



# Berrien County Board of Health Meeting MINUTES

February 10, 2026 | 12:30 P.M. | Berrien County Health Department

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## **Members Present**

William Nash, MD – Chairman  
Jimmy Parker – Vice Chairman  
Deree Nix – Secretary  
John Clayton  
Samantha Warren

## **Members Absent**

Dr. Heath Heron  
Joe Barkman

## **Others Present**

Dr. Mark Eanes  
Dwain Butler  
Karen Harrison  
Kenneth Lowery  
Allie Pridgen  
Terri Ball  
Teresa Hritz  
Dawn Bowen  
Lee Meeks  
Debbie Tomlinson

## **Call to Order**

Dr. Nash called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

## **Public Comments**

No public comments were made.

## **Approval of Previous Minutes (Attachment)**

Mr. Parker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the November 6, 2025 meeting. Mr. Clayton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **Financial Updates – Allie Pridgen– Director of Finance (Attachment)**

- Mrs. Pridgen reviewed the Revenue and Expense Summary Report for the period July 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.

## **Public Health Updates - Mark Eanes, MD, District Health Director (Attachment)**

- Dr. Eanes reviewed the Berrien County Health Department Customer Service Survey for October – December 2025.
- Dr. Eanes stated Georgia Legislature is reviewing 2 bills that will benefit public health. The first bill will highlight the expansion of the Department of Public Health Home Visiting Program, and the second bill will prevent anyone that is employed on the county level and transfers into a state position from losing accrued benefits.
- Dr. Eanes stated South Health District continues to monitor the CDC and Federal Government changes. There are no cuts to present services.
- Dr. Eanes noted public health travel restrictions are still in place until April 4.
- Dr. Eanes informed the board that Governor Kemp has proposed a one-time \$2000 bonus for all State employees.
- Dr. Eanes updated in Influenza and Measles
- Dr. Eanes reminded board members the health department will provide their flu vaccines without any out-of-pocket expense.

- Dr. Eanes thanked the Board of Health for participating in the Community Assessment Survey.
- Dr. Eanes informed the board that South Health District is developing a building standards facility assessment, stating once the assessment is complete it will be presented to the board for approval and implemented to make counties aware of needed repairs, etc.
- Dr. Eanes introduced Teresa Hritz with Infectious Disease and Terri Ball with HOPWA.

#### **Infectious Disease – Teresa Hritz, R.N. (Coordinator)**

- Ms. Hritz introduced herself and stated she is a registered nurse and the coordinator for the Infectious Disease Program. Noting she has worked in 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 noted The Infectious Disease Program operates with grant and state funding.
- Ms. Hritz informed the board that the Infectious Disease Clinic focuses on HIV prevention, partner notification, PrEP, and visiting active TB patient's homes to deliver medications.

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

- Ms. Ball introduced herself to the board stating she has worked for the State of Georgia for 30 years.
- Ms. Ball stated that HOPWA stands for Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS.
- 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 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.

#### **Health Department Updates – Dawn Bowen, R.N. (Attachment)**

- Mrs. Bowen, County Nurse Manager, reviewed the Berrien County Health Department Productivity Report for October – December 2025.

#### **Environmental Health Update – Lee Meeks, (Environmentalist) (Attachment)**

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

**Epidemiology Updates – Dr. Kenneth Lowery, DrPH, MPH (Attachment)**

- Dr. Lowery reviewed the Investigated Illness Report for October – December 2025 for Berrien County.

**Announcements**

Dr. Nash announced that the next meeting will be May 12, 2026 at 12:30pm and would include the annual budget approval for fiscal year 2027.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Parker to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Nix. All were in favor and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Deree Nix, Secretary  
Debbie Tomlinson, Typist





