

**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH MEETING
May 14, 2019**

Members Present:

Cynthia A. Mercer, M.D., Chair
James Curran, M.P.H., Vice Chair
Kathryn K. Cheek, M.D., F.A.A.P.
Judy Greenlea Taylor, D.D.S.
Phillip L. Williams, Ph.D.

Members Absent:

John Hauptert, F.A.C.H.E
Mitch Rodriguez, M.D.

The Board of Public Health held its monthly board meeting May 14, 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 1:10 p.m. by Dr. Mercer, following a roll call by Dr. Greenlea Taylor. All members were present except Mr. John Hauptert and Dr. Rodriguez.

II. Commissioner's Report

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

Commissioner Toomey announced that the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) has been working on program reviews. The reviews give staff the opportunity to highlight the work of their programs. The reviews will be turned into one-page fact sheets to be shared during the legislative session.

Dr. Toomey attended the Georgia Public Health Association meeting where Dr. Cordero and Dr. Redfield spoke. Dr. Cordero spoke about maternal mortality, a priority area for DPH. Dr. Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), shared a personal story about opioid abuse with his son. Two other areas Dr. Redfield focused on were the importance of HIV and immunizations. Since there has been an increase in measles and hepatitis A, immunizations will remain a priority. Following the meeting, Dr. Redfield invited Commissioner Toomey and Governor Kemp to visit the CDC for a discussion on the HIV initiative.

In closing, Dr. Toomey announced that the National Governors Association Centers for Best Practices is conducting a symposium around access to care, EMS, maternal and child health, and rural health. The purpose of this conference is to educate providers on ways to integrate healthcare more effectively. Georgia applied for the grant and received it; two DPH employees will attend the training.

III. New Business:

A. Bond Resolution – Kathleen Robinson, Interim Chief Financial Officer

Kathleen Robinson, interim chief financial officer requested approval of the FY2020 General Obligation Bonds Resolution in the amount of \$2.3 million. Dr. Curran motioned for approval. The resolution passed.

B. Tattoo studios- Microblading legislation- Chris Rustin, D.Ph., M.S., R.E.H.S

Chris Rustin, interim director, Division of Health Protection provided background information on tattooing in Georgia. Dr. Rustin stated that 36% of Americans have at least one tattoo; 50% of Americans have one tattoo or a piercing. With new regulations in place, artists must now obtain their licenses from the state. Once receiving their license, the artist can tattoo in multiple counties, under the same rules.

Governor Kemp signed the Microblading bill which takes effect July 1, 2019. The bill has comprehensive body art regulation versus a tattoo regulation.

C. Hepatitis A, Measles and *E. coli* updates – Cherie Drenzek, D.V.M., M.S.

The hepatitis A outbreak continues in Georgia. Most cases have been reported in Rome, Augusta and Atlanta. The overall response strategy is to target high-risk populations and to vaccinate. Another approach is educating and targeting emergency departments to screen for risk factors. To raise awareness Dr. Toomey and Dr. Drenzek sent a joint letter to all physicians in Georgia.

Measles has had a significant rise in the United States. There have been 839 cases documented. Most of these outbreaks involve persons who have not been vaccinated. Georgia has confirmed six cases of measles in 2019, all acquired through travel outside of the state.

Along with hepatitis A and measles, there has been a multistate *E. coli* O103 outbreak. The virus was originally documented in Kentucky and Georgia. Now 10 states have reported the illness.

D. Board Comments

Dr. Cheek asked if there would be direct funding for the body art/tattoo program. Dr. Rustin said there is no direct funding, however, the artists will be charged license fees.


Dr. Mercer asked whether emergency rooms offer hepatitis A vaccine since they play a key role in addressing the hepatitis A outbreak. Dr. Drenzek confirmed that hospitals do offer the vaccination.

E. Adjournment

Following the board meeting Dr. Mercer announced that the board would immediately go into executive session. There being no further business to be brought before the board, Dr. Mercer

motioned for adjournment of the meeting. Dr. Curran seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Mercer adjourned the meeting at 2 p.m.

THESE MINUTES ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 9th DAY OF JULY 2019.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cynthia Mercer MD", written over a horizontal line.

Cynthia Mercer, M.D.
Chair

Official Attachments:

1. List of Attendees
2. Agenda

May 14, 2019

Board Meeting Attendees

Board Members

Cynthia A. Mercer, M.D., Chair
James Curran, M.P.H., Vice Chair
Kathryn K. Cheek, M.D., F.A.A.P.
Judy Greenlea Taylor, D.D.S.
Phillip L. Williams, Ph.D.

Guest Attendees

Scott Maxwell, M&M Inc.
Daniel Thompson, OBGYN Society
Leona Rittenhouse, OPB
L. Pollow,
Daniel New, Georgia Restaurant Association
Jamila Shields, HMHB
Helen Sloat, Nelson Mullins
Mark Cicero, Law Department
Julanne McConnell
Emily Yore, GDA
Nikki Diamantes, Southern Strategy
Vanessa Colon, Anthem, Inc.
Kathryn Autry, GAAAP
Shawn Smith,
Sharon Baker, GA Cow
Cathleen Teahan, GAC

Georgia Department of Public Health Attendees

Betsy Kagey
Valerie Attell
Kelsey Brown
Jennifer Burkholder
Scott Minarcine
Kesia Cobb
Kathy Robinson
Kelly Nadeau
Cherie Drenzek
Yvette Daniels
Rick Keheley
Sheila Lovett
Angelica McGrier

Karl Soetebier
Tammy Beasley
Nancy Nydam
Dianne Durrence
Huriyyah Lewis
Alexandra Benoit
Juliette Merchant
Melanie Wood
Jessica Pavlick
Adam Barefoot
Kenisha Allen
Charlisa Bell

Lee Rudd
Jeannie Galloway
Selena King
Debra Chapman
Akilah Lee
LaKeiva Williams
Chris Rustin
Paula Brown
Valeria Newton- Lamb
Madonna Johnson
Erin Wolf
Fanny Vazquez
