



Berrien County Board of Health Meeting

MNUTES

February 11, 2025 | 12:30 P.M. | Berrien County Health Department

Members Present

Jimmy Parker, Vice Chair
Deree Nix, Secretary
Joe Barkman
Samantha Warren

Members Absent

Dr. William Nash
John Clayton
Robin Marcum

Others Present

Mark Eanes, MD, MBA
Dwain Butler
Allie Pridgen
Karen Harrison
Chris Foreman
Kristen Patten
Cumi Fillion
Danielle Hurst
Dawn Bowen, RN
Debbie Tomlinson

Call to Order

Jimmy Parker called the meeting to order at 12:37 PM

Public Comments

No public comments were made.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Joe Barkman made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the November 12, 2024 meeting. Deree Nix seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Financial Updates (Allie Pridgen – Director of Finance)

- Mrs. Pridgen reviewed the Revenue and Expense Summary Report for the period July 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.
- Mrs. Pridgen stated the overall budget has not changed.

Public Health Updates (Mark Eanes, MD, MBA, Medical Director)

- Dr. Eanes stated that RSV, Influenza and Covid are all on the decline.
- Dr. Eanes informed the board of changes for adult vaccines.
- Dr. Eanes stated that we are looking to cut some of the adult vaccines from our regimen. We are focusing on vaccines for communicable diseases and cutting out vaccines such as Shingrix. This will allow us to have enough funding to carry out the rest of the fiscal year.
- Dr. Eanes updated the board on Bird Flu.
- Dr. Eanes stated congenital syphilis is still an issue in Georgia.
- Dr. Eanes informed the board of The Drug Train Supply Securities Act. It will allow all drugs to be tracked electronically by using scanners. This will be enacted by October of 2025.

- Dr. Eanes reminded the Board of Health that meetings has to be held in person with enough members for a quorum in order for votes to be counted.
- Dr. Eanes stated President Trump signed an Executive Order after taking office putting a Federal Funding Freeze in place.
- Dr. Eanes noted there have been challenges to the order. The issue we are having is the State of Georgia prepays all our programmatic funds, even if they are Federal funds. and then they are reimbursed by the government.
- Dr. Eanes stated that we are currently in a travel freeze.
- Dr. Eanes stated the annual GPHA meeting has been cancelled this year due to the travel freeze.
- Dr. Eanes updated the board on the move of the district office and the future of a new health department that will house our entire campus.

Cumi Fillion – (Registered Dental Hygienist – South Health District)

- Ms. Fillion, Registered Dental Hygienist with South Health District's Oral Health Program was introduced to the group by Dr. Eanes.
- Ms. Fillion gave a brief presentation on the importance of dental care.
- Ms. Fillion stated she goes into the schools to educate the proper way to brush and floss.

Chris Foreman (Human Resources Director – South Health District)

- Mr. Foreman, Human Resources Director for South Health District was introduced to the group.
- Mr. Foreman informed the group that a new Work Force Development Coordinator was recently hired for our District.
- Mr. Foreman stated that an initiative for customer service has been implemented throughout our district which will translate to the communities we serve.
- Mr. Foreman stated our district is also working on succession planning.
- Mr. Foreman stated we have had eight people to retire within the past three years with several more employees planning retirement soon.

Health Department Updates (Dawn Bowen, RN – County Nurse Manager)

- Mrs. Bowen reviewed the Berrien County Health Department Updates for October - December 2024.
- Mrs. Bowen stated there is an increase in immunizations and migrant immunizations for citizenship.
- Mrs. Bowen stated there is a decline in the number of flu shots.
- Mrs. Bowen noted the health department is promoting women’s health physicals through the Family Planning program.

Environmental Health Updates – (Danielle Hurst, Environmental Health Specialist)

- Mrs. Hurst from Cook County Health Department filled in for Berrien County Environmentalist, Lee Meeks.
- Mrs. Hurst presented the board with Environmental Health Updates and Food Service Inspections.

Announcements

The next Board of Health meeting will be May 13, 2025 (Budget Meeting) at 12:30 PM.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Deree Nix to adjourn at 1:15 PM. The motion was seconded by Joe Barkman. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted

Deree Nix, Secretary
Debbie Tomlinson, Typist

