

**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH MEETING
Sept. 10, 2019**

Members Present:

James Curran, M.D., M.P.H., Chair
Cynthia A. Mercer, M.D.
Major General Thomas M. Carden, Jr.
Phillip L. Williams, Ph.D.
Sangmin Ryan Shin, M.D., M.A., F.A.A.O.S.

Members Absent:

Misael Rodriguez, M.D., Secretary
Tamica Valliere-White, M.D., F.A.C.S.
John Hauptert, F.A.C.H.E., Vice Chair
Kathryn Cheek, M.D., F.A.A.P.

The Board of Public Health held its monthly board meeting Sept. 10, 2019, at 2 Peachtree Street Northwest, Atlanta, Georgia, 30303. The meeting was held in the 5th Floor Board Room of the Georgia Department of Community Health. An agenda and a list of attendees are attached hereto and made official parts of these minutes.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m. by Dr. Curran, following a roll call by Dr. Williams. The following members were absent Dr. Rodriguez, Dr. White, Mr. Hauptert, and Dr. Cheek.

II. Approval/Adoption of Minutes:

Dr. Curran presented the minutes of the Aug. 13, 2019 meeting for discussion and approval. There was no discussion. The minutes passed unanimously.

III. Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner's Report by Commissioner Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H.

Commissioner Toomey introduced Lee Wright as the new chief financial officer for the Department of Public Health (DPH). Mr. Wright previously served as the CFO for the Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) where he oversaw all health programs. Prior to working at OPB, Mr. Wright was the CFO at the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. While welcoming the Mr. Wright, Dr. Toomey thanked and acknowledged Kathleen Robinson for the work she did as the interim chief financial officer.

During the commissioner's report, Dr. Toomey stated that DPH received two new grants, one in the amount of \$500,000 for HIV. The planning grant will allow coordination among Fulton, DeKalb, Gwinnett, and Cobb counties for the HIV response. The second grant is for the opioid response to track and monitor the epidemic. The grant is from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the amount of \$5 million.

In closing, Dr. Toomey recognized the work of the emergency response team during hurricane Dorian. She was amazed at how everyone worked together so well across the state.

IV. New Business:

A. Epidemiology Updates- Cherie L. Drenzek, D.V.M., M.S.

There has been a severe outbreak of pulmonary disease associated with E-cigarette use. E-cigarettes work by heating a liquid to produce an aerosol that users inhale into their lungs. Vaping products can contain nicotine, flavorings and/or other chemical additives such as THC or CBD oil. Symptoms of the disease include chest pain, cough, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. More than 450 possible cases have been reported nationwide, including two in Georgia. There have also been five deaths in the country due to vaping-associated illness. The CDC has launched a multi-state investigation. The recommendation from the CDC is that until a cause is known persons should not use e-cigarettes.

Closing the epidemiology presentation, Dr. Drenzek gave an update on the recent Legionnaires' disease outbreak at the Sheraton Hotel in Atlanta. As of Sept. 9, 2019, one death has been reported. The cause of the outbreak was due to bacteria in a cooling tower and a fountain at the hotel. The then hotel has reopened, and remediation has been made to the entire water distribution system.

B. Oral Health Update- Adam Barefoot, D.M.D., M.P.H.

Almost a quarter of adults in the United States over the age of 65 are lacking teeth. In children the most common chronic disease is caries. Oral health problems can contribute to cardiovascular disease, stroke, diabetes, pulmonary issues and Alzheimer's. DPH has an oral health program that supports 18 health districts. The mission of the program is to promote, support and expand school sealant and oral health prevention programs, conduct statewide oral health surveillance, maximize the number of Georgians with access to optimally fluoridated drinking water, and to build partnerships with external organizations to expand impact. The program also wants to begin kindergarten screenings.

C. Hurricane Response Update- Chris Rustin, Dr.PH., M.S., R.E.H.S.

Chris Rustin, Interim Director, Division of Health Protection gave an update on hurricane Dorian. Dorian began as a slow-moving tropical storm that increased from a category 1 to a category 5 storm. Initially Governor Kemp ordered evacuation in six coastal counties, but due to the hurricane's growth, the evacuation expanded to 21 counties. To prepare for the storm DPH had a team that coordinated with leaders at the local level to safely evacuate 537 coastal residents.

V. Board Comments

Dr. Mercer asked: If it had been previously documented that fountains have been a source of Legionnaires' disease? Yes.

Dr. Curran wanted everyone to know how important and professional Dr. Rustin was and how prepared he was for the storm.

VI. Adjournment:

There being no further business to be brought before the board, Dr. Curran motioned for adjournment of the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Curran adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

THESE MINUTES ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 8th DAY OF OCTOBER 2019.

James Curran, M.D.
Chair

Misael Rodriguez, M.D.
Secretary

Official Attachments:

1. List of Attendees
2. Agenda

September 10, 2019

Board of Public Health Meeting Attendees

Board Members

James Curran, M.D., M.P.H., Chair
Cynthia A. Mercer, M.D.
Phillip L. Williams, Ph.D.
Major General Thomas M. Carden, Jr.
Sangmin Ryan Shin, M.D., M.A., F.A.A.O.S.

Guest Attendees

Hillary Thrower, Emory
Tara Boockholdp, HBRO
Jeff Meaux, Azalea Health
Gene Barrington, BCBPC

Emily Yore, GDA

Georgia Department of Public Health Attendees

Kathy Robinson
Lee Wright
Adam Barefoot
Scott Minarcine
Rosalyn Bacon
Mira Colter
Tony McGaughey
Cherie Drenzek
Nancy Nydam
Chris Rustin
Alesha Wright
Valeria Newton- Lamb

Collen Commons
Sean Mack
Kia Toodle
LaToya Osmani
Kristin Miller
Ca'sandra Phillips
Jimmie Smith
