

Date: March 26, 2025
COLUMBUS BOARD OF HEALTH
Meeting Minutes
Columbus Health Department Board Room

Presiding: Sylvester McRae, MD – Chairman Attending Board Members: Bantwal Baliga, MD, Devica Alappan, MD, Isaiah Hugley Not Present: Joy Adegbile, MD, Yasmin Cathright, Joshua Beard (Mayor's office) Others Present: Dr. Beverley Townsend, Joanne Strickland, Steve Gunby, LaTrice Johnson, Michelle Crawford, Danielle Saunders, Brittney Lyles, Andrew Rhea, Brian Smith			
Agenda Topic	Discussion	Decision	Responsibility
Call to order	Dr. McRae <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm. Acknowledged a quorum has been established. 		None
Approval of Agenda	Dr. McRae <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referred to the March 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. Devica Alappan to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Dr. Bantwal Baliga. Approved by all members present.	None
Discussion and Approval of Minutes	Dr. McRae <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referred to the minutes from February 26, 2025, as delivered to all board members. Dr. McRae asked for a motion to approve the minutes. 	Motioned by Dr. Bantwal Baliga to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Dr. Devica Alappan. Approved by all members present.	None
New Business	Joanne Strickland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented the Audit Summary for FY24. 	Motioned by Dr. Sylvester McRae to approve the Audit Summary as presented. Seconded by Mr. Isaiah	None

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented for approval the FY26 City Budget Request. DPH is asking for an additional \$391,560.00 to help support the Vector Control program. Total request is \$877,871.00. 	<p>Hugley. Approved by all members present.</p> <p>Motioned by Dr. Devica Alappan to approve the City Budget Request as presented. Seconded by Dr. Bantwal Baliga. Approved by all members present.</p>	
Commissioner of Health Report	<p>Dr. Townsend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanked Mr. Hugley for attending the meeting. Dr. Townsend and Mr. Steve Gunby discussed the delegates representing the Columbus Board of Health. Dr. McRae recommended sending a letter to the Mayor's office, emphasizing the importance of his attendance at Board of Health meetings or, alternatively, designating a City Council member to attend on his behalf. Spoke about the impact on Public Health by the government and the recent termination of the COVID Budgets. Stated the hemoglobin A1C was added to the wellness panel. <p>No further comments/Questions</p>	None	None
Financial Report	<p>Joanne Strickland, District Administrator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented the financial report as of February 28, 2025. The current budget is \$14,057,270.00. Line 3 shows total expenses are \$8,391,397.89, which is 60% and is below our target of 67% for 8 months of operation. Line 4 shows the comparison of expenses to last year with an increased variance of \$589,712.70. Line 5 shows total fees and income at \$834,530.48. 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 \$21,133.49. Line 19 shows an increase of \$12,462.39 for admin claiming. Pages 13 and 14 are included as back-up for the original overview and it shows a breakdown by line item of expenses and revenues. Page 15 shows all the programs that are governed by the lead county are on target for eight months of operation. 	<p>The Financial Report is attached and made a part of these minutes.</p> <p>Joanne Strickland will</p>	None

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. McRae asked how many times we bill before it is written off. Joanne answered that it is tracked by our Billing Department and it's more than six months. ○ Dr. Alappan wanted to know if there is an expectation of a decrease in the grants. Joanne stated there probably will be, but we do not know at this time. <p>No further comments/Questions</p>	present a billing report at the next meeting and make it a part of her financial report going forward.	
Excused Absences	Dr. Adegbile Ms. Cathright	None	None
Old Business	None	None	None
Program Reports	<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 February 1, 2025, through February 28, 2025. • Presented addendum on Vector Control. <p>Nursing - Michelle Crawford, County Nurse Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented nursing report for July 1, 2024, through February 28, 2025 (FY25), including activities and events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. McRae asked about an update for BCCP partners. Answer—thanked Dr. McRae again for his assistance with getting a local surgeon to refer patients to. We are working to get an MOA with the provider. <p>WIC – LaTrice Johnson, Nutrition Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted WIC overview through February 28, 2025, including participant numbers and events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. McRae inquired whether the Health Department has a formal protocol in place if ICE or other federal agents were to enter the facility, particularly considering the current economic conditions. Dr. Townsend answered that the agents would have to enter through the front with security. But there is nothing we can do to prevent someone from being taken. In public health we do not ask for documentation. Due to HIPAA 	Program reports are attached and made part of these minutes	None

	the agents are not able to enter the back of the various departments. Just the public waiting areas. No further comments/questions		
Adjourned	Dr. McRae adjourned the meeting at 1:57 pm	None	Andrew Rhea
Respectfully submitted by: Andrew Rhea, Administrative Assistant 3			
NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING			
Date/Time: April 23, 2025		Place: In-person: Columbus Health Department Board Room	