chart was discussed.
- Sherrie White Reviewed the Family Planning income. Cumulative totals since 2014 continue to increase. This increase has allowed the funding of 50% of the salaries for three of Lowndes nurses.

**Public Health Updates – William R. Grow, MD, FACP (Attached)**

- Dr. Grow reported that the District is moving forward with the implementation of an electronic health record system with Mitchell and McCormick (M&M). A contract has been signed and templates are being made as part of the migration. All of the boards of health are excited about moving forward with the system. Lanier County Health Department will be the first location to have the system installed.

- The State is in the sixth year of the hold harmless phase-in, which has not resulted in the initial loss projection because of formula changes. Dr. Fitzgerald added that the hold harmless funds for each of those years, for those counties with a loss, remained in the state's baseline budget. Dr. Fitzgerald also informed the Board that there was an increase in Grant-in-Aid (GIA) funds of 12 million dollars.
- The Legislative Luncheon usually held in December has been moved up to October 27, 2016 and will be a breakfast. The breakfast will be held at 8am at the District Office. This breakfast will give the District's board of health members from the southern counties to meet with the legislators for their communities. Senator Ellis Black, Representative Penny Houston, Representative Dexter Sharper and Representative Jason Shaw have all confirmed their attendance.
- Board of Health terms for Dr. Mary Margaret Richardson and Dr. Randall Smith will expire December 31, 2016.

#### **Hurricane Hermine Update – Karen Craft/Lauren Bewley**

Karen Craft, District Emergency Preparedness Director, and Lauren Bewley, District Emergency Preparedness Liaison, presented an update for Hurricane Hermine.

- Ms. Bewley outlined response and support activities by the District during the event. Over 30,000 homes in Lowndes County lost power for as long as 48 hours with approximately 70,000 losing power throughout the District.
- Health department nurse managers in Tift and Lowndes provided medical support to American Red Cross shelters in their counties. Karen Craft staffed the ESF8-8 Desk at the Lowndes County Emergency Operations Center.
- Coordinated efforts by the District Emergency Preparedness staff, the Region L Healthcare Coalition liaison, Lowndes County EMA Director/County Fire Chief and the Valdosta Fire Department resulted in the deployment of generators, extension cords, pedestal fans, lighting systems and portable air conditioning units to shelters, Pruitt Health, Crestwood, Holly Hill and Parkwood Development Center.
- Karen Craft reported that both emergency operations centers in Tift and Lowndes Counties were activated during the hurricane. Coordination and information sharing occurred among multiple partners and agencies. The Lowndes County EMA held an after-action meeting on September 7, 2016 which resulted in favorable comments regarding the role each of the personnel played during the event.

#### **Adolescent Health Update – Percy Chastang**

- Mr. Chastang spoke to the Board regarding teen services in the area. A feasibility study is currently being conducted to determine whether or not the teen center should be reinstated. There is a concern that there is a split between the clinical and educational services. Dr. Grow would like to reconnect those services in one venue.
- A short-term goal after reviewing the fact-finding information is to introduce a pilot program for six months, customizing the scheduling for the teens, providing services on their peak moments (Thursday evenings, Saturday mornings and during fall break). A common area for group education would also be provided and offering concierge services will be considered.
- A long-term goal is to return to the teen clinic model in Valdosta and Tifton.
- Mr. Chastang reviewed a snap-shot model of the organizational structure and budgets involved in the initiative.

**Nurse Manager's Report – Norma Jean Johnson**

- The 2016-2017 School Flu Project has begun. Hahira Elementary and Westside Elementary were the first schools vaccinated with 200 and 204 doses administered respectively. A total of 24 schools will be visited, which includes all of the city schools, all of the county schools and some of the private schools in the District.
- Lowndes will host a drive-thru flu clinic at the Lowndes County High School on October 7, 2016. This will also serve as a Point of Dispensing (POD) exercise for the Emergency Preparedness Program.
- Ms. Johnson and Jessica Spells provided nursing assistance at Mathis City Auditorium during the hurricane.
- Power was lost at the Lowndes County Health Department during the hurricane. Duke Paulo, the director for Lowndes County Public Works, informed Ms. Johnson that the generators were working properly at all three clinics. There was a window broken at the Lake Park Clinic but the County made the necessary repairs.
- Clinical services are continuing to be provided. Three nurses are working on being checked off for Family Planning and STDs.

**Environmental Health Update – Kyle Coppage (Attached)**

- The Environmental Health Activity and Inspection reports were presented. There were no areas of concern.

**Zika Update – Ken Lowery (Attached)**

- Ken Lowery reviewed the most current Zika update that is being sent out to all of the District staff. This update is provided to inform and to educate everyone regarding the Zika virus.

**Announcements**

- Dr. Fitzgerald commented further about the Zika virus and informed the Board about the number of cases and tests conducted in both Florida and Georgia. A vaccine may be available in approximately two years. There has to be a safety module in place before they can be administered. Dr. Fitzgerald is on the National Zika Task Force and noted cases will be followed an additional 3-5 years. The CDC is encouraging all states to participate in the registry. Georgia has triaged more than 1,600 suspected Zika cases with 1,000 tests performed.

**Adjournment**

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Dr. Randy Smith, Board Secretary  
Brenda Nash, Typist