

Date: June 25, 2025
COLUMBUS BOARD OF HEALTH
Meeting Minutes
Columbus Health Department Board Room

<p>Presiding: Sylvester McRae, MD – Chairman</p> <p>Attending Board Members: Joy Adegbile, MD, Bantwal Baliga, MD, Yasmin Cathright</p> <p>Not Present: Devica Alappan, MD, Berry Henderson</p> <p>Others Present: Dr. Beverley Townsend, Joanne Strickland, AnQuavis Simpson, Tori Endres, LaTrice Johnson, Kristi Ludy, Danielle Saunders, Jeananne Polhamus, Brandi Nelson, Pamela Kirkland, Steve Gunby and Andrew Rhea</p>			
Agenda Topic	Discussion	Decision	Responsibility
Call to order	Dr. McRae <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. • Acknowledged quorum has been established. 		None
Approval of Agenda	Dr. McRae <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referred to the June meeting agenda as delivered to all board members. With no questions or discussion from the members, called for a motion to approve the agenda. 	Motioned by Dr. Joy Adegbile to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Ms. Yasmin Cathright. Approved by all members present.	None
Discussion and Approval of Minutes	Dr. McRae <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referred to the minutes from May 28, 2025, as delivered to all board members. Dr. McRae asked for a motion to approve the minutes. 	Motioned by Ms. Yasmin Cathright to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Dr. Joy Adegbile. Approved by all members present.	None
Commissioner of Health Report	Dr. Beverley A. Townsend <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided an update that the BCCP Contract has been completed. • Provided an update that federal funding for HIV-related programs has been officially approved. 	None	None

Financial Report

Joanne Strickland, District Administrator

- Presented the financial report as of May 31, 2025. The current budget is \$13,675,113. Line 3 shows total expenses are \$12,313,492.76, which is 90% and is below our target of 92% for 11 months of operation. Line 4 shows the comparison of expenses to last year with an increased variance of \$516,834.83. Line 5 shows total fees and income at \$1,129,889.52. Lines 6-17 show the breakdown of fund sources and their comparison to the same time last year. Line 18 shows variance at an increase of \$34,067.49. Line 19 shows an increase of \$91,183.96 for admin claiming. Pages 7 and 8 are included as back-up for the original overview and it shows a breakdown by line item of expenses and revenues. Page 9 shows all the programs that are governed by the lead county are on target for eleven months of operation.
- Presented the billing report as of May 31, 2025. Shows the breakdown of our programs and our total charges.
 - Provided a follow-up to Dr. McRae’s question from the previous meeting regarding the percentage breakdown of payment methods. Cash accounts for 11% of total fees collected. Checks, used only for Environmental Health and contracted services, make up 4%. Credit and debit card payments represent 51%, while electronic funds transfers (EFTs) from insurance companies and contracts comprise the remaining 34%. *Dr. McRae inquired whether there have been any requests from clients to use platforms such as Cash App or Venmo.* Joanne responded that there have been no such requests at this time. She also noted that while we are charged fees for credit card transactions, those fees have recently been reduced from 7–8% to 4–5% following a successful renegotiation.
 - Provided an in-depth update to the HIV Funds mentioned by Dr. Townsend. Their cycle is from June to May. We received some funding for the month of June. The additional funds are on their way. It is not enough to cover their expenses, so the district must make up the difference. There is a meeting with the state on July 1st to discuss these funds.

No further comments/Questions

The Financial Report and the Billing Report are attached and made a part of these minutes.

None

Excused Absences	Dr. Devica Alappan	None	None
Old Business	BCCP Program Biopsies Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Townsend provided an update in her report. 	None	None
New Business	None	None	None
Program Reports	<p>Epidemiology – Brandi Nelon, Epi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported notifiable disease 05/22/2025-06/18/2025. • Reported outbreaks disease 05/22/2025-06/18/2025. • Shared CDC Legionella Resource for Clinicians. <p>Public Information – Pamela Kirkland, Public Information Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported the June 2025 Press Releases, Media Stories, Interviews, Social Media Posts. <p>Environmental Health - Danielle Saunders, Environmental Health County Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented Environmental Health report of activities covering the month of May 01, 2025- May 31, 2025. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. McRae asked for details regarding a complaint within the Tourist Accommodation Program. Danielle provided a general explanation of the types of complaints that could occur but noted she would follow up with Dr. McRae regarding the specifics of the complaint in question. <p>Nursing – Tori Endres, District Nursing and Clinical Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented nursing report for July 1, 2024, through May 31, 2025 (FY25), including activities and events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Adegbile inquired whether the numbers for the Women’s Health Comprehensive program are typically that low. Tori confirmed that 	Program reports are attached and made part of these minutes	None

they are, explaining that the program is relatively new. She added that some women do not qualify for Family Planning or the Women’s Health Program because they are not of contraceptive age, and they also do not meet the eligibility criteria for the BCCP program. This program serves individuals who fall outside of those specific protocols.

WIC – LaTrice Johnson, Nutrition Services Director

- Presented WIC overview through May 31, 2025, including participant numbers and events.
 - Dr. McRae inquired about the funding for the WIC program, the likelihood of continued support, and whether it serves undocumented individuals. LaTrice reported that WIC has already received its funding allocation for the upcoming fiscal year, with no changes noted at this time. She confirmed that WIC is a federally funded program and that it does not check for citizenship status, only proof of residency is required.
 - Ms. Cathright asked whether the reported numbers included Fort Benning. LaTrice responded that they do not currently, but she will begin including them moving forward.

No further comments/questions

Adjourned	Dr. McRae adjourned the meeting at 1:38 pm	None	Andrew Rhea
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Respectfully submitted by: Andrew Rhea, Administrative Assistant 3

NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Date/Time: August 27, 2025	Place: In-person: Columbus Health Department Board Room
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