



Tift County Board of Health Meeting

MINUTES

February 04, 2024 | 12:30 PM | Tift County Health Department

Members Present

Dr. Raymond Moreno, Chair
Tina Moody, RN
Mayor Julie Smith
Natalie Gore
Celietha Curry Davis
Filiberto Hernandez

Members Absent

Melissa Hughes

Others Present

Dr. Mark Eanes
Mecca Lewis, RN
Dwain Butler
Allie Pridgen
Phillip Ford
Kristin Patten
Chris Foreman
Karen Harrison
Jill Reade
Danny Hoover
Cumi Fillion
Jason Revels
Maria Martinez
Chris Calhoun

Call to Order

- Dr. Raymond Moreno called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

Public Comments

- There were no public comments.

Approval of Previous Minutes

- Natalie Gore made a motion to approve December 02, 2024 minutes. The motion was seconded by Celietha Curry Davis. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Business – Financial Updates (Allie Pridgen, Director of Finance)

- Mrs. Pridgen provided an update on the summary of Tift County's Revenue and Expense Report.

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

- Dr. Eanes updated the board on Bird Flu, RSV, Flu A and Covid.
- Dr. Eanes informed the board of a new bill being passed for meetings to be held in person and not virtual or call in.
- Dr. Eanes stated that with the new federal funding freeze is affecting our travel.
- Dr. Eanes noted that GPHA may be cancelled due to the freeze.
- Dr. Eanes introduced the Drug Train Supply Securities Act. It will allow drugs to be tracked electronically by using scanners. This will be enacted by October of 2025.
- Dr. Eanes updated the board on congenital syphilis.
- Dr. Eanes stated the state is reviewing adult vaccines for cost and utilization.

- Dr. Eanes updated the board on the district office move. Dr. Moreno asked why the move to the Bank of America building. Dr. Eanes replied that the district office has radon in it. Dr. Moreno asked if this was a permanent move to which Dr. Eanes replied, it is a temporary move.
- Dr. Eanes stated there are negotiations on building a new health department in Lowndes County.

Human Resources (Chris Foreman)

- Mr. Foreman gave an overview of our succession plan and customer service throughout the district.
- Mr. Foreman announced Victoria Vargas as our new Workforce Development Coordinator.
- Mr. Foreman added that we were in the process of scheduling an Employment Appreciation Day.

Chronic Wasting Disease (Phillip Ford, Wildlife Biologist)

- Mr. Ford explained and gave an update on Chronic Wasting Disease.
- Mr. Ford stated that wildlife disease showed no human transmission now, but in time it will.
- Mr. Ford stated that wildlife disease is 100% fatal.

Oral Health (Cumi Fillion, Dental Hygienist)

- Ms. Fillion provided the board with an oral health presentation.

Nurse Manager Updates (Mecca Lewis, RN, County Nurse Manager)

- Mrs. Lewis provided an outline of services that were provided between October 2024 through December 2024 to the board members.

Environmental Health Updates (Jill Reade, MS)

- Ms. Reade gave a brief update on the Environmental Health and Food Scores.

Diversified Enterprises Updates (Danny Hoover)

- Mr. Hoover provided a report on Diversified Enterprise's audit of financial statements.
- Mr. Hoover stated the monthly financial reports for December are not complete at this time.
- Mr. Hoover stated we were waiting for the adjusted entries from the third-party billing agency for back payment of increased Medicaid rates from July 2024 to current.
- Mr. Hoover stated that Diversified is now at 100% occupancy for the group homes.
- Mr. Hoover stated that Diversified is licensing an additional 2-person group home.

Announcements

- The next Board of Health meeting will be Tuesday, May 6, 2025. (Budget Meeting)
- Ms. Davis, Advocate for the Needy, Underprivileged or Elderly, asked if there was a way to get feminine products.

- Ms. Davis asked if there was a care package for the underprivileged with toothbrushes.
- Ms. Fillion, Dental Hygienist with DPH stated that Tift County Health Department is provided with toothbrushes.
- Ms. Moody, licensed nurse with Tift County schools stated there is a grant that provides all schools with feminine products.
- Ms. Moody stated the schools' provided kits during health classes.
- Mr. Butler stated that DPH would add additional funds to Tift's budget.

Adjournment

- Dr. Moreno adjourned the meeting at 1:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Filiberto Hernandez, Board Secretary
Maria Martinez, Typist