

**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH MEETING
July 9, 2019**

Members Present:

Cynthia A. Mercer, M.D., Chair
James Curran, M.D., Vice Chair
Kathryn K. Cheek, M.D., F.A.A.P.
John Hauptert, F.A.C.H.E.
Misael Rodriguez, M.D.
Tamica Valliere-White, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Members Absent:

Phillip L. Williams, Ph.D.
Major General Thomas M. Carden, Jr.

The Board of Public Health held its monthly board meeting on July 9, 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. Mercer, following a roll call by Dr. Cheek. All members were present except Dr. Williams and Major General Thomas M. Carden, Jr.

II. Dr. Mercer presented the minutes of the May 14, 2019 meeting for discussion and approval. There was no discussion. The minutes passed unanimously.

III. Commissioner's Report

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

Commissioner Toomey welcomed Tamica Valliere-White, M.D., F.A.C.S. as one of the newest board members for the Department of Public Health (DPH). Dr. White is a general surgeon who resides in McDonough, Georgia. Dr. Toomey expressed that Dr. White is very interested in public health, and she is excited to work with her. The Commissioner also announced the new Chief of Staff for DPH, Rosalyn Bacon. Ms. Bacon has a 30-year history in public health with focuses in maternal child health and women's, infant, and children programs. In the past, Ms. Bacon has held positions as the Deputy of Clayton and Fulton County. Dr. Toomey stated that Ms. Bacon has a history of remarkable leadership in public health and has experience at both the district and state level.

In closing, Dr. Toomey stated that on July 1st, 1.5 million in new federal dollars was awarded to DeKalb County to eliminate HIV. A model of HIV prevention, treatment, and care will be created which will focus on rural and urban areas in Georgia that we hope will truly eliminate new HIV injections.

New Business:

A. Levels of Perinatal Care by Katie Kopp, M.P.H.

Katie Kopp presented on the levels of perinatal care. In Georgia, there are only three levels of care that are recognized: level one provides basic care with no complications; level two focuses on specialty care; and level three is a more complex level. There are also levels of maternal care. A revision of these levels is being produced and will provide levels of care ranging from one through four. Following the levels of assessment tools developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Georgia is one of the few states that has implemented these levels.

The state currently has 75 birthing hospitals that have an open labor and delivery unit.

B. Infectious Disease Updates by Cherie Drenzek, D.V.M., M.S.

The hepatitis A outbreak has been ongoing for a year. In Georgia, 468 cases have been documented. Most cases have been reported in Rome, Augusta and Atlanta. Two of the cases have been fatal, and most of the infected individuals have been hospitalized. The high-risk population is made up of injection and non-injection drug-users. Educating and targeting these individuals for immunization has been the overall strategy. Offering immunization in county jails, screening for risk factors, and focusing on emergency room departments will raise awareness of the disease.

Measles cases are continuing to increase. Most of the outbreaks are coming from persons who are under-vaccinated or not vaccinated. To keep record of the measles, the Office of Informatics at DPH has developed an electronic, web-based, measles contact-tracing module. The portal will keep track of who has been exposed, their risk factors, and the health care needed for patients.

C. Alzheimer's Disease Public Health Campaign by Elizabeth Head

DPH has launched a new statewide campaign called, "Think About It." The purpose is to bring awareness to Alzheimer's and other dementias. Every 65 seconds someone develops Alzheimer's, and the number of people living with the illness is steadily increasing. The disease can affect individuals as early as the age of 40.

III. Board Comments

Mr. Hauptert wanted to know the risk of contracting Hepatitis A from food handlers. Dr. Drenzek stated that the risk is low.

Dr. Mercer asked: What are the laws in Georgia on children not being vaccinated in the school system? If a student has a medical reason, or a certain religious belief, they are exempt from immunizations.

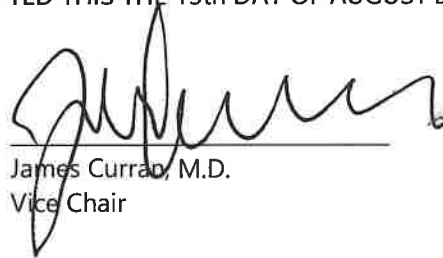
IV. Adjournment

With no further business to be brought before the board, Dr. Mercer motioned for adjournment of the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Mercer adjourned the meeting at 2:19 p.m.

THESE MINUTES ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 13th DAY OF AUGUST 2019.



Cynthia Mercer, M.D.
Chair



James Curran, M.D.
Vice Chair

Official Attachments:

1. List of Attendees
2. Agenda

July 9, 2019

Board Meeting Attendees

Board Members

Cynthia A. Mercer, M.D., Chair
James Curran, M.D., Vice Chair
Kathryn K. Cheek, M.D., F.A.A.P.
John Haupt, F.A.C.H.E.
Misael Rodriguez, M.D.
Tamica Valliere-White, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Guest Attendees

Scott Maxwell, M&M Inc.
Kathy Simpson, Alzheimer's
Association
Rick Ward, GA- AAP
Marylea Quinn, Alzheimer's
Association
Emily Jones, March of Dimes
Leona Rittenhouse, OPB
Claire Eden, GA-AAP
Wendi Clifton, Clifton Political
Hillary Thrower, Emory
Ruth Pawlak
Noor Najeeb
Mitzi Fears

Katie Kopp
Lisa Dawson
Shelena King
Chris Rustin
Cherie Drenzek
Kristin Pham
Karl Soetebier
Meshell McCloud
Paula Brown
Kimberly Ross
Angelica McGrier
Yvette Daniels
Connie Smith-Lindsey
Valerie Newton Lamb

Sheila Lovett
Adam Barefoot
Sara Kroening
Stacy Jones
Elizabeth Head
Kesia Cobb
Kathy Robinson
Sean Mack
Fanny Vazquez
Roselyn Bacon
Eric Jens
Rick Keheley