

**NORTHEAST TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
September 26, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Northeast Texas Public Health District Board of Directors was held on September 26, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., 315 North Broadway, Genecov Room, Tyler, Texas with the following present:

Board Members: Allison Pollan, Chair
Laura Newsome, Vice Chair
Jessica Bowen, MSN, R.N.
Kent Boozer, D.D.S., Secretary
John Michael Rowland
Suman Sinha, M.D.
Evans Smith, M.D.
Scott Williams
Nancy Rangel

Chief Executive Officer: George T. Roberts, Jr.
Smith County Health Authority: Valerie Smith, M.D.
Chief Financial Officer: Lawanda Owens
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Director: Russell Hopkins absent
Immunizations/TB Program Director: Sylvia Warren, R.N.
Environmental Health Director: Ginger Points, R.S.
Community Outreach Director: Terrence Ates
Vital Statistics Director: Rosie Meza absent
Human Resources Director: Dawn Strickland absent
Interim Laboratory Director: Amanda Caitlin
WIC Director: Tecora Smith absent
Recorder: Janie Jolly
Guests: Dr. Catherine Goetz
Dr. Liz Villalobos
Dr. Luis Banaleso
Dr. Fariba Yazdanpanah
Dr. Srishti Goel

The meeting was called to order by Allison Pollan, Chair, at 5:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the invocation was given by George Roberts.

MINUTES

Motion made by Laura Newsome to approve the minutes of the August 29th, 2024, regular meeting; seconded by Kent Boozer motion carried; approved as presented.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Lawanda Owens, Chief Financial Officer, gave the financial report for August 31, 2024. NET Health had \$1,470,230 in revenue and \$1,399,179 in expenses for August 2024, the eleventh month of Fiscal Year 2024. There was a net income of \$71,051 for the month of August.

For FY 2024 year to date, we have revenues of \$13,479,815 which was \$479,525 over budget. Expenses were \$13,157,474 which was \$484,898 over budget. Our net income for the first 11 months of FY 2024 was \$322,340, which was over budget.

Motion by Kent Boozer to approve the August 2024 financial report; seconded by Scott Williams motion carried; approved as presented.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 FINAL BUDGET REVISION

George Roberts and Lawanda Owens gave a presentation to the Board on the financial condition of the Northeast Texas Public Health District over the last 5 years and with projections moving forward. Mr. Roberts explained to the Board the number of grants that NET Health received related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the fact that many of these grants have now ended. Over the last few years NET Health has been able to enjoy successful financial years, and it has been able to increase both operating and cash reserves. Moving forward, it will be challenging to maintain our services with the decreased revenue.

Next, Lawanda Owens, Chief Financial Officer, stated that a Fiscal Year 2024 budget review was conducted with projected changes as of September 2024. The revised budget for FY 24 shows \$16,196,893 in revenue and \$16,164,490 in expenses, with a net income of \$32,403. Compared to the amended mid-year budget totals for FY 24, the overall increase in revised budget revenues was \$312,496 and the overall increase in revised budget expenses was \$317,620. The revised budget result was a net income decrease of \$5,124 over the FY 24 mid-year budget.

Motion by Laura Newsome to approve the fiscal year 2024 final budget revision; seconded by Kent Boozer; motion carried; approved as presented.

FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET

Lawanda Owens, Chief Financial Officer, stated the proposed budget for FY 2025 shows \$14,577,998 in revenue and \$14,730,516 in expenses, with a net income of (\$152,718).

The proposed budget for FY 25 projects a salary increases for staff, Leadership and CEO of 3%. Any additional adjustments needed will be factored into the mid-year budget to be presented to the Board in March or April 2025. Employee medical and dental was budgeted for an increase of 15% beginning March 1, 2025. The WIC Program may receive additional funding at mid-year, but we will not know about that until early 2025.

Motion by Laura Newsome to approve the fiscal year 2025 budget; seconded by Kent Boozer; motion carried; approved as presented.

PROPOSAL: PROTHRO, WILHELMI AND COMPANY FOR EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Northeast Texas Public Health District is required by law to have an annual independent external audit. Lawanda Owens, CFO stated that in July 2023 the Board approved a proposal from Prothro, Wilhelmi and Company PLLC for a five-year engagement starting with FY 2023. Management requests that the Board approve the engagement letter for Prothro, Wilhelmi and Company to conduct the FY 2024 audit.

Motion by Scott Williams to approve the engagement letter from Prothro, Wilhelmi and Company for external audit services for FY 2024 and authorize the Chief Executive Officer to sign the engagement letter, as presented; seconded by Laura Newsome motion carried; approved as presented.

ELECTION OF NET HEALTH BOARD OFFICERS

The NET Health Board nominations committee recommended the following slate of Officers for FY 2025:

Chair – Laura Newsome
Vice Chair – Scott Williams
Secretary – Kent Boozer

Motion by Suman Sinha to approve the election of Board Officers as recommended by the nominating committee, for the term period October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025, as presented; seconded by Kent Boozer motion carried; approved as presented.

HEALTH AUTHORITY REPORT, BY VALERIE SMITH, MD

Dr. Smith gave her report to the Board. She reported that respiratory virus emergency department visits are down statewide. These include RSV, Influenza, and Covid-19. She stated that Covid-19 and influenza hospitalizations are trending down in September. She made note of the fact that the local wastewater data is trending the same.

Dr. Smith reported the need to get vaccinated for flu, Covid, RSV, and Pneumonia. She gave the age brackets for each of these ranging from 6 months to 65 years of age. She stated that the

incidence of Pertussis in 2024 is on the rise, with five times as many cases this far in 2024 than in 2023. The number of reported cases this year is higher than what was seen at the same time in 2019, prior to the pandemic. Dr. Smith reported that the CDC is reevaluating Tdap booster vaccination for schedule and recommendation. Dr. Smith followed up on the increase in Congenital Syphilis in Texas and the DSHS response. She stated that DSHS commissioner sent a letter and video to healthcare professionals reviewing requirements for testing 3 times during pregnancy. Also, DSHS hosted a congenital syphilis summit in Houston, bringing together health care professionals, community health workers, health insurers, state and local public health, community groups, state agencies and others to begin discussions regarding this topic. Dr. Smith concluded her report by stating that drug overdoses are trending downwards.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

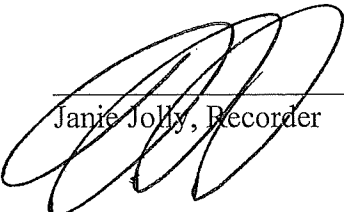
Mr. Roberts, the CEO, gave his report to the Board. Mr. Roberts stated that he and Terrence Ates met with the new Tyler City Councilwoman, Petra Hawkins to familiarize her with NET Health. They toured NET Health at 815 N. Broadway as well as The Center for Healthy Living. Mr. Roberts attended the City Council meeting where Jeremy Butler was approved as a new NET Health Board Member. He also attended the Smith County Commissioners Court meeting where Laura Newsome was approved to serve a 3rd 2-year term on the Board. Mr. Roberts also spoke about Kourage Health and the event he attended, mentioning that he heard a presentation from Shannon Miller, 1992-1996 Olympic gold medalist.

Mr. Roberts concluded his report by recognizing 3 outgoing NET Health Board Members, Allison Pollan, John Michael Rowland, and Dr. Evans Smith. They were each thanked for their service to NET Health and awarded a plaque of recognition.

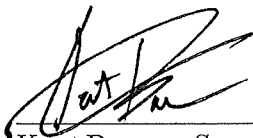
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, October 30, 2024.



Janie Jolly, Recorder



Kent Boozer, Secretary
NET Health Board of Directors