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| **Members Present** | **Members Absent** | **Others Present** |
| Daniel Cowan, Chairman | Mayor Jason Holt | Mark J. Eanes, MD, MBA |
| Tolisa Smith | Susan Smith | Dwain Butler |
| Katie Petrie | Stephen Harden | Allie Pridgen |
| Thelma Graham, |  | Karen Harrison |
| Secretary |  | Chris Foreman |
|  |  | Kristin Patten |
|  |  | Cumi Fillion  Layne Harrell, CNM  Alex Collins, MPH |
|  |  | Sandra Sheppard, TJP |
|  |  | Nikki Payne, TJP |
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**Call to Order**

Mr. Daniel Cowan called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

**Introduction/Oath – Katie Petrie**

Mr. Cowan welcomed Ms. Petrie as the newest member of the Board of Health.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Approval of Previous Minutes**

Ms. Tolisa Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from November 20, 2024. Ms. Susan Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Financial Updates – Allie Pridgen (Director of Finance)**

* Ms. Allie Pridgen reviewed the Revenue and Expense Summary for July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

**Health Director’s Updates – Mark J. Eanes, MD, MBA (Health Director).**

* Dr. Eanes welcomed Katie Petrie to the board.
* Dr. Eanes congratulated the health department and Layne Harrell on their great work and leadership on Ben Hill’s customer service feedback.
* Dr. Eanes updated the board on RSV, Flu, and Covid noting with the peak in flu, it is at its highest level since 2017.
* Dr. Eanes updated the board on Bird Flu, stating there is no human-to-human transmission.
* Dr. Eanes informed the board that syphilis is still a concern in Georgia.
* Dr. Eanes discussed the Federal Funding Freeze.
* Dr. Eanes noted that the State of Georgia is on a travel freeze.
* Dr. Eanes reminded the board that we must have in person meetings. Virtual or call in would be acceptable. It would not count towards the quorum or votes.
* Dr. Eanes informed the board of a bill being passed on funding for Women’s Health.

**Oral Health – Cumi Fillion (Dental Hygienist)**

Ms. Fillion presented to the board the importance of oral health.

**Human Resources – Chris Foreman (Director)**

* Mr. Foreman discussed his role as Human Resource Director.
* Mr. Foremen stated he handles the recruiting of applicants.
* Mr. Foreman informed the board of the new Workforce Development Coordinator.
* Mr. Foreman stated that we have rolled out 10 customer standards with succession plans.

Dr. Eanes discussed with the board the role of Ben Hill BOH and Jessamine Place. In 2002 the state passed a law on mental health with two counties in the South Health District, one being Ben Hill, that elected to stay under the Board of Health umbrella. Dr. Eanes presented a contract that includes the definition and responsibilities between the Ben Hill BOH and The Jessamine Place to Chairman Daniel Cowan.

**Election of Vice – Chair**

Mr. Daniel Cowan nominated Mayor Jason Holt for the role of Vice-Chair.

Ms. Tolisa Smith made the motion to approve Mayor Holt for Vice-Chair. Ms.

Petrie seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Health Department Updates – Layne Harrell, RN**

* CNM, Layne Harrell reviewed the Ben Hill County Health Department updates.
* Ms. Harrell shared upcoming events, including scoliosis screenings, a Health Fair for all county employees which will include immunizations, and a No Fee STD Clinic.
* Ms. Harrell stated February is Heart Health Month. She is spotlighting the HTN program that will include checking blood pressure, medications, and educating a healthy heart lifestyle.
* Ms. Harrell noted there are 9 patients currently in the program being managed by nurses and Dr. Grow.
* Ms. Harrell shared a success story of a college student receiving immunizations. The student returned for a complete physical examination

where it was discovered, the student had an elevated blood pressure. The student was able to get enrolled in the HTN program. Ms. Harrell noticed the student had not had a pap smear or mammogram. The student was also enrolled in the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program.

**Environmental Health Update – Alex Collins, MPH**

Mr. Collins reviewed the Environmental Health Update and the Food Inspections Report.

**The Jessamine Place / Power Point – Sandra Sheppard (Director)**

* Ms. Payne reviewed the Financial Report FY 2025.
* Ms. Sheppard gave a handout on Jessamine Place, due to difficulties with her power point presentation.
* Ms. Sheppard reviewed the Directors Report.
* Dr. Eanes asked if Jessamine Place’s nurses are considered state, Ms. Sheppard replied yes.
* Ms. Sheppard stated that Legacy Behavioral takes care of mental health.
* Ms. Tolisa Smith asked if there were 2 RNs for the home, Ms. Sheppard stated no.
* Dr. Eanes asked Ms. Sheppard if Jessamine Place has any monetary reserves. Ms. Sheppard stated that she did not know at this time but would check into it and let him know.
* Dr. Eanes asked Ms. Sheppard if there was any money that had to be sent back to the state. Ms. Sheppard replied no.

**Announcements**

Next Meeting is May 21, 2025 (Budget Meeting) at 12:00 pm.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Cowan adjourned at 12:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Thelma Graham, Board Secretary  
Julie Parker, Typist