A meeting of the Lowndes County Board of Health was held Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 12:00 p.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 |
|  |  | Allie Pridgen |
|  |  | Kim Davis |
|  |  | Dexter Dudley |
|  |  | Kyle Coppage |

**Call to Order**

* Dr. Eanes called the meeting to order at 11:58 a.m.

**Public Comments**

* There were no public comments.

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

* Dr. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 22, 2020, March 26, 2021, and May 25, 2021 meetings. The motion was seconded by Dr. Brown. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Business**

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

* Ms. Giles presented the Lowndes County Board of Health’s FY2021 Audit Report and provided a brief overview of the results from the auditors.
* It was noted Lowndes’ budget has been adjusted several times and subsequently increased by $17,692. There was a reduction in Grant-in-Aid funding. Some of the labor costs were offset by transferring COVID funds into the budget based on hours tracked for testing, vaccinations and any other labor associated with COVID.
* Ms. Giles informed the Board the budget is on track and that every category has increased in fees now that health departments are fully functional.

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

* Dr. Grow began by providing the most current COVID-related information. Numbers have been decreasing over the last 14 days, citing a 15% decrease in cases of the Omicron variant. Eight of the ten counties in the district have reduced transmission rates and hospitalizations have decreased by approximately 28%. Omicron has proven to be more contagious than the Delta variant.
* A new variant has surfaced in England; however, it does not appear more serious than Omicron.
* Dr. Grow indicated Lowndes residents are 38% fully vaccinated and 42% have received at least one dose. Vaccinations continue to be encouraged through social media.
* The Georgia Public Health Association’s 92nd Annual Meeting and Conference is scheduled for May 4-6, 2022 on Jekyll Island. Any board member interested in attending should contact Patrina Bowles.
* Dr. Grow informed the Board that officers needed to be elected for 2022-2024. Dr. Eanes outlined the current slate of officers and opened the floor for nominations. Mr. Slaughter made a motion to retain the current slate of officers for the 2022 – 2024. Questions were asked about board members who were not regularly attending meetings. After a brief discussion, Dr. Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed to retain the current slate of officers for 2022-2024. Dr. Eanes expressed his concern about members not attending and noted he would, at some point, reach out to those members.

**Nurse Manager’s Report – Kim Davis, RN (Attached)**

* Ms. Davis provided a summary of school flu and community vaccination activities. Vaccinations began in September of 2021. City, county, and private schools were offered flu vaccine services as well as local businesses.
* The health department opened for all services May 3, 2021.
* Moderna, Janssen, and Pfizer booster vaccines are available by appointment.
* Mako continues to provide testing each Monday and Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rapid testing is offered each Thursday from 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
* Vital Records has moved over to the area next to the hypertension clinic. This move has eliminated congestion in the clinic hallway and provides more privacy for customers requesting records.
* A car seat training event was held September 22, 2021.
* Lowndes held several COVID vaccination events around town, including at Sculpt, Mathis City Auditorium, the Rainwater Conference Center and at the Valdosta Mall.
* There were several staffing changes, including the resignation of one RN who returned to school to obtain her nurse practitioner degree, and another RN was promoted to county nurse manager at another health department in the district. There is also one opening for an administrative support employee. Applications are being accepted to fill the position.

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

* Mr. Coppage presented Environmental Health’s year-end report and noted the current inspection report provided in the meeting packet.

**Acceptance of FY2021 Lowndes County Board of Health’s Audit Report**

* Dr. Smith made a motion to accept the Lowndes County Board of Health’s FY2021 Audit Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Slaughter. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Announcements**

* Everyone was reminded of the next meeting scheduled for May 24, 2022, which is the budget meeting. Dr. Eanes encouraged everyone to place this date on their calendars.

**Adjournment**

* There being no further business, Mr. Slaughter made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Slaughter. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dr. Randy Smith, Board Secretary

Dexter Dudley, Typist