



Turner County

# Turner County Board of Health Meeting

February 4, 2026 | 12:00 PM | Turner County Health Department

## Members Present

Dana Whiddon, Secretary  
Dr. Kimberly Massey  
Christy Wray  
Robby Royal

## Members Absent

Odis Reese, Chairman  
Mayor Sandra Lumpkin,  
Vice-Chairman  
Tracy Edwards

## Others Present

Dwain Butler  
Karen Harrison  
Kenneth Lowery  
Allie Pridgen  
Alex Collins  
Terri Ball  
Teresa Hritz  
Mary Anne Sturdevan, RN  
Brooke Pearson  
Gayle McKissack

## Call to Order

Ms. Dana Whiddon was sworn in as a board member prior to the meeting by Ms. Karen Harrison. Ms. Whiddon, interim Chairman for Mr. Reese, then called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

## Introduction

Ms. Whiddon introduced herself to the members as the Chairman of Turner County Board of Commissioners

## Public Comments

No public comments

## Approval of Previous Minutes

Ms. Wray made a motion to approve November 5, 2025, minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Royal. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## Financial Updates (Allie Pridgen, Director of Finance) (See Attachment)

- Ms. Pridgen reviewed the Revenue & Expense Summary for July 2025 – December 2025.

## Public Health Updates (Dwain Butler, Deputy Health Director)

- Mr. Butler informed the board Dr. Eanes is out on medical leave and sends his regrets for not being in attendance.
- Mr. Butler congratulated Ms. Gayle McKissack on her 25 years of service with Public Health at the Turner County Health Department.
- Mr. Butler reminded the members to complete the Conflict-of-Interest statement that was handed out at the last meeting.
- Mr. Butler stated the board needs to elect a secretary today to replace Brad Calhoun.
- Mr. Butler stated that although Dr. Eanes fully respects the county commission's autonomy decision he is disappointed that they did not vote to further explore

proceedings in the application process for the RDC grant that will provide a new Turner County Health Department facility.

- Mr. Butler stated the district continues to monitor the changes with the CDC and Federal Government.
- Mr. Butler noted South Health District continues to have travel restrictions.
- Mr. Butler updated on influenza.
- Mr. Butler thanked the members for completing the Community Health Survey.
  - ❖ Mr. Butler noted the findings in the survey will be incorporated into South Health District's strategic plans.
  
- Mr. Butler updated on the measles outbreak in South Carolina, stating there are approximately 850 cases and noted most of the cases are from unvaccinated individuals. Mr. Butler stated as of now there are no cases in Georgia.
- Mr. Butler announced South Health District is developing a facility standards assessment.
  - ❖ Mr. Butler explained the assessment would include inspecting each health department for repairs or maintenance that is needed and will present the findings to the board.
  
- Mr. Butler also reminded the board members of any services received from Turner County Health Department; they will not incur any out-of-pocket expenses.
- Mr. Butler introduced Mr. Alex Collins as the new Environmental Health Regional County Manager for Ben Hill, Irwin, Tift and Turner counties.
- Mr. Butler also introduced Ms. Teresa Hritz, Infectious Disease Coordinator and Ms. Terri Ball, HOPWA Coordinator.
- Mr. Butler announced South Health District is now contracted with Tricare to administer services to their members.
  - ❖ Ms. Whiddon, stated, speaking as Chairman of the County Commission was surprised to hear the health department lobby being painted until after it had been completed.
  - ❖ Ms. Whiddon asked for a prioritized list of urgent needs in the Turner County Health Department provided directly to her to track the progress of the repairs. Ms. Whiddon also stated the board members should be a part of this process as well. Mr. Butler replied, South Health District will have a prioritized list once the evaluation of the buildings is completed.
  - ❖ Ms. Whiddon then stated she is also the advocate for Turner County's American Legion, Post 98. Ms. Whiddon asked if there are services that the health department can provide to the veterans of Post 98, and if so, she will be glad to get the information out to the veterans so they are made aware of what services can be received at the Turner County Health Department.

- ❖ Ms. Sturdevan asked the board if it was possible for the health department to get a flag. Ms. Whiddon responded, saying that the American Legion has flags and will be glad to provide one.

### **Infectious Disease (Teresa Hritz, Infectious Disease Coordinator)**

- Ms. Hritz introduced herself and stated she is a registered nurse and the coordinator for the Infectious Disease Program. Noting she has worked with Public Health for 31 years.
- Ms. Hritz stated the Infectious Disease Program includes Sexually Transmitted Infections, 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 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.

### **HOPWA (Terri Ball, Housing Program Coordinator)**

- Ms. Ball introduced herself and stated she has been with Public Health for 26 years and in state government for a total of 30 years.
- 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 of Housing and Urban Development that provides housing assistance to anyone who is HIV positive, has low income, and meets the 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.
- Ms. Ball expressed the goals FY25-26 is 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.

### **Election for Secretary**

Mr. Royal made a motion to elect Ms. Whiddon as secretary. The motion was seconded by Dr. Massey. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **Nurse Manager Updates (Mary Anne Sturdevan, RN)**

- Ms. Sturdevan commended Ms. Hritz on her guidance when there is a need in the clinic with a positive STI case.
- Ms. Sturdevan informed Ms. Ball if any HOPWA clients are in need, Turner County has a clothing facility and food bank available.
- Ms. Sturdevan stated the Turner County Health Department receives an annual donation from Cortez Sconyers Foundation; Ms. Sturdevan noted she would like to see the money placed into the health department for repairs or upgrading needs.

- Ms. Sturdevan stated to Ms. Whiddon if she would let her know when Post 98 held meetings, stating she will be glad to attend and explain services that are available.
- Ms. Sturdevan presented the health department updates.
- Ms. Sturdevan informed the board Turner County Health Department hired a new admin support and welcomed Jamecia Bennett.

**Environmental Health Updates (Brooke Pearson, Environmental Health Specialist)**

Ms. Pearson updated the board on the Environmental Health Activities and Food Service Report.

**Epidemiology Updates (Kenneth Lowery, DrPH, MPH)**

Dr. Lowery presented the Investigated Illness Report that summarizes the cases from October through December 2025.

**Announcements**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2026, at 12:00 pm.

**Adjournment**

Ms. Whiddon adjourned the meeting at 12:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dana Whiddon -- Secretary  
Gayle McKissack--Typist