A meeting of the Lowndes County Board of Health was held Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 11:57 a.m. by conference call.

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| **Members Present** | **Members Absent** | **Others Present** |
| Dr. Mark Eanes, Chairman | Mayor Scott Matheson | Dr. William R. Grow |
| Dr. Randall Smith - Secretary | Dr. Mary Margaret Richardson – Vice-Chairman | Dwain Butler |
| Dr. Frances Brown | Wes Taylor | Patrina Bowles |
| Bill Slaughter |  | Teresa Giles |
|  |  | Jessica Spells, RN |
|  |  | Dexter Dudley |
|  |  | Kyle Coppage |

**Call to Order**

* A meeting of the Lowndes County Board of Health was held Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. by conference call.

**Public Comments**

* There were no public comments.

**Approval of September 22, 2020 and March 26, 2021 Minutes (Attached)**

* The minutes from the September 22, 2020 and March 26, 2021 meetings were approved as presented.

**Business**

**Financial Information – Teresa Giles (Attached)**

* Ms. Giles presented the Lowndes County Health Department’s FY2022 Budget, noting approximately $163,162 of the fund balance being used. This amount will be adjusted as needed.
* Fees are stable for Lowndes. Billing for COVID vaccinations began in March.
* Admin claiming is expected to decrease. This amount was impacted across the state as a whole.
* Resources received included $10,000 from the Miller Family Trust. Grant-in-Aid changes yearly. Dr. Grow informed the Board there are no significant decreases in these areas, which are beyond district control.

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

* Dr. Grow reviewed COVID-19 statistics since the last meeting.
* Georgia has seen an approximate 33% reduction in cases from the previous two weeks. It was noted the last 18 months have been astounding.
* The Board was informed of the possibility of a recommended booster dose. Dr. Grow and staff have been speaking at local churches and Dr. Grow presented COVID updates at the Georgia Municipal Association.
* Mask mandates have been changed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Those vaccinated may now leave masks off if outside or inside. Dr. Grow announced possible mask policies in the health departments but they are waiting for further guidance from the state.
* Approximately 49,000 have been vaccinated in Lowndes County. Twenty-three percent have received at least one dose and twenty percent are fully vaccinated. Dr. Grow announced 65% of district staff have been vaccinated.
* Health departments are returning to pre-COVID services; however, testing and vaccinations continue to be offered.
* The district’s contact tracers have been reduced and the scheduling hotline has been closed. Clients may now call the health department of their choice to schedule their testing and vaccinations. Agency nurses will also no longer be housed at the health departments at the end of May.
* Mr. Butler informed the Board that the Ryan White office will be moving due to the increased traffic and lack of parking available at their current location. Two buildings have been located on North Oak Street Funding generated from the 340B program will be used to help with renting the facilities.
* The former RDC building behind the District Office will be rented to house several district programs, including Baby LUV, which has 11 employees.
* Dr. Grow noted his hope that an option for a new administration building be placed on SPLOST. This would generate funding for one location to house all district program staff.
* Dr. Grow continued with his report, noting the hypertension clinic has continued to see patients throughout the pandemic.
* Mr. Butler was asked to provide an update regarding the CORE Outreach Team. This team provided COVID vaccination clinics for health departments. Twelve districts currently utilize CORE’s services. Vaccinations would be housed at the health department and CORE staff will be able to park vehicles at Lowndes. This arrangement has been in place for two weeks but no clinics have been scheduled.
* Dr. Eanes discussed moving the board meeting times from 7:30 a.m. to a noon lunch meeting.

**Nurse Manager’s Report – Jessica Spells, RN (Attached)**

* Ms. Spells outline Lowndes’ clinic visit summary. As of May 3, 2021 all health department services were opened to clients.
* Mondays have been designated for administering Moderna vaccinations and Wednesdays for Janssen. These vaccinations are integrated with other health department services.
* The SPOCs continue to operate from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. each Tuesday and Thursday.
* COVID vaccination clinics were held at faith-based locations on April 8-10, 2021. During these events, 125 clients were vaccinated.
* Six clients were vaccinated during a clinic at T.E.A.C.H. Outreach Ministries. Second doses are scheduled for May 20, 2021.
* Staffing updates were provided. All agency nurses and temporary staffing will end May 28, 2021. There is currently one RN vacancy with interviews scheduled the first week in June.

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

* Mr. Coppage presented the activity report since the last meeting.

**Announcements**

* Everyone was reminded meeting scheduled for September 28, 2021.

**Adjournment**

* There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dr. Randy Smith, Board Secretary

Patrina Bowles, Typist