The Lowndes County Board of Health met at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at the South Health District Office in the small conference room.

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| **Members Present** | **Members Absent** | **Others Present** |
| Dr. Mark Eanes, Chairman | Dr. Mary Margaret Richardson, Vice-Chairman | Dr. William R. Grow |
| Bill Slaughter |  | Dwain Butler |
| Dr. Randall Smith, Secretary |  | Patrina Bowles |
| Dr. Frances Brown |  | Teresa Giles |
| Mayor Scott Matheson |  | Kim Davis |
| Shawn Haralson |  | Dexter Dudley |
|  |  | Maria Rodriguez |
|  |  | Kyle Coppage |
|  |  | Kenneth Lowery |
|  |  | Lauren Pope |
|  |  | Sandra Wilcher |
|  |  | Courtney Sheeley |
|  |  | Kristin Patten |

**Call to Order**

* Dr. Eanes called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

**Public Comments**

* Dr. Shawn Haralson was administered the oath of office to begin his term on the Lowndes County Board of Health as County School Superintendent.

**Approval of September 27, 2022 Minutes (Attached)**

* Dr. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 27, 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Slaughter. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Ratification of the Electronic Vote To Accept the HOPWA SP2022 Funding Contract (Attached)**

* Mr. Slaughter made a motion to ratify the electronic vote to accept the HOPWA SP2022 Funding Contract. The motion was seconded by Mayor Matheson. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Business**

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

* Ms. Giles presented the Lowndes County Board of Health’s Revenue and Expense Summary.
* Dr. Grow noted Lowndes’ budget is in strong financial shape and the best it has been in five years.

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

* Dr. Grow provided an updated on COVID and indicated a decrease in numbers across the state. Hospitalizations and deaths are occurring mainly in those who are elderly or who are unvaccinated or under-vaccinated.
* The 2023 Board of Health Meeting Schedule will be e-mailed to all boards when the 2023 state holiday schedule has been sent to the districts.
* Dr. Grow asked Ken Lowery to provide an opioid update and related activities regarding the topic.
* Mr. Lowery discussed initiatives being implemented as a result of state and federal grants surrounding opioid overdoses and he announced partnerships with local colleges and universities, local hotels and any place where there is a need to have these kits readily accessible. Mr. Lowery also indicated he has been contacted by police and fire departments as well as other schools and addiction recruiting facilities with interest about the kits.
* An opioid and RSV tracking data entry system is available to track trends . There has been an increase in flu at the end of October that is trending down; however, by November, the numbers were trending relatively high, which is not uncommon.

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

* Ms. Davis reviewed health department services provided since the last meeting.
* COVID vaccines continue to be offered. Both bivalent Moderna and Pfizer options are available for all ages as of September 8, 2022.
* MAKO continues to provide testing Mondays and Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. and rapid COVID testing is provided by health department staff as needed.
* All health department services are offered along with monthly car seat classes.
* Lowndes staff participated in a National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) community event on September 17, 2022 with approximately 100 participants in attendance. Free blood pressure checks were provided along with educational materials about COVID, chronic disease prevention and health department services. Free COVID armbands, disposable masks, and 100 COVID test kits were distributed as well.
* A Diabetes Walk was attended by health department staff on September 27, 2023. The same items distributed at the NCNW community event were also distributed during the diabetes event along with hand sanitizer. Twenty COVID test kits were provided.

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

* Mr. Coppage presented Environmental Health’s activities since the last meeting and indicated things are slow this time of year.

**Announcements**

* The Board was informed of two open positions on the Lowndes County Board of Health. One position is the city-appointed Consumer or Licensed Nurse position, and the other is the county-appointed Consumer Advocate position which will be vacated by Dr. Randall Smith, who resigned from the Board. Both positions are open to the public to submit online applications for consideration by the respective appointing body.
* Dr. Eanes presented Dr. Randall Smith with a plaque of appreciation of his more than twenty years of service to the Lowndes County Board of Health and to the Lowndes community.

**Adjournment**

* There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dr. Mark J. Eanes, Board Chairman

Patrina Bowles, Typist