



Echols County Board of Health Meeting

February 20, 2025 | 12:00 P.M. | Echols County Health Department

Echols County

Members Present

Evelyn Howell, Chairman
Bobby Walker, Secretary
Courtlain Nowell
Dr. Vince Hamm

Members Absent

Dianne Richardson, Vice Chairman

Others Present

Dr. Mark Eanes
Dwain Butler
Leigh Ann Combass
Tiffinee Dasher
Matthew Turner
Karen Harrison
Allie Pridgen
Kristin Patten
Chris Foreman
Cumi Fillion

Call to Order

Mrs. Howell called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Dr. Vince Hamm made a motion to approve November 21, 2024, minutes. Courtlain Nowell seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion passed.

Financial Updates-Allie Pridgen (Director of Finance)

Mrs. Pridgen reviewed the Revenue and Expense Summary for July 1- December 2024.

Public Health Updates-Dr. Mark Eanes (District Health Director)

- Dr. Eanes updated the board on RSV, Flu and Covid.
- Dr. Eanes stated the Flu has reached its highest level since 2017.
- Dr. Eanes updated the board on the Bird Flu.
- Dr. Eanes stated that Congenital Syphilis is an ongoing concern in Georgia.
- Dr. Eanes informed the board on changes for adult vaccines.
- Dr. Eanes reminded the board that the Board of Health meetings are required to be held in person.
- Dr. Eanes updated the board on the move of the district office into the Bank of America building.
- Dr. Eanes noted that he will present to the Board of Commissioners with a plan for a new Lowndes County Health Department.
- Dr. Eanes informed the board of the Federal Funding Freeze.
- Dr. Eanes stated that GPHA was canceled this year due to the federal freeze.
- Dr. Eanes informed the board that all health departments are still providing services as normal.
- Dr. Eanes informed the board of the Drug Train Security Act.
- Dr. Eanes stated that as part of the security act, beginning in October, the health departments will implement the use of scanners to track all medications.

Oral Health-Cumi Fillion (Dental Hygienist)

Ms. Fillion gave a presentation on the importance of oral health.

Human resources-Chris Foreman (Director)

Mr. Foreman gave an overview on our succession plan and customer service.

Mr. Foreman announced Victoria Vargas as the new Workforce Development Coordinator.

County Nurse Manager Updates -Leigh Ann Combass, RN

- Mrs. Combass presented the Echols County Health Department updates for October 2024-December 2024.
- Mrs. Combass informed the board that her staff went to Grimmway Farms and administered flu vaccines.
- Mrs. Combass stated that in November the health department hosted a flu-based school clinic.
- Mrs. Combass stated the number of flu vaccines are down.
- Mrs. Combass stated she attended a Hazard Mitigation meeting in October.
- Mrs. Combass informed the board that in December she attended an outreach program held by Goodwill.
- Mrs. Combass informed the board that roofing bids are due February 28, 2025 for the repairs at the health department.
- Mrs. Combass added that Lizette Rubio who worked part time has taken a job in Columbus Georgia.
- Mrs. Combass informed the board that beginning March 1st, Monshita McDonald will see patients in the clinic 2 days a week.

Environmental Health Updates Matthew Turner, MPH

Mr. Turner informed the Board of an increase in food truck vendors in Echols County.

Mr. Turner reviewed the Environmental Health Updates and the Food Inspections Report for October – December 2024.

Announcements

Next meeting-Thursday May 15, 2025, at 12:00pm.

Adjournment

There being no further information, Mrs. Howell adjourned the meeting at 12:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobby Walker, Board Secretary
Tiffinee Dasher, Typist