



# Irwin County Board of Health Meeting

MINUTES

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

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## Members Present

Carl Hutchinson  
Melvin Harper  
Melanie Scruggs  
Sabrina Dix  
Kerry Billingsley

## Members Absent

Casey Conner, MD  
Paige Wynn

## Others Present

Mark J. Eanes, MD, MBA  
Dwain Butler  
Karen Harrison  
Allie Pridgen  
Chris Foreman  
Michelle Hobbs, RN  
Alex Collins  
Cumi Fillion  
Jennifer Story

## Call to Order

Mr. Billingsley called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

## Oath of Office

Karen Harrison swore in new board member Carl Hutchinson.

## Public Comments

Carl Hutchinson, County Commissioner and new board member introduced himself to the board.

## Approval of Previous Minutes

Mayor Harper made a motion to approve the November 13, 2024 minutes. Melanie Scruggs seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion passed.

## Financial Updates- Allie Pridgen, Director of Finance

Ms. Pridgen Reviewed the 2025 Fiscal Year Budget.

## Public Health Updates - Mark J. Eanes, MD, MBA, District Health Director

- Dr. Eanes welcomed Mr. Hutchinson.
- Dr. Eanes updated the board on the customer service survey.
- Dr. Eanes updated the board on RSV, Flu, and Covid.
- Dr. Eanes updated on Bird Flu.
- Dr. Eanes addressed the board on the Federal Fund Freeze.
- Dr. Eanes informed the board the State of Georgia is reviewing adult vaccines between the communicable and noncommunicable diseases to lower costs due to the freeze.
- Dr. Eanes informed the board of a new law that will allow the state to track medications electronically by using scanners.
- Dr. Eanes stated there is a travel ban freeze.
- Dr. Eanes informed the board GPHA is being cancelled due to the federal freeze.

- Dr. Eanes updated the board on the move of the District Office.
- Dr. Eanes noted that Lowndes County was preparing to build a new health department and campus.

**Human Resources- Chris Foreman, Director**

Mr. Foreman announced that South Health District hired a Workforce Development Coordinator.

Mr. Foreman discussed a new customer service initiative and stated we have succession plans in place.

**Oral Health- Cumi Fillion, Dental Hygienist**

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

**Election for Vice Chair**

Motion was made by Carl Hutchinson to elect Mayor Melvin Harper as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Sabrina Dix. All in favor and the motion passed.

**Nurse Manager Updates- Michelle Hobbs, RN**

- Ms. Hobbs stated Irwin County Health Department is in 100% compliance with school vaccine audits.
- Ms. Hobbs stated she is attending a Family Connections Meeting to discuss heart health.
- Mr. Billingsley noted there are plans for a community day during the summer.

**Environmental Health Updates -Alex Collins, Environmental Health Specialist**

- Mr. Collins presented the Environmental Health Activities and Food Inspection Updates.

**Announcements**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 12:00. (Budget Meeting)

**Adjournment**

There being no further business or announcements, Mr. Billingsley adjourned the meeting at 12:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kerry Billingsley, Board Secretary  
Jennifer Story, Typist