

**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH MEETING
December 10, 2019**

Members Present:

James Curran, M.D., M.P.H., Chair
Misael Rodriguez, M.D., Secretary
Cynthia A. Mercer, M.D.
Kathryn Cheek, M.D., F.A.A.P.
Phillip L. Williams, Ph.D.
Sangmin Ryan Shin, M.D., M.A., F.A.A.O.S.
Tamica Valliere-White, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Members Absent:

John Hauptert, F.A.C.H.E., Vice Chair
Major General Thomas M. Carden, Jr.

The Board of Public Health held its monthly board meeting December 10, 2019 at 1749 Clairmont Rd., Decatur, Ga 30033. The meeting was held in the conference room of the Georgia Public Health Laboratory. 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 1:08 p.m. by Dr. Curran, following a roll call by Dr. Rodriguez. The following members were absent, Mr. Hauptert and Major General Thomas M. Carden, Jr.

II. Approval/Adoption of Minutes:

Dr. Rodriguez presented the minutes of the November 12, 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 opened the board meeting at the Department of Public Health Laboratory stating that by having the meeting at the lab allowed focus to be on spotlighting newborn screening. Newborn screening has a unique and critical place in public health.

She also spoke about the measles outbreak in Georgia. Dr. Toomey said that she's never dealt with multiple outbreaks in her professional career, and this is an indicator of where we are in this country in terms of vaccinations. When outbreaks occur, there is a lot of work that goes into following up on cases.

During her report, Commissioner Toomey shared that she had the privilege of joining Major General Thomas M. Carden, Jr. in Cobb County at the 25th Anniversary of the State Partnership between the State of Georgia and the Country of Georgia. Both country and state leaders were in attendance.

In closing, the Commissioner shared she attended a news conference in DeKalb County Dec. 9, 2019, with Dr. Redfield, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The news conference was about the End the HIV Epidemic work being done as part of a pilot program in DeKalb County. Dr. Redfield stated that his goal is that HIV will be eliminated in Georgia by the end of the decade.

The CDC Foundation has accepted a grant on behalf of DPH that will be used as a first installment in planning for HIV care in rural Georgia. The CDC hopes to expand HIV work in rural Georgia through telemedicine and PrEP. Dr. Toomey is pleased to see this kind of engagement and work to end the HIV epidemic.

She also stated that the state has political support to end the HIV epidemic, which is a first.

IV. New Business:

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

Dr. Drenzek opened her presentation by giving an overview of the measles outbreak globally, nationally and in Georgia. She stated that the outbreak is changing drastically and is increasing worldwide. Measles is a viral illness that's characterized by a fever, rash and the three C's: cough, coryza and conjunctivitis. It is one of the most contagious diseases and is spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The virus is transmittable four days before the rash appears and four days after the rash develops. It also remains in the air and on surfaces for up to two hours.

This year in Georgia there were 18 confirmed cases of measles: the largest measles case load ever in Georgia. All the outbreaks originated from unvaccinated individuals within families and travel outside of Georgia. Although contagious, with proper MMR vaccine the disease is highly preventable.

B. Georgia Newborn Screening- Arthur Hagar, Ph.D., H.C.L.D. & Judith Kerr, M.P.H.

Newborn Screening (NBS) is a preventive, population-based, public health program. The goal of NBS is to test all babies born in Georgia for conditions that cause illness, intellectual disability, or death if not identified and treated early. The screening consists of a 32-panel test which cost \$63. If a child is eligible for Medicaid the cost will be covered. There is no charge for repeats. Neonatal Intense Care Unit (NICU) infants will receive two repeat screenings at no cost. In 2020 the cost is expected to increase to \$80.40.

V. Board Comments:

Dr. Mercer asked: Do daycares have to record vaccinations? Yes, daycares must record vaccinations. Dr. Cheek added that if daycares and schools are audited and if children are not vaccinated actions are taken.


Dr. Curran asked: How are we sure that people who require long term specialty care are receiving it? Dr. Haggar responded and stated that long term care is difficult because most states do not have the proper tracking system.

Dr. Mercer also asked if any other states screen for Cytomegalovirus (CMV). No states screen for CMV; however, if the focus group is successful in changing the recommendation, Georgia would be the first to have an effective CMV screening.


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 2:35 p.m.

THESE MINUTES ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 14th DAY OF JANUARY 2020.



James Curran, M.D.
Chair



Misael Rodriguez, M.D.
Secretary

Official Attachments:

1. List of Attendees
2. Agenda

December 10, 2019

Board of Public Health Meeting Attendees

Board Members

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Tamica Valliere-White, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Guest Attendees

John Gleason, Fox 5
Lauren Pollow, JL Morgan Co.
Ellen Elbridge, GPB
Becca Hallam, GHA
Noreen Dahill, GAAAP
Rick Ward, GAAAP
Scott Maxwell, M&M Inc.
Audrey Miller

Department of Public Health Attendees

Meshell McCloud
Anthony McGaughey
Cherie Drenzek
Jeannie Galloway
Yvette Daniels
Rosalyn Bacon
Valeria Newton- Lamb
Melanie Durley
Nancy Nydam
Latoya Osmani
Angelica McGrier