

Members Present

Casey Conner, MD
Vince Thompson
Melanie Scruggs
Kerry Billingsley
Paige Wynn

Members Absent

Sabrina Dix
Melvin Harper

Others Present

Dwain Butler
Karen Harrison
Tiffany Cannon
Michelle Hobbs, RN, BSN
Jennifer Story
Alex Collins
Jill Reade
Teresa Hritz
Terri Ball
Kenneth Lowery

Call to Order

Dr. Conner called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

Introduction / Oath – Vince Thompson, County Commissioner

No Public Comments

Approval of Previous Minutes

Dr. Conner asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2025, meeting. Mr. Billingsley made a motion to approve. Ms. Wynn seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Financial Updates (Tiffany Cannon, Accounting Supervisor)

- Mrs. Cannon reviewed the Revenue and Expense Summary.

Public Health Updates (Dwain Butler, Deputy Health Director)

- Mr. Butler reminded all Board of Health members to complete the Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure that was given at the last meeting.
- Mr. Butler stated South Health District is following several issues that are in the legislature.
- Mr. Butler noted South Health District continues to monitor changes in the CDC and federal government.
- Mr. Butler updated on Influenza.
- Mr. Butler thanked board members for completing the community health assessment.
- Mr. Butler discussed the measles outbreak in South Carolina. He stated that majority of people infected are unvaccinated people.
- Mr. Butler stated that South Health District is developing a facility standards assessment.
 - ❖ Mr. Butler explained the assessment will include visiting the health departments to inspect the need for repairs or maintenance and present the findings to the Board of Health.
- Mr. Butler reminded members if they need services provided by Irwin County Health Department, they will not incur any out-of-pocket expenses.

Teresa Hritz, (Infectious Disease Coordinator)

- Ms. Hritz gave an overview of Infectious Disease.
- Ms. Hritz stated the Infectious Disease Program identifies, investigates, controls, and prevents the spread of Sexually Transmitted Infections.
- Ms. Hritz added the program coordinates the care and provides treatment of STI's, Tuberculosis, and HIV within the CDC guidelines.
- Ms. Hritz noted the HIV Program is funded through the Ryan White Foundation.

Terri Ball, (HOPWA, Housing Coordinator)

- Ms. Ball explained HOPWA stands for Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS.
- Ms. Ball stated HOPWA is a housing assistance program sponsored by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the U.S. Department Housing and Urban Development that provides housing assistance to anyone who is HIV positive, has low income, and meets other program criteria.
- Ms. Ball informed the board HOPWA received a grant that will support housing stability and improve health outcomes for people living with AIDS across 24 county service areas, including Albany Health District.

Nurse Manager Updates (Michelle Hobbs, RN)

- Ms. Hobbs reviewed the Irwin County Health Department Productivity Report.
- Ms. Hobbs stated the top three programs highlighted are Immunizations, Family Planning, and STI's.
- Ms. Hobbs stated the health department participated in World AIDS Day by providing free HIV screenings.
- Ms. Hobbs stated the health department continues to provide a large quantity of lab work for patients.

Environmental Health Updates (Alex Collins, MPH)

- Mr. Collins reviewed the Environmental Health Update and Food Inspections Report.

Kenneth Lowery, DrPH, MPH (Epidemiology)

- Dr. Lowery reviewed the Investigated Illness Report from October 2025-December 2025.

Announcements

- Mr. Butler introduced Jill Reade, Environmental Health and stated she is assisting the Irwin, Ben Hill and Tift County Health Departments.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at noon.

Adjournment

There being no further business or announcements, Dr. Conner adjourned the meeting at 12:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Billingsley, Board Secretary
Jennifer Story, Typist