



# Lowndes County Board of Health Meeting

MINUTES

February 25, 2025, | 12:00 P.M. | Lowndes County Health Department

## Members Present

Frances Brown, Ph.D.  
Anthony Johnson, MD  
Mayor Scott Matheson  
Brenda Mims, RN  
Sandra Wilcher, RN  
Commissioner Bill Slaughter

## Members Absent

Susan Ring, RN

## Others Present

Mark J. Eanes, MD, MBA  
Dwain Butler  
Kim Davis, RN  
Dexter Dudley  
Karen Harrison  
Kyle Coppage

Chris Foreman  
Cumi Fillion  
Kristin Patten  
Allie Pridgen  
Maria Rodriguez

## Call to Order:

Mayor Scott Matheson called the meeting to order at 12:12 P.M.

## Introduction:

Everyone attending the meeting stated their name for the record.

**Public Comments:** Mayor Scott Matheson asked Dr. Eanes if the Georgia Public Health Association was going to be held this year, Dr. Eanes responded the conference has been cancelled due to the federal freeze.

## Approval of Previous Minutes

Dr. Frances Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of November 18, 2024, meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bill Slaughter. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## Business: Financial Updates- Allie Pridgen, Director of Finance

- Ms. Pridgen reviewed the Revenue and Expense Summary 07/01/2024 - 12/31/2024.
- Ms. Pridgen stated that we are currently at 53.88% spent midway through the budget, which is in line with our projections for the fiscal year budget.

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

- Dr. Eanes thanked the board members for their attendance at the meetings.
- Dr. Eanes reminded the board all meetings must be held in person. Dr. Eanes stated if a member could not be present and chose to call in, their vote would not count nor count towards the quorum.
- Dr. Eanes addressed the Federal Funding Freeze.
- Dr. Eanes stated the district is on a travel freeze.
- Dr. Eanes discussed the health department's customer service survey.
- Dr. Eanes updated the board on RSV, Flu, and Covid.

- Dr. Eanes stated Flu is at its highest peak since 2017.
- Dr. Eanes updated on Bird Flu.
- Dr. Eanes informed the board of a new law. This will allow all drugs to be tracked electronically by using scanners.
- Dr. Eanes announced the state of Georgia is reviewing all adult vaccines between the communicable and noncommunicable diseases to lower costs during the federal freeze.
- Dr. Eanes stated congenital syphilis is still on the rise in Georgia.
- Dr. Eanes stated all health departments will continue to educate clients on syphilis and recommend getting tested, especially in pregnant women.
- Dr. Eanes informed the board the State of Georgia will be highlighting Women's Health.
- Dr. Eanes stated that we are in the process of having the PrEP program in all counties.

#### **Bank of America/ Building Updates- Dwain Butler, Deputy Director**

- Mr. Butler updated the board on the District Office move to the Bank of America building.
- Mr. Butler stated the current district office on Savannah Avenue has radon and with the recent hurricanes we have noticed mold.
- Mr. Butler gave a presentation of a potential new health department and campus that will house all the satellite offices including the district office all on one campus.
- Mr. Butler outlined the square footage of all our buildings as 71K sq feet.
- Mr. Butler noted several locations a new campus could potentially be built on.
- Mr. Butler stated he and Dr. Eanes will meet with the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners and will provide updates later.

**Brenda Mims**- asked, "Would Grant Funding help with costs? When do you expect to break ground on new site?"

**Dwain Butler** – We are considering all financial options and will depend on the Lowndes County Budget. The goal is to break ground next year.

**Commissioner Bill Slaughter** asked about the number of clients that walk to the health department for services and its accessibility.

**Dr. Eanes** – accessibility is not a problem, transportation assistance is offered in the community.

**Commissioner Bill Slaughter**- asked, "What is the going rate per square foot to build a medical facility?"

**Dwain Butler**- answered between \$400/\$450.00 a sq ft.

#### **Human Resources – Chris Foreman, Director**

- Mr. Foreman discussed the duties and responsibilities of HR.
- 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.
- Mr. Foreman announced we have partnered with a Chick-fil-A recruiter.

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

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

**Health Department Updates- Kim Davis, RN**

- Ms. Davis gave the total number of services provided from October 2024-December 2024.
- Ms. Davis stated the health department is in the process of finishing audits for schools, CLIA and will begin the daycare audits.
- The LCHD recently held Scoliosis Screenings at JL Newbern and Valdosta Middle Schools.
- Ms. Davis reminded the board of the roof damage at the Hahira Health Department.

**Mayor Scott Matheson** – asked was the Hahira Health Department open for services? Ms. Davis replied, yes.

**Dwain Butler**- stated he spoke with Duke Paulo from the County, the contract for repairing the Hahira Health Department fell through. Mr. Butler stated the County is in the process of contracting with someone else that will be able to complete all the repairs.

**Brenda Mims** - asked for clarification on other services offered at the Health Department- for example HTN, Adult Health, Prep, Lab, TB, and Eye.

**Environmental Health Updates- Kyle Coppage, Environmental Health**

- Mr. Coppage gave Environmental Health Updates and Summary of Food Inspections.
- Mr. Coppage reviewed the 2023 inspections versus 2024 inspections.
- Mr. Coppage announced the state of Georgia adopted a new version of food codes and will be given at the next Board of Health meeting.

**Mayor Scott Matheson**- asked Dr. Eanes to contact the current tenants at Miller Business Park to ask if there are any concerns or interest if the health department moved into the park.

**Dr. Eanes**- stated he had met with the tenants, and there were no concerns.

**Announcements**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 27, 2025, at 12:00 PM at the District Office/ Bank of America Building on the second floor. (Budget Meeting)

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Commissioner Bill Slaughter made a motion to adjourn at 1:00PM. Dr. Frances Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Mayor Scott Matheson, Chairman  
Dexter Dudley, Typist