

**MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH MEETING  
June 12, 2018**

**Members Present:**

Cynthia A. Mercer, MD, Chair  
James Curran, MD, Vice Chair  
Robert S. Harshman, MD, Secretary  
Major General Joe Jarrard  
Judy Greenlea Taylor, DDS  
Kathryn K. Cheek, MD, FAAP  
Phillip L. Williams, PhD

**Members Absent:**

John Haupt  
Mitch Rodriguez, MD

The Board of Public Health held its monthly board meeting on June 12, 2018, at 2 Peachtree St NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303 in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room of the Georgia Department of Public Health. An agenda and a List of Attendees are attached hereto and made official parts of these Minutes as Attachments #1 and #2. Dr. Mercer called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM.

Dr. Harshman called roll. All members are present except Mr. Haupt and Dr. Rodriguez.

**Approval of Minutes**

There is an amendment to the May 8, 2018 minutes. Dr. Cheek showed as absent and present; she was absent from the meeting. Dr. Harshman presented the amended minutes of the May 8, 2018 meeting for discussion and approval. There was no discussion. Dr. Curran motioned for approval of the amendment minutes; Dr. Harshman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Commissioner's Update**

Commissioner O'Neal gave the board an update on activities within the Department of Public Health.

**Other Presentations**

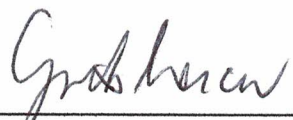
- Ms. Chanelle Avila, Director of Office of Quality, Performance and Accreditation for the Georgia Department of Public Health presented on the Office of Quality, Performance and Accreditation.
- Mr. Lee Rudd, Chief Workforce Management Officer for the Georgia Department of Public Health presented on Employee Engagement.
- Mr. David Bayne, Director of Division of Strategic Partnership and Policy for the Georgia Department of Public Health presented on the Division of Strategic Partnership and Policy.

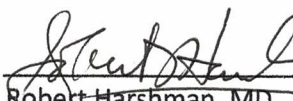
- Dr. Mercer questioned how the districts would be engaged. David responded with prioritizing the support provided by the state, seeking the district health directors' feedback to help stabilize relationships, succession planning for retiring DHDs and providing help with recruitment and support of new directors.
- Dr. O'Neal added it is important to synergize the activities of DHDs with state priorities. DHDs requested a yearly meeting with the leadership team, including district administrators, program administrators, nurse coordinators and environmental health leads. The meeting is being coordinated in the central part of the state for November. The Strategic Partnership and Policy director also revamped the DHD Business meetings based on the feedback of the DHDs. Unless they make a request for a program presentation, the meetings allow for more dialogue.
- Dr. O'Neal asked board members for their opinions on DPH strengths and gaps that need improvement.
  - Dr. Mercer requested DPH continue great programs that are currently in place. DPH should focus on cohesion between different agencies within the state and minimize the requirements on the private practice physician so they can focus on the health of the patients
  - Dr. Curran focused on the challenges of improving the understanding of what DPH does. He said it would be good to hear what partners want from public health, such as head of medical board, nursing board, law enforcement.
  - Dr. Harshman noted public health is an unsung hero. He wants to see further development of telemedicine/telehealth to improve medical access to care and reduce costs, especially in rural areas. Dr. O'Neal stated moving toward the academic public health and the work of Dr. Felzien in telemedicine is central to meeting that need.
  - General Jarrod stated that DPH needs to sustain emergency preparedness and response relationships and continue in the journey of Built to Last.
  - Dr. Taylor is pleased with the growth of oral health and introduced Dr. Barefoot the director of Oral Health. She is also concerned about Health Equity and is happy that it is a focus of DPH.
  - Dr. Cheek focused on DPH's need to continue to include children with special needs in disaster preparedness and telemedicine initiatives.
  - Dean Williams suggested continued development of academic public health initiative and promotion of DPH progress and initiatives.
  - Dr. Curran acknowledged Dr. O'Neal represents the best of health professionals and Georgia is blessed he is at the helm of the organization.

### Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Dr. Mercer motioned for adjournment of the meeting and Dr. Harshman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and Dr. Mercer adjourned the meeting at 1:55 PM.

THESE MINUTES ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 12<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2018.

  
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Cynthia Mercer, MD  
Chair

  
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Robert Harshman, MD  
Secretary

#### Official Attachments:

1. List of Attendees
2. Agenda