

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

**Members Present:**

Cynthia A. Mercer, M.D.  
James Curran, M.D., Chair  
Kathryn K. Cheek, M.D., F.A.A.P.  
Tamica Valliere-White, M.D., F.A.C.S.  
Major General Thomas M. Carden, Jr.  
John Hauptert, F.A.C.H.E., Vice Chair  
Phillip L. Williams, Ph.D.  
Sangmin Ryan Shin, M.D., M.A., F.A.A.O.S.

**Members Absent:**

Misael Rodriguez, M.D., Secretary

The Board of Public Health held its monthly board meeting Aug. 13, 2019, at 2 Peachtree Street Northwest, Atlanta, Georgia, 30303. The meeting was held in the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 12:59 p.m. by Dr. Mercer, following a roll call by Dr. Curran. All members were present except Dr. Rodriguez.

II. Election of the Board Public Health Officer's 2019-2020:

The board members elected three new officers: James Curran, M.D. as Chair, John Hauptert, F.A.C.H.E. as Vice Chair, and Misael Rodriguez as Secretary.

III. Approval/Adoption of Minutes:

Dr. Mercer presented the minutes of the July 9, 2019 meeting for discussion and approval. There was no discussion. The minutes passed unanimously.

IV. Commissioner's Report:

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

Commissioner Toomey congratulated the newly elected board officers. She also congratulated Dr. Curran and Dr. Rodriguez on their reappointment by Governor Kemp. She formally introduced three new members of the board, Major General Thomas M. Carden, Jr., Sangmin Ryan Shin, M.D., and Tamica Valliere-White, M.D., F.A.A.P. all whom were appointed by Governor Kemp.

During the Commissioner's report, Dr. Toomey stated that the Department of Public Health (DPH) has been extremely busy with the outbreaks happening in Georgia. Dr. Toomey also announced that the SFY 2019 closeout has been completed. While giving her report she stated that the monthly district health director's (DHD) meetings will continue to take place in person until the end of the year. In closing, Dr.

Toomey said she finished the program reviews, and that were very informative about everything DPH does.

V. New Business:

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

The largest Legionnaires' disease outbreak in Georgia recently occurred in an Atlanta hotel. Legionnaire's is a bacterium that's naturally found in warm water sources such as hot tubs, showers, and fountains. Individuals become infected and began to show signs of illness between one and 14 days after breathing in drops of water from systems that are contaminated with the organism. Most people are hospitalized with pneumonia, and 10% of the infected individuals die. Through proper water management the disease is preventable. To demonstrate how water systems should be maintained the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed a water management toolkit for large facilities.

B. Office of Informatics Introduction by Karl Soetebier

Karl Soetebier, director of the Office of Public Health Informatics gave an overview of the department. The purpose of informatics is to help people communicate with each other in informative ways. Informatics is relevant to DPH because it ensures that processes and needs are being implemented and used correctly. There are three main focus areas in the Office of Informatics: Interoperability- helps interconnect systems to allow more effective and efficient exchange of data; Business Intelligence and Analytics provides support, assistance, and expertise in performing analyses of data to drive better decision making, and; Knowledge Management which documents and catalogs information flow, datasets, and business processes. The above focus areas have been applied to several projects in DPH.

VI. Board Comments

Mr. Hauptert asked: What was the criteria for the hotel to reopen? Dr. Drenzek stated that the hotel closed voluntary and they've done remediation to the plumbing system.

Dr. Williams stated that the data the Office of Informatics is generating is very valuable. In state there are several academic public health programs. He also felt that informatics would see a high demand in usage for the data. Dr. Williams suggested that Karl Soetebier implement a cost start on data that will be received.

VII. Adjournment:

There being 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 1:53 p.m.

THESE MINUTES ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 10th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2019.

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James Curran, M.D.  
Chair

Misael Rodriguez, M.D.  
Secretary

Official Attachments:

1. List of Attendees
2. Agenda

DRAFT

Aug. 13, 2019

Board Meeting Attendees

**Board Members**

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Cynthia A. Mercer, M.D., Chair  
James Curran, M.D., Vice Chair  
Kathryn K. Cheek, M.D., F.A.A.P.  
Tamica Valliere-White, M.D., F.A.C.S.  
Phillip L. Williams, Ph.D.  
Major General Thomas M. Carden, Jr.  
John Hauptert, F.A.C.H.E.  
Sangmin Ryan Shin, M.D., M.A., F.A.A.O.S.

**Guest Attendees**

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Cathleen Teahan, GAC  
Emily Yode, GDA  
Rick Ward, GAAAP  
Claire Eden, GAAAP  
Shaw Smith  
Helen Sloat, Nelson Mullins  
Scott Maxwell, M&M, Inc.

Shamonica McGill, HMHB  
Brant Churchwell, SBEO  
Brian Lazaro, WSB- TV  
Becca Halluin, GAA

**Georgia Department of Public Health Attendees**

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Karl Soetebier  
Meshell McCloud  
Nancy Nydam  
Cherie Drenzek  
Kristin Miller  
Fanny Vazquez  
Latoya Osmani  
Yvette Daniels  
Paula Brown  
Sean Mack  
Chris Rustin

Kimberly Ross  
Jeannie Galloway  
Selena King  
Angelica McGrier

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