



Tift County Board of Health Meeting

MINUTES

February 03, 2026, 12:30 PM | Tift County Health Department

Members Present

Dr. Raymond Moreno, Chair
Tina Moody, RN
Filiberto Hernandez
Mayor Julie Smith
Melissa Hughes

Members Absent

Celietha Curry Davis
Natalie Gore

Others Present

Dwain Butler
Karen Harrison
Allie Pridgen
Ken Lowery
Jill Reade
Terri Ball
Mecca Lewis
Teresa Hritz
Alex Collins

Call to Order

- Dr. Raymond Moreno called the meeting to order at 12:31 PM.

Public Comments

- There were no public comments.

Approval of August 5, 2025, Minutes

- Ms. Hughes made a motion to approve August 5, 2025 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mayor Julie Smith. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Approval of November 4, 2025, Minutes with Corrections

- Ms. Hughes made a motion to approve November 4, 2025 minutes with corrections. The motion was seconded by Mayor Julie Smith. All were in favor and the motion passed.

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

- Mrs. Pridgen presented Tift County's Revenue and Expense Summary Report.

Public Health Updates (Dwain Butler)

- Mr. Butler gave an update on Tift County Health Department's Quarterly Customer Feedback from October 2025 – December 2025.
- Mr. Butler recognized employees, Maria Martinez and Tamika Pridgeon on their years of service.
- Mr. Butler reminded the board members of the conflict-of-interest forms, asking them to complete and sign.
- Mr. Butler stated the district is continuing to monitor changes at the federal level with the CDC.
- Mr. Butler informed the board travel restrictions are still in place until April 2026.
- Mr. Butler updated on Influenza.
- Mr. Butler thanked the members for responding to the Community Assessment Survey that was sent out.

- ❖ Mr. Butler stated the information collected will be processed and added into South Health District's strategic plan.
- Mr. Butler addressed the board of the measles outbreak in South Carolina, stating among those were not vaccinated.
- Mr. Butler announced over the next year the district's leadership will conduct inspections of each health department and present the findings to the county.
- Mr. Butler reminded the BOH that any services received there would not be any out of pocket expenses.
- Mr. Butler introduced Teresa Hritz, Infectious Disease Coordinator, and Terri Ball, HOPWA Coordinator.

Infectious Disease Program (Teresa Hritz, Coordinator)

- Ms. Hritz discussed with the board the services provided within the Infectious Disease Program.
- The programs include STI and Tuberculosis, HIV Primary Care, HIV Prevention, and HOPWA
- Ms. Hritz stated the Infectious Disease Program identifies, investigates, controls, and prevents the spread of Sexually Transmitted Infections, Tuberculosis, and HIV throughout the 10 counties of the South Health District.
- Ms. Hritz added the program coordinates the care and provides treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections, Tuberculosis, and HIV within the CDC guidelines.
- Ms. Hritz noted the HIV Program is funded through the Ryan White Foundation.

HOPWA Program (Terri Ball, 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 (DCA) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that provides housing assistance to anyone who is HIV positive, has low income, and meets other program criteria.
- 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.
- Ms. Ball informed the board of FY 24-25 the HOPWA program assisted 346 clients with 203 clients receiving housing support.
- Ms. Ball expressed the goals FY25-26 to increase the number of clients served through housing and supportive services, improve HIV medical care compliance rates among all enrolled clients, and develop and implement a food support program to address food insecurities across the service area.

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

- Mrs. Lewis provided an outline of the clinic services that were provided between October 2025 – December 2025.
- Tift County Health Department has hired a new nurse who will be starting in March 2026.

Environmental Health Updates (Jill Reade, MS)

- Alex Collins was introduced as the Environmental Health Regional County Manager and will oversee the counties of Ben Hill, Irwin, Tift, and Turner.

- Ms. Reade presented the Tift County Environmental Health Update and Food Inspection Report.

Epidemiology Updates (Ken Lowery, DrPH, MPH)

- Dr. Lowery presented the Investigated Illness Report that summarized the cases and investigated from October 1st through December 31, 2025.
- Tina Moody, school nurse stated hand, foot, and mouth is increasing in the schools and asked Dr. Lowery to speak on the matter. Dr. Lowery stated that children are not staying home while sick, and it is causing the matter to become a breeding ground for schools and investigating daycares when sick children come in contact with other children.

Diversified Enterprises Updates (Kristy Dominey, BAS, CSEP, DS)

- Dr. Moreno presented the Executive summary Report from December 2025, and the CARF Accreditation report for Diversified Enterprises.
- Dr. Moreno stated Diversified Enterprises is looking to hire a bookkeeper.

Announcements

- The next Board of Health meeting will be on May 5, 2026
- Dr. Moreno noted the board decided to continue having lunch instead of receiving payment for their time serving on the Tift County Board of Health.

Adjourn

- Dr. Moreno adjourned the meeting at 1:08 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Filiberto Hernandez, Board Secretary
April Robinson, Typist