



Ben Hill County Health Department

251 Appomattox Road • PO Box 188 • Fitzgerald, Georgia 31750

Phone: (229) 426-5288 • Fax: (229) 426-5291

www.southhealthdistrict.com/benhill

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions/Oath- Katie Petrie
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of November 20, 2024 Minutes
 - Motion _____
 - Second _____
5. Business
 - Financial Updates – Allie Pridgen (Director of Finance)
 - Public Health Updates
 - Health Director’s Updates – Mark J. Eanes, MD, MBA (Health Director)
 - Human Resources- Chris Foreman (Director)
 - Oral Health – Cumi Fillion (Dental Hygienist)
 - Election of Vice- Chair
 - Motion _____
 - Second _____
6. Health Department Updates – Layne Harrell, RN
7. Environmental Health Update – Alex Collins, MPH
8. The Jessamine Place / Power Point- Sandra Sheppard (Director)
9. Announcements

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

10. Adjournment



Ben Hill County Board of Health Meeting

MINUTES

November 20, 2024 | 12:00 P.M. | Ben Hill County Health Department

Members Present

Daniel Cowan, Chairman
Mayor Jason Holt
Susan Smith
Tolisa Smith
Stephen Harden
Thelma Graham,
Secretary

Members Absent

Others Present

Mark J. Eanes, MD, MBA
Dwain Butler
Crumesha Johnson
Karen Harrison
Layne Harrell, RN
Alex Collins
Julie Parker
Brandon Ramella
Jessie Judkins
Sandra Sheppard, TJP
Nikki Payne, TJP

Call to Order

Mr. Daniel Cowan called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM.

Introduction/Oath – Stephen Harden, Superintendent (Interim)

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval May 15, 2024, Minutes

Mayor Holt made a motion to approve the minutes for May 15, 2024. Susan Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Approval August 21, 2024, Minutes

Mayor Jason Holt made a motion to chair to discuss the “Health Director’s Updates” by Dwain Butler. A correction was made to the minutes, “Mr. Dwain Butler stated, the Berrien County Health Department had a phenomenal year in collecting fees.”, correcting to, Ben Hill had a phenomenal year in collecting fees.

Mayor Holt made a motion to approve the minutes as amended from August 21, 2024. Susan Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Business

Financial Updates – Crumesha Johnson (Budget Supervisor)

Ms. Crumesha Johnson reviewed the Revenue and Expense Summary for July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024.

Ms. Johnson noted the staffing updates include 2 RN's (1 FT, 1 PT), 1 LPN, 2 Admin, 1 Environmental split between Ben Hill and Irwin.

Public Health Updates

Health Director's Updates – Mark J. Eanes, MD (Health Director)

Dr. Eanes praised the staff and thanked them for the excellent job they are doing, particularly after Hurricane Helene. He stated the staff overperformed, making sure everything was done, checking on buildings, etc. The District Office provided a Grateful Brunch for all the employees in the district.

Dr. Eanes updated the board on the Bird Flu and Mpox.

Dr. Eanes stated that syphilis rates in Georgia remain high.

Dr. Eanes updated the board on the distributions of the THC oil cards.

Dr. Eanes stated that the Department of Public Health has Narcan and is available for county schools and government buildings, along with training if needed.

Dr. Eanes informed the Board that the District Office in Valdosta will relocate beginning in January.

Babies Can't Wait – Jessie Judkins (Early Intervention Coordinator)

Ms. Jessie Judkins presented and provided the board with a folder of information on the services and processes for Babies Can't Wait. She indicated they begin with referrals from parents, doctors, the community and daycares. Evaluations and service coordination is provided at no cost. The program allows Babies Can't Wait to determine and schedule any services needed. This includes speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and nutritional counseling.

Ms. Tolisa Smith asked how many children in Ben Hill are receiving these services. Ms. Judkins informed the board they currently serve 25 families in Ben Hill.

IT – Brandon Ramella (MIS/IT Department Director)

Mr. Ramella began by discussing a new internet service, Starlink. Starlink will be able to ensure every clinic within our 10-county district will have a backup internet source. Ben Hill is a rural county and is very limited to ISPs.

Mr. Ramella stated, with the health department being a county building, we want to make sure we have the appropriate approvals to make modifications to the building for wiring installations. Mr. Ramella stated, if possible, we would like to request help from county maintenance as it would be cheaper than going through a contractor to get everything mounted and run.

Mayor Holt asked if Starlink is waving any fees due to Hurricane Helene. Mr. Ramella stated that all funding came through Emergency Preparedness and the equipment was purchased prior to the hurricane event. The services are at a standard of \$220.00 a month and those are on pause until the unit is in place. The current ISP is a state contracted vendor, AT&T, for Ben Hill. AT&T does all the maintenance and service calls if there is an issue.

Ms. Layne Harrell stated she has already talked to Mr. Dinnerman with Ben Hill County. He agrees with having this done. However, he did request it not be put on the roof.

During this conversation, Mayor Holt discussed with the board, the city has deployed Narcan in all their AED locations, and he was made aware there is now Legislation requiring training for all the city employees. Dr. Eanes assured Mayor Holt, we could provide that training and can include school nurses, front office staff, recreation facilities and anyone who has access to Narcan.

Ms. Tolisa Smith questioned if the school system has NARCAN in them currently for the school nurses. Superintendent Harden is checking on that for her and will see if this must be board approved.

Health Department Updates – Layne Harrell, RN

Ms. Harrell discussed the Ben Hill County Health Department Updates for July 2024 through September 2024. She also shared that Ben Hill Health Department had a very successful “Back to School Bash” in July.

Ms. Harrell stated the Health Department has completed all the immunization audits in all schools. She informed the board, during September, October and November, the Health Department had a drive- thru Flu Clinic every Friday morning. She also informed the board of the No Fee STD Clinic in September with few positive results. Ms. Harrell stated the clinic has started the client initiative PREP which helps prevent clients from getting HIV.

Ms. Harrell discussed congenital syphilis and how the Health Department at times encounters a pregnant woman first before they go to their physician or have any other services. Ms. Harrell stated that any person coming to the clinic for a pregnancy test visit will automatically receive a RPR, which is to test for syphilis.

Environmental Health Update – Alex Collins, MPH

Mr. Collins discussed the Ben Hill County Environmental Health Report and Food Inspections for July through September 2024.

Mr. Collins thanked the Leadership Team, including Dr. Eanes, Mr. Butler, his Supervisor and Ms. Harrell for their leadership before, during and after the hurricane stating, “Everything went better than any other hurricane we’ve been through.”

Dr. Eanes praised the Environmental team in our district because 800 businesses were inspected and approved to reopen after Hurricane Helene.

The Jessamine Place – Sandra Sheppard (Director)

Ms. Nikki Payne reviewed the Budget Analysis: Year to Date, July – August 2024 report and the Budget Analysis: Year to Date with Full Budget report for July – August 2024. She highlighted The Jessamine Place is at 18% of their total Income and 16% of their total expenses.

Ms. Sheppard discussed the Director’s Report.

Ms. Sheppard reported there were no major findings on August 28, 2024, Healthcare Facility Regulation Division periodic compliance survey.

Ms. Sheppard shared positive moments and community involvement with TJP along with upcoming events.

Announcements

Next Meeting - February 19, 2025, at 12:00 pm.
2025 BOH schedule included in this packet.

Mr. Cowan discussed the vacancy for Mr. Heath Parrish's seat and the Vice-Chair vacancy.

Mr. Cowan noted, he appreciates Heath Parrish for all he has done with the board and the contributions he has made to our community for the last 22 years, stating Mr. Parrish no longer works in Ben Hill and is currently practicing in Tifton.

Adjournment

Mr. Cowan adjourned at 12:35 pm.

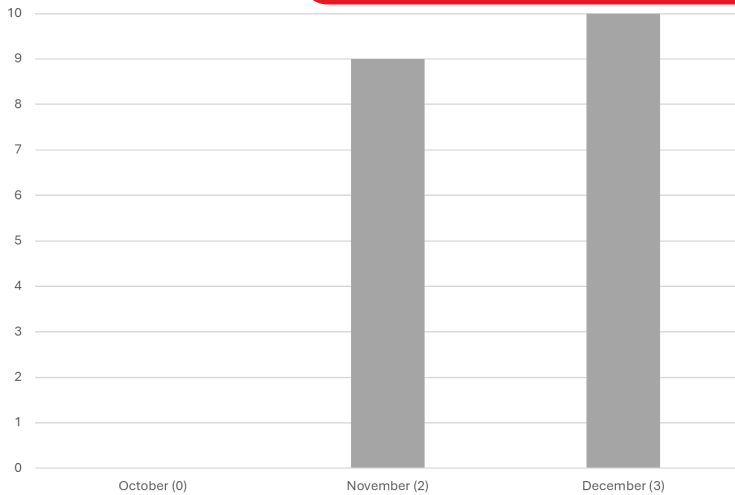
Respectfully submitted,

Thelma Graham, Board Secretary
Julie Parker, Typist

Ben Hill County Health Department Quarterly Customer **Feedback** OCT - DEC 2024

SUMMARY: The Customer Feedback Report provides insights into customer satisfaction and sentiment for the quarter. Key findings and customer comments are summarized below.

Customer Satisfaction



Customer Service Satisfaction Scale:

10 - Completely Satisfied

1 - Unsatisfied

9.6/10

Customer Comments

“Lainey was EXTREMELY kind and compassionate, she really helped me and reassured me. The front desk ladies were considerate and friendly and it was a great experience.” - Emily

“Great service” - Johnny

“Your Health Is Our Purpose”



SOUTH HEALTH DISTRICT

www.southhealthdistrict.com

How
Are We
Doing?



Scan the QR code above to complete our customer satisfaction questionnaire.

**Ben Hill County Board of Health
Revenue and Expense Summary
July 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024**

		% of Budget				
		YTD	Revised Budget	Received/ Expended	Original Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)
Revenue						
456001	County Participating	5,043.00	10,086.00	50.00%	10,086.00	0.00
456004	County Non-Participating	29,706.00	59,412.00	50.00%	59,412.00	0.00
995001	Unassigned Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	N/A	22,330.00	(22,330.00)
456024	Restricted Fund Balance - Pr Yr Fees	207,643.44	207,643.00	100.00%	233,000.00	(25,357.00)
456050	Restricted Fund Balance - Pr Yr Adm Claiming	68,322.57	68,323.00	100.00%	59,097.00	9,226.00
456040	Intra Agency Transfer - From Annex 750	41,284.00	41,284.00	100.00%	41,284.00	0.00
456040	Intra Agency Transfer - From Lowndes GIA	32,046.00	32,046.00	100.00%	32,046.00	0.00
456051	Qualifying Local Funds - Interest Income	2,372.08	5,500.00	43.13%	5,500.00	0.00
458001	Grant-In-Aid	155,841.01	426,265.00	36.56%	379,611.00	46,654.00
456008	Out-Patient Medicare Fees	39,299.99	0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00
456010	Out-Patient Client Fees	11,993.47	0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00
456016	Private Insurance	28,043.03	0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00
456022	Health Check	2,344.15	0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00
456031	Environmental Fees	22,470.00	0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00
456034	Medicaid - DSPS	3,493.62	0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00
456036	Medicaid PCM	1,815.00	0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00
456049	Current Yr Adm Claiming	27,719.48	0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00
Total Revenue		679,436.84	850,559.00	61.90%	842,366.00	8,193.00
Expenses						
511000	Salaries	129,688.68	291,499.00	44.49%	330,795.00	(39,296.00)
513001	Hourly Labor	12,019.01	21,210.00	56.67%	18,382.00	2,828.00
514001	FICA	9,357.80	21,245.00	44.05%	24,323.00	(3,078.00)
515001	Retirement	40,705.51	93,160.00	43.69%	107,134.00	(13,974.00)
516000	Health Insurance	38,202.67	85,862.00	44.49%	97,432.00	(11,570.00)
614001	Supplies & Materials	2,570.73	13,355.00	19.25%	3,973.00	9,382.00
614018	Pharmaceuticals	27,496.28	175,099.00	15.70%	117,678.00	57,421.00
615001	Repairs & Maintenance	6,150.43	15,969.00	38.51%	15,141.00	828.00
617001	Utilities	4,735.86	7,996.00	59.23%	8,550.00	(554.00)
618001	Printing	0.00	71.00	0.00%	463.00	(392.00)
619001	Other Rent	213.00	458.00	46.51%	245.00	213.00
620001	Insurance and Bonding	0.00	712.00	0.00%	712.00	0.00
622001	Direct Benefits to Clients	794.02	7,201.00	11.03%	7,201.00	0.00
627001	Other Operating	5,978.24	14,670.00	40.75%	11,639.00	3,031.00
633001	Computer Software - Microsoft License Fee	0.00	3,148.00	0.00%	3,148.00	0.00
640001	Travel	3,049.98	5,578.00	54.68%	4,511.00	1,067.00
645001	Rental of Equipment	1,103.87	2,846.00	38.79%	2,846.00	0.00
651001	Per Diem & Fees	0.00	743.00	0.00%	743.00	0.00
653001	Contract - Maintenance Fee - Clinical Software	2,963.50	3,509.00	84.45%	3,509.00	0.00
673001	Telecommunications	5,912.17	11,269.00	52.46%	9,826.00	1,443.00
681001	Postage	734.00	1,337.00	54.90%	1,337.00	0.00
761001	Indirect Costs	0.00	73,622.00	0.00%	72,778.00	844.00
Total Expenses		291,675.75	850,559.00	34.29%	842,366.00	8,193.00

Ben Hill County Health Department Updates

Oct – Dec 2024

PROGRAMS	CLIENTS SERVED
Immunizations	458
Family Planning	111
Child Health	22
STI Screening	74
BCCP (Breast & Cervical Cancer Program)	13
Skin Testing	42
Other Services (Hypertension, Adult Health, PrEP, Lab & TB)	29
THC Cards	0
PCM (Perinatal Case Management)	16
Lab Draw Services	4
Total Services	769



Ben Hill County Environmental Health Update

Yearly Summary 2024

Total Permitted Facilities: 78



Facility Inspections

Food Service Inspections	139
Tourist Accommodation Inspections	16
Public Pool Inspections	2
Body Art Inspections	0

Land Use

New System Permits Issued	28
New Installations Inspected	21
Repair Permits Issued	14
Repair Installations Inspected	16
Well Permits Issued	13
Water Samples	11

Other Programs

Animal Bite Investigations	9
Complaint Investigations	5



Georgia Department of Public Health

SOUTH HEALTH DISTRICT

Ben Hill County Environmental Health Update

October-December 2024



Total Permitted Facilities: 78

Facility Inspections

Food Service Inspections	45
Tourist Accommodation Inspections	5
Public Pool Inspections	1
Body Art Inspections	0

Land Use

New System Permits Issued	5
New Installations Inspected	5
Repair Permits Issued	3
Repair Installations Inspected	3
Well Permits Issued	2
Water Samples	2

Other Programs

Animal Bite Investigations	2
Complaint Investigations	3



Georgia Department of Public Health



Ben Hill County Health Department
 251 Appomattox Road • PO Box 188 • Fitzgerald, Georgia 31750
 Phone: (229) 426-5288 • Fax: (229) 426-5291
www.southhealthdistrict.com/benhill

Facility Inspections 4th Quarter

Facility Name	Score	Grade	Inspection Date
46 & 1 Melton Soulfood, LLC	100	A	10/24/2024
46 & 1 Melton Soulfood, LLC (Base)	100	A	10/24/2024
Ben Hill County Elementary School	100	A	10/16/2024
Ben Hill County Middle School	100	A	10/23/2024
Ben Hill County Primary School	100	A	10/23/2024
Ben Hill County Senior Center	100	A	11/19/2024
Ben Hill Pre-K	100	A	10/16/2024
Cafe` Budapest	100	A	11/19/2024
Chicken Coop	100	A	11/08/2024
Cirillo's Pizzeria	96	A	12/06/2024
Coastal Plain Barbecue Company, LLC	100	A	12/13/2024
Doodle's Cajun and More	100	A	12/18/2024
Doodle's Cajun and More	100	A	12/18/2024
Doodle's Cajun and More	100	A	12/18/2024
Dorminy Medical Center	100	A	10/09/2024
Fitzgerald High School & Career Academy	100	A	11/08/2024
Flossie's Country Kitchen	97	A	12/06/2024
Hibachi Buffet	91	A	12/30/2024
Hook Fish and Chicken	89	B	11/01/2024
Kellwell Food Management DBA Ben Hill County Detention Center	100	A	12/06/2024
Kobe Hibachi & Sushi	90	A	12/12/2024
La Lomita Mexican Restaurant and Store	94	A	12/04/2024
Life Care Center	96	A	10/09/2024
Lil' Shack by the Trax	100	A	10/16/2024
Ms. Motts' Place	96	A	11/21/2024
Nabila's Garden Restaurant, INC	100	A	12/30/2024
Pruitt Health - Fitzgerald	100	A	10/09/2024
Quality Inn Fitzgerald	100	A	12/04/2024
Rancho Grande Mexican Restaurant	96	A	12/26/2024
Rancho Grande Taqueria - Tortilleria	96	A	12/26/2024
Restaurante El Nopal	97	A	11/19/2024
Restaurante El Nopal (base)	100	A	12/17/2024
Restaurante El Nopal (mobile)	100	A	12/17/2024
RJ's Mobile Kitchen and Catering, LLC	100	A	12/12/2024
RJ's Mobile Kitchen and Catering, LLC (Base)	100	A	12/12/2024
Ronny's BBQ	97	A	12/11/2024
Scramble Street (base)	100	A	11/25/2024



Ben Hill County Health Department
 251 Appomattox Road • PO Box 188 • Fitzgerald, Georgia 31750
 Phone: (229) 426-5288 • Fax: (229) 426-5291
www.southhealthdistrict.com/benhill

Scramble Street (mobile)	100	A	11/25/2024
Spike's Place	100	A	12/30/2024
Tallman's Cook Spot	100	A	12/18/2024
The Fitzgerald Pillars	100	A	12/18/2024
The Owens Girls	100	A	12/20/2024
The Swanhouse Bakery & Cafe	100	A	10/30/2024
Wendy's #5496	100	A	10/30/2024
Woody's Restaurant	100	A	12/18/2024
Colony Motel	92	A	12/31/2024
Tiny Dreams Cottages	100	A	12/12/2024
Quality Inn	95	A	12/04/2024
Dorminy Masee House	100	A	11/21/2024
Western Motel	100	A	10/23/2024
Western Motel	100	N/A	10/23/2024



THE JESSAMINE PLACE

FINANCIAL REPORT - FY '25

Year to Date: Budget Analysis

Year to Date: Budget Analysis with Full Budget

February 25

Ben Hill Board of Health The Jessamine Place

Budget Analysis: Year to Date

July 2024 - December 2024

	Selected Period	Budgeted	\$ Difference
Income			
State Grant-In-Aid	\$592,914	\$386,098	\$206,816
Medicaid	\$1,646,028	\$878,486	\$767,542
Medicaid - SMS	\$12,986	\$11,667	\$1,319
Other Local Funds	\$1,058	\$733	\$324
Interest Income	\$922	\$733	\$189
GA Rehab	\$0	\$1,667	(\$1,667)
Total Income	\$2,253,908	\$1,279,384	\$974,524
Expenses			
Salaries - Exempt	\$459,137	\$351,806	\$107,332
Salaries - Merit	\$439,091	\$283,511	\$155,580
FICA Expense	\$38,242	\$65,000	(\$26,758)
Retirement	\$123,901	\$76,667	\$47,234
Insurance	\$122,683	\$81,333	\$41,349
Contracted Services	\$361,678	\$246,667	\$115,012
Travel	\$23,025	\$20,000	\$3,025
Inservice	\$14,132	\$10,000	\$4,132
Equipment (Over \$1000.00)	\$1,619	\$1,667	(\$48)
Lease Purchase - Equipment	\$2,676	\$1,667	\$1,009
Equipment (Under \$1000.00)	\$2,093	\$2,000	\$93
Equipment Rental	\$328	\$67	\$261
Other Operating	\$3,378	\$3,333	\$45
Printing	\$4,855	\$5,000	(\$145)
Consultation	\$0	\$1,667	(\$1,667)
Office Supplies	\$1,299	\$1,667	(\$367)
Dues & Subscriptions	\$25,711	\$11,667	\$14,044
Advertising	\$5,483	\$2,667	\$2,816
Office Expense/New Emp	\$1,764	\$1,667	\$97
Office Exp/Misc.	\$1,806	\$3,333	(\$1,527)
Training Supplies	\$1,832	\$667	\$1,165
Maintenance Supplies	\$3,410	\$1,667	\$1,744
Computer Software	\$12,163	\$8,333	\$3,830
Specialized Medical Supplies	\$14,042	\$11,667	\$2,375
Motor Vehicle	\$10,733	\$20,000	(\$9,267)
Food	\$10,274	\$6,667	\$3,607
Consumers Benefits	\$5,476	\$3,333	\$2,143
Postage	\$200	\$333	(\$133)
Telephone	\$1,959	\$1,000	\$959
Utilities	\$7,697	\$6,667	\$1,031
Property & Equipment Maint	\$13,991	\$9,333	\$4,657
Rent	\$15,440	\$11,667	\$3,773
Insurance & Bonding	\$27,889	\$25,000	\$2,889
Unemployment Reimb.	\$0	\$1,667	(\$1,667)
Total Expenses	\$1,758,007	\$1,279,384	\$478,623
Net Income/(Loss)	\$495,901		

Ben Hill Board of Health The Jessamine Place

Budget Analysis: Year to Date with Full Budget

July 2024 - December 2024

	Selected Period	Budgeted	Percent
Income			
State Grant-In-Aid	\$592,914	\$1,158,293	51%
Medicaid	\$1,646,028	\$2,635,458	62%
Medicaid - SMS	\$12,986	\$35,000	37%
Other Local Funds	\$1,058	\$2,200	48%
Interest Income	\$922	\$2,200	42%
GA Rehab	\$0	\$5,000	0%
Total Income	\$2,253,908	\$3,838,151	59%
Expenses			
Salaries - Exempt	\$459,137	\$1,055,417	44%
Salaries - Merit	\$439,091	\$850,534	52%
FICA Expense	\$38,242	\$195,000	20%
Retirement	\$123,901	\$230,000	54%
Insurance	\$122,683	\$244,000	50%
Contracted Services	\$361,678	\$740,000	49%
Travel	\$23,025	\$60,000	38%
Inservice	\$14,132	\$30,000	47%
Equipment (Over \$1000.00)	\$1,619	\$5,000	32%
Lease Purchase - Equipment	\$2,676	\$5,000	54%
Equipment (Under \$1000.00)	\$2,093	\$6,000	35%
Equipment Rental	\$328	\$200	164%
Other Operating	\$3,378	\$10,000	34%
Printing	\$4,855	\$15,000	32%
Consultation	\$0	\$5,000	0%
Office Supplies	\$1,299	\$5,000	26%
Dues & Subscriptions	\$25,711	\$35,000	73%
Advertising	\$5,483	\$8,000	69%
Office Expense/New Emp	\$1,764	\$5,000	35%
Office Exp/Misc.	\$1,806	\$10,000	18%
Training Supplies	\$1,832	\$2,000	92%
Maintenance Supplies	\$3,410	\$5,000	68%
Computer Software	\$12,163	\$25,000	49%
Specialized Medical Supplies	\$14,042	\$35,000	40%
Motor Vehicle	\$10,733	\$60,000	18%
Food	\$10,274	\$20,000	51%
Consumers Benefits	\$5,476	\$10,000	55%
Postage	\$200	\$1,000	20%
Telephone	\$1,959	\$3,000	65%
Utilities	\$7,697	\$20,000	38%
Property & Equipment Maint	\$13,991	\$28,000	50%
Rent	\$15,440	\$35,000	44%
Insurance & Bonding	\$27,889	\$75,000	37%
Unemployment Reimb.	\$0	\$5,000	0%
Total Expenses	\$1,758,007	\$3,838,151	46%
Net Income/(Loss)	\$495,901		



Director's Report

Advisory Board

Our Advisory Board meeting will be on March 13, 2025. Our program spotlight will be Quality Assurance (QA).

Hourly Wage Increase

- This year, the agency hopes to increase part-time hourly wages by .50.
- This will change the starting pay from \$11.60 to \$12.10. After the required training, a new hire's hourly wage will be \$12.50.

Addition to Health Services

- As of January 13, 2025, we are thankful to have another RN in our Health Services department.

Six Focus Areas 2025

- **Recruitment and Retention** - Attract and hire employees with the best skills and attributes for the job available.
- **Expansion of Services** - Expand the current service markets and create solutions to meet the needs of emerging markets.
- **Building Social Capital** - Expand social networks to ensure rightful access to resources and opportunities is available to all through personal connections.
- **Operational Integrity** - Promote continuous improvement in the three core elements – people, process, and assets.
- **Quality and Person-Centered Services** - Promote Person-Centered Thinking by training and collaborating with other agencies to learn about emerging best practices in person-centered services.
- **Organizational Well-Being** - Prioritize the human-centered aspects of organizational life.