

**Date:** February 26, 2025  
**COLUMBUS BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Informal Meeting – Lack of Quorum**  
Columbus Health Department Board Room

<b>Presiding:</b> Sylvester McRae, MD – Chairman <b>Attending Board Members:</b> Yasmin Cathright, Devica Alappan, MD <b>Not Present:</b> Joy Adegbile, MD, Bantwal Baliga, MD, Joshua Beard (Mayor's office), Isaiah Hugley <b>Others Present:</b> Dr. Beverley Townsend, Joanne Strickland, AnQuavis Simpson, Steve Gunby, Kristi Ludy, Michelle Crawford, Karye Rayborn, Danielle Saunders, Lisa Watson			
<b>Agenda Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<b>Call to order</b>	Dr. McRae <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm.</li> <li>Acknowledged no quorum has been established. Informational only.</li> </ul>		None
<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	No quorum.		None
<b>Discussion and Approval of Minutes</b>	No quorum.		None
<b>Commissioner of Health Report</b>	Dr. Townsend <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wished everyone a Happy New Year as the January meeting was cancelled due to the weather and the health departments were closed.</li> <li>Mentioned to the board that Dr. Vanessa Downer (our dentist) passed away in December. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stated that she is reaching out to contacts for any interest in the dentist position and asked the board to do the same.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Announced GPHA is cancelled for this year.</li> <li>Stated that the federal cuts have impacted Public Health. Non-essential travel is suspended. Essential travel is approved that allows deliverables to be met within Grant-In-Aid annexes. Hiring continues with urgency, especially to fill vacancies as they are essential to the function of the organization.</li> </ul>	None	None

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reminded attendees that board members must be in person to vote; asked board members to contact legislators for a change in the law that would allow board members to attend virtually if needed and have their votes counted.</li> <li>Stated that Hemoglobin A1c is now part of the wellness panel.</li> </ul> <p>No further comments/Questions</p>		
<b>Financial Report</b>	<p>Joanne Strickland, District Administrator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presented the financial report as of January 31, 2025. The current budget is \$14,057,270.00. Line 3 shows total expenses are \$7,320,009.94, which is 52% and is below our target of 58% for 7 months of operation. Line 4 shows the comparison of expenses to last year with an increased variance of \$392,756.53. Line 5 shows total fees and income at \$740,264.56. 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 \$3,205.83. Line 19 shows an increase of \$1,984.00 for admin claiming. Page 6 shows all the programs that are governed by the lead county are on target for seven months of operation. 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. McRae asked about the decrease in Family Planning fees. Michelle Crawford explained patients may not show for appointments and misinformation (media) persists regarding birth control. Nursing provides education, which patients do not always heed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>No further comments/Questions</p>	The Financial Report is attached and made a part of these minutes.	None
<b>Excused Absences</b>	<p>Dr. Baliga Dr. Adegbile</p>	None	None
<b>Old Business</b>	N/A	None	None
<b>New Business</b>	<p>Joanne Strickland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advised due to lack of a quorum, a vote could not be taken for the City Budget request. It is due to the city today. She will submit with “Pending Approval” at the next board meeting. DPH is asking for an additional \$391,560.00 to help support the Vector Control program; documents will also be submitted.</li> </ul>		None

<b>Program Reports</b>	<p><b>Epidemiology Update</b> – Report attached</p> <p><b>Public Information</b> – Will report in March</p> <p><b>Environmental Health</b> - Danielle Saunders, Environmental Health County Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presented Environmental Health report of activities covering the month of November 1, 2024, through January 31, 2025.</li> </ul> <p><b>Nursing</b> - Michelle Crawford, County Nurse Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presented nursing report for July 1, 2024, through January 31, 2025 (FY25), including activities and events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. McRae asked about BCCP partners. Answer—Providers in LaGrange assist with screening. Discussion ensued about contacting different healthcare professionals to provide care for patients. Limited funding is available. Dr. Townsend stated Columbus does not have a breast surgeon for biopsies and not many doctors will take Medicaid fees.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>WIC</b> - Karye Rayborn, Nutrition Services/WIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submitted WIC overview through January 31, 2025, including participant numbers and events.</li> </ul> <p>No further comments/questions</p>	<p>Program reports are attached and made part of these minutes</p> <p>Dr. McRae reached out to Dr. Majors during the meeting, and he is willing to assist.</p> <p>Dr. Townsend will also contact Dr. Hilts at Valley.</p>	None
<b>Adjourned</b>	Dr. McRae adjourned the meeting at 2:06 pm	None	Lisa Watson
<b>Respectfully submitted by:</b> Lisa Watson, Administrative Assistant 2			
<b>NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING</b>			
<b>Date/Time:</b> March 26, 2025		<b>Place:</b> In-person: Columbus Health Department Conference Room	