



Brooks County Board of Health Meeting

MINUTES

February 25, 2026 | 12:00 P.M. | Brooks County Commission Building

Members Present

James Maxwell
Dr. Rose Marie Horne
Toni Brinson
Shawn Tatham
Mayor Zinda McDaniel

Members Absent

Shelly Kirkendoll
Dr. Vickie Reed

Others Present

Mark J. Eanes, MD
Dwain Butler
Karen Harrison
Yolunda Lewis
Valeka carter
Allie Pridgen
Shannon walker
Teresa Hritz
Terri Ball
Dr. Ken Lowery
James Lawrence

Call to Order

Mr. Maxwell called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

Introductions

There were no introductions.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Mr. Maxwell asked for a motion to approve the minutes from August 27, 2025.

Ms. Brinson made a motion to approve. Dr. Horne seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was passed.

Mr. Maxwell asked for a motion to approve the minutes of December 3, 2025. Ms. Brinson made a motion to approve. Dr. Horne seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Financial Updates (Allie Pridgen, Director of Finance)

- Ms. Pridgen provided the summary of the Revenue and Expense Report from July 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

Public Health Updates (Mark J. Eanes, MD, District Health Director)

- Dr. Eanes updated on the Customer Service Survey.
- Dr. Eanes discussed several legislative issues, one is the expansion of Department of Public Health Home Visiting Program and second is employees who work at the county level and transfers to state level will be able to carry benefits forward.
- Dr. Eanes stated South Health District continues to monitor changes in 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 updated on Influenza.

- Dr. Eanes updated on the Measles outbreak in South Carolina, stating the virus is highly contagious and airborne.
- Dr. Eanes informed the board that South Health District is developing a building standards facility assessment for each health department, stating once the assessment is completed it will be presented to the board for approval and then used to advise counties of needed repairs.
- Dr. Eanes stated South Health District held a billing and coding seminar.
- Dr. Eanes introduced Teresa Hritz with Infectious Disease and Terri Ball with HOPWA.

Infectious Disease (Teresa Hritz, RN, Coordinator)

- Ms. Hritz introduced herself to the board stating she has been employed with the State of Georgia 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 patients' homes to deliver medications.

HOPWA (Terri Ball, 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 that 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.
- Ms. Ball stated 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.

Health Department Updates (Yolunda Lewis, RN)

- Ms. Lewis reviewed the Productivity Report for October 2025 – December 2025.
- Ms. Lewis stated the health department is involved with numerous outreach programs.
- Ms. Lewis stated Brooks County Health Department held a Free STI Clinic.
- Ms. Lewis stated the health department offers blood pressure checks as well as HIV testing.
- Ms. Lewis stated Brooks County Health Department accepts insurance for Tricare.
- Ms. Lewis thanked Chairman James Maxwell and county for the tidiness and scheduled updates around the health department.

- ❖ Mr. Maxwell noted Brooks County Health Department will be added to the County Commissioners' meeting in March to ask for funds to replace the glass in front of the building and other minor issues that will need to be voted on.

Environmental Health Updates (Shannon Walker, BS)

- Mr. Walker presented the Environmental Health Update and Food Inspection Reports from October 2025 – December 2025.

Epidemiology Update (Ken Lowery, DrPH, MPH)

- Dr. Lowery presented the board with an Investigated Illness Report for Brooks County.

Announcements

Mayor Zinda McDaniel introduced James Lawrence as the new city manager of Quitman.

The next meeting is May 27, 2026 at 12:00pm and will include approval of 2027 fiscal budget.

Adjournment

Mr. Maxwell adjourned the meeting at 12:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Kirkendoll, Secretary
Karen Harrison, Typist