

**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH MEETING
April 9, 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.
Misael Rodriguez, M.D.
Phillip L. Williams, Ph.D.

Members Absent:

John Hauptert, F.A.C.H.E

The Board of Public Health held its monthly board meeting on April 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 1:09 p.m. by Dr. Mercer, following a roll call by Dr. Greenlea Taylor. All members were present except Mr. John Hauptert.

II. Election of the Board Secretary

The board members elected Judy Greenlea Taylor, D.D.S. to serve in the position as secretary.

III. Proclamation: Dr. Patrick O'Neal

Dr. Mercer, Chair, presented former Commissioner James Patrick O'Neal with a Proclamation, recognizing him for his service, work, and commitment as the previous Commissioner and Director of Health Protection for the Georgia Department of Public Health.

IV. New Business:

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

Commissioner Toomey gave the board an update on activities within the Department of Public Health and thanked everyone for welcoming her as the new Commissioner. Since being appointed Commissioner, Dr. Toomey has made it a priority to walk the floors of 2 Peachtree and Vital Records and meet staff.

Commissioner Toomey congratulated the Georgia Department of Public Health on becoming an accredited agency. She also stated that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be giving additional funding for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) prevention and treatment to four metro counties: Fulton, DeKalb, Cobb and Gwinnett.

To conclude her update, Commissioner Toomey expressed the importance of senior leadership meetings within the agency. Her immediate mission is to focus on internal operations.

B. Legislative update by Megan Andrews

Megan Andrews, Director of Government Relations reported on the legislative session. There were seven House Bills, two Senate Bills, and two House Resolutions passed that will have a direct impact on the agency. Those bills are as follows: House Bills 186, 197, 217, 228, 290, 324, 551, Senate Bills 121, 214, and House Resolution 421 and 589.

C. Budget Update

Kisha Wesley gave the 2019 and 2020 FY Budget Update. There will be a 2 percent pay increase for state employees.

D. Hepatitis A increase by Dr. Cherie Drenzek

There is an ongoing hepatitis A outbreak in Georgia. Most cases have been reported in Rome, Augusta, Atlanta and North Georgia. The virus impacts individuals at a higher risk who are drug users, men who have sex with men, people who have been recently released from prison, homeless, and persons with chronic liver conditions. Cherie Drenzek, State Epidemiologist and Chief Science Officer reported that hepatitis A is vaccine-preventable. If a person has been exposed to hepatitis A and if treated within 14 days, the disease can be controlled. Sheila Lovett, Immunization Program Director, updated the board on DPH's supply and access to hepatitis A vaccine and how it is distributed to the health districts.

E. Board Comments

Dr. Curran expressed how the Prep and Syringe Exchange Bill are comprehensive. The Syringe bill links people who are addicted to substance abuse to treatment programs along with HIV, Hepatitis, and STD testing. Not only is this needed, but it links to President Trump's initiative on HIV prevention in southern states.

Concluding comments and questions regarding the legislative update, Dr. Greenlea Taylor inquired about Senate Bill 214. She asked if the Department of Public Health would be the regulatory body for tattoo parlors. The Commissioner stated that all tattoo inspections will be completed by local county boards of health.

Dr. Mercer wanted to know the success rate of the hepatitis A vaccine with one injection. To bring clarity Dr. Drenzek explained that one dose of a single antigen vaccine will produce immunity in 96 percent of people for eleven years.

Dr. Cheek informed that hepatitis A has been a school requirement since 2007.

F. Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the board, Dr. Mercer motioned for adjournment of the meeting. Dr. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Mercer adjourned the meeting at 2:26 p.m.

THESE MINUTES ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 14th DAY OF May 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia Mercer", is written over a horizontal line.

Cynthia Mercer, M.D.
Chair

Official Attachments:

1. List of Attendees
2. Agenda

April 9, 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.
Mitch Rodriguez, M.D.
Phillip L. Williams, Ph.D

Guest Attendees

Scott Maxwell, M&M Inc.
Rick Ward, GA AAP
Cathalene Teahan, GAC
Becca Hallam, GHA
Emily Jones, March of Dimes

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Board of Public Health Meeting

Tuesday, April 09, 2019

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

**2 Peachtree St NW, 5th Floor Board Room
Atlanta, GA 30303**

A G E N D A

- I. Call to Order
Chair Cindy Mercer, M.D.
- II. Roll Call
Chair Cindy Mercer, M.D.
- III. Election of the Board Secretary
- IV. Proclamation: Dr. Patrick O'Neal
- V. New Business:
 - A. Commissioner's Report
Commissioner Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H.
 - B. Legislative update
Megan Andrews
 - C. Budget Update
 - D. Hepatitis A increase
Cherie Drenzek
- VI. Board Comments
- VII. Adjournment