

Members Present

Casey Conner, MD
Vince Thompson
Melanie Scruggs
Kerry Billingsley
Melvin Harper

Members Absent

Sabrina Dix
Paige Wynn

Others Present

Mark J. Eanes, MD, MBA
Dwain Butler
Karen Harrison
Allie Pridgen
Michelle Hobbs, RN, BSN
Jennifer Story
Alex Collins
Holly Rountree
Jessica Arnett

Call to Order

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

No Public Comments

Approval of Previous Minutes

Dr. Conner asked for a motion to approve the minutes from February 11, 2026, meeting. Mr. Billingsley made a motion to approve. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Financial Updates (Allie Pridgen, Director of Finance)

- Mrs. Pridgen reviewed the Revenue and Expense Summary for 2026 and FY2025 Audit Report.

Approval of Proposed FY2027 Budget

- Dr. Conner asked for a motion to approve FY2027 Budget. Mr. Billingsley made a motion to approve. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

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

- Dr. Eanes commended staff for the great job with customer service.
- Dr. Eanes congratulated Dwain Butler on recently receiving his PhD.
- Dr. Eanes stated the district held Employee Development Day on May 7 emphasizing customer service internally and externally.
- Dr. Eanes announced Department of Public Health is starting a new dental program in Lowndes and may partner with Wiregrass Technical College.
- Dr. Eanes informed the board that Public Health is in the process of renegotiating fees with Lab Corp and Quest.
- Dr. Eanes announced Lisa Thomas, Clinical Nurse Director, will be retiring at the end of the month and are accepting applications to fill position.
- Dr. Eanes stated Public Health continues with travel restrictions through September.
- Dr. Eanes updated the board on the legislative bills that passed.
 - HB1096 states that if a county paid employee moves into a state position, all benefit balances will be transferred to the state.

- HB117 states restaurants are required to disclose the location where purchased seafood comes from.
- Perinatal Home Visiting Program will provide women with high-risk pregnancies with monitoring, education, and follow up care for one year after delivery and that we anticipate expansion to most or all our counties.
- HB1138 allows pharmacists to dispense birth control and SB 195 will allow PReP to be dispensed for 90 days with a negative HIV test.
- HB350 expands the states Sahe Haven law allowing health departments to place a Baby Box outside legally and accept surrendered infants.
- Dr. Eanes introduced Holly Rountree with WIC and Jessica Arnett with Opioid Prevention.

WIC Update (Holly Rountree, Nutrition Services Director)

- Ms. Rountree highlighted the services the WIC Program provides to the community.

Health Department Updates (Michelle Hobbs, RN)

- Ms. Hobbs reviewed the Irwin County Health Department Productivity Report.
- Ms. Hobbs stated the top three programs highlighted for this quarter are Immunizations, Family Planning and Skin Testing.
- Ms. Hobbs stated the health department is offering free blood pressure checks.
- Ms. Hobbs stated the health department continues to work with the County Commission to complete necessary repairs to the building.

Environmental Health Updates (Alex Collins, MPH)

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

Opioid Prevention (Jessica Arnett, Specialist)

- Ms. Arnett introduced herself to the board.
- Ms. Arnett thanked Mr. Billingsley for being one of the only school systems that allowed her to come and work with the teachers and students
- Ms. Arnett presented the Board with statistics of opioid use in Irwin County.
- Ms. Arnett stated the Irwin County School System was the first to put Narcan on buses.
- Ms. Arnett discussed with the board a project that would allow Department of Public Health to place a purple Barney, which looks like newspaper boxes to be placed in various hot spots around the county. The Barney provides Narcan, Fentanyl strips, resource, and educational information.
- Dr. Eanes stated that Narcan is good for use up to 28 years after the manufacture's expiration date.
- Ms. Arnett stated the Opioid Abatement Funds the county and city governments receive annually would help the Department of Public Health Opioid Program provide additional resources for Irwin County.

Announcements

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 13, 2026 at 12:00pm.

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