

Members Present

Frances Brown, Ph.D.
Susan Ring
Anthony Johnson, MD
Com. Bill Slaughter
Mayor Matheson

Members Absent

Sandra Wilcher
Brenda Mims

Others Present

Mark J. Eanes, MD
Dr. Dwain Butler
Allie Pridgen
Karen Harrison
Kim Davis, RN
Holly Rountree
Jessica Arnett
Kristin Patten
Kyle Coppage

Call to Order

Mayor Scott Matheson called meeting to order at 12:00PM.

Introduction

No introductions

Public Comments

Morgan West was presented with a Customer Service Spotlight Award.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Mayor Matheson asked for a motion to approve minutes from February 24, 2026. Dr. Frances Brown made a motion to approve. Dr. Andy Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Approval of Proposed FY2027 Budget

- Commissioner Bill Slaughter made a motion to approve the Proposed FY2027 Budget. The motion was seconded by Dr. Frances Brown. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Financial Updates (Allie Pridgen, Director of Finance)

- Ms. Pridgen gave an update on Lowndes County's Revenue and Expense Summary Report and discussed the FY2025 Audits.

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

- Dr. Eanes announced Dwain Butler received his Doctorate in Public Health and is now Dr. Dwain Butler, Deputy Health Director.
- Dr. Eanes stated Department of Public Health continues to monitor the budget.
- Dr. Eanes informed the board travel restrictions continue to apply through the end of September.
- While waiting for final approval, Dr. Eanes thanked the county for funds to use at the Lowndes County Health Department.

- Dr. Eanes announced the contract for the States' new EHR system has been terminated.
- Dr. Eanes announced South Health District is starting a new dental program in Lowndes and may partner with Wiregrass Technical College.
- Dr. Eanes stated South Health District held Employee Development Day on May 7 emphasizing on customer service internally and externally.
- 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, is retiring at the end of the month and interviews for her position will begin in June.
- Dr. Eanes stated he would like to bring clinical changes going forward.
- Dr. Eanes updated the board on legislative changes.
- HB1096 passed stating that if a paid county employee moves into a state position, all benefits would be transferred to the new position.
- 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 SB195 will allow PReP to be dispensed for 90 days with negative HIV test.
- HB117 requires restaurants to disclose origin of shrimp.

WIC Update (Holly Rountree, Nutrition Services Director)

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

Building Update (Dr. Dwain Butler, Deputy Health Director)

- Dr. Butler stated we continue to look for property regarding the new campus for District Offices and Health Department.
- Dr. Butler noted he and Dr. Eanes met with Mayor Matheson to discuss city properties that may be available.

Health Department Updates (Kim Davis, Nurse Manager)

- Ms. Davis presented the Lowndes County Health Department Productivity Report for January – March 2026.
- Ms. Davis discussed upcoming outreach programs and Back to School events in July.

Environmental Health Updates (Kyle Coppage, MPH)

- Mr. Coppage presented Environmental Health Updates and Food Score Inspections for January – March 2026.

Opioid Presentation (Jessica Arnett, Opioid Prevention)

- Ms. Arnett presented the Board with statistics of opioid use in Lowndes County.
- Ms. Arnett states that Lowndes County has 2006 documented cases of drug overdose.
- Ms. Arnett stated there have been 1200 boxes of Narcan distributed to different organizations throughout the county including all city and county schools.
- 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.
- 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 Lowndes County.

Announcements

The next meeting is August 25, 2026 @ 12:00pm

Dr. Brown and Dr. Ring initiated a discussion regarding Dr. Eanes' attendance at SGMC Authority Board meetings as a non-voting member. Following discussion, Chairman Matheson recommended deferring further consideration of the matter to a later time, if necessary.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Matheson adjourned the meeting at 1:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Scott Matheson, Chairman
Karen Harrison, Typist