

**NORTHEAST TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
March 27, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Northeast Texas Public Health District Board of Directors was held on February 27, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., 315 North Broadway, Genecov Room, Tyler, Texas with the following present:

Board Members:	Laura Newsome, Chair	
	Jessica Bowen, MSN, R.N.	absent
	Kent Boozer, D.D.S., Sec.	
	Jeremy Butler	
	Cynthia Ball, D.O.	
	Scott Williams	
	Nancy Rangel	absent
	Pam Cunningham	
Chief Executive Officer:	George T. Roberts, Jr.	
Smith County Health Authority:	Valerie Smith, M.D.	absent
Chief Financial Officer:	Lawanda Owens	
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Director:	Russell Hopkins	
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 Catlin	
WIC Director:	Tecora Smith	
Legal:	Sharon Roberts	absent
Recorder:	Janie Jolly	
Guests:	Dr. Alaa Riha	
	Dr. Catherine Goetz	
	Dr. Liz Villalobos	
	Dr. Srishti Goel	absent
	Dr. Fariba Yazdanpanah	absent
	Alex de Ravel	

The meeting was called to order by Laura Newsome, Chair, at 5:01 p.m.

INVOCATION- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

HEALTH AUTHORITY REPORT

Dr. Catherine Goetz presented the Health Authority Report to the Board. Dr. Valerie Smith was unable to attend the meeting so in her absence, Dr. Goetz began with the Texas Measles Outbreak which now includes cases in 15 counties. There are 327 identified cases and 40 hospitalizations. There is reported 1 death of an unvaccinated school age child. There are 43 cases in New Mexico and 9 cases in Oklahoma. The vaccination status of confirmed cases is 325 unvaccinated/unknown, 0 vaccinated 1 dose, and 2 vaccinated 2+doses. The age ranges of the confirmed cases are: 105 - 0-4 years; 140 - 5-17 years; 63 - 18+ years; and 19 pending.

Dr. Goetz spoke about the respiratory dashboard and revealed that RSV and Influenza are trending downward, where COVID-19 has risen very little. Emergency Department visits are showing a decline for RSV, Influenza and COVID-19, as well as hospitalizations.

Dr. Goetz informed that Board of an increase in infant formula testing by the FDA. Infant formula production is tightly regulated, overseen by the FDA, however, like other foods formula is susceptible to environmental pollution on its ingredients and from contamination through the manufacturing process. On 3/17/2025, *Consumer Reports* report found harmful chemicals in 50% of 41 infant formulas:

The substances found included acrylamide, arsenic, BPA, lead and PFAS.

- 2 formulas contained toxic inorganic arsenic at 19.7 & 15.1 ppb compared to limits for tap water of 10 ppb
- BPA and acrylamide in 1 formula
- Most had elevated lead

Luckily, the other 50% of formulas tested had lower contaminant levels, considered “good options” by *Consumer Reports*. On March 18, 2025 the FDA announced a new initiative to strengthen oversight of the formula industry. The initiative called Operation Stork Speed will increase testing for heavy metals and other contaminants and review nutrients.

The Board thanked Dr. Goetz for her presentation.

MINUTES

Motion made by Jeremy Butler to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2025, regular meeting; seconded by Scott Williams motion carried; approved as presented.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

For the month of February 2025, we had revenues of \$1,063,218 which was \$21,050 over budget. Expenses were \$1,063,548 which was \$31,369 over budget. Our net income for the month of February 2025 was \$330, which was \$10,319 under budget.

For FY 2025, we have revenues of \$6,017,457 which was \$191,461 over budget. Expenses were \$5,794,336 which was \$194,507 over budget. Our net income for the first 4 months of FY2025 was \$223,121, which was \$3,046 under budget.

There was a discussion regarding the March 25, 2025 notice to NET Health by the Texas Department of State Health Services regarding the immediate termination of the following grants:

Immunization/COVID-19, Epidemiology Laboratory Capacity/COVID-19, and Health Disparities/COVID-19.

There was almost \$700,000 remaining in the grants as of 2/28/2025.

Motion by Jeremy Butler to approve the February 2025 financial report; seconded by Kent Boozer motion carried; approved as presented.

PRESENTATION: EMERGENCY SERVICE FUNCTION 8 AND ITS IMPORTANCE TO NET HEALTH, by Russell Hopkins

Russell Hopkins, Director of Public Health Emergency Preparedness, gave a presentation to the Board regarding Emergency Services Function 8, (ESF8). The purpose of the ESF8 is to provide guidelines for an effective response to infectious diseases that will help ensure the health, safety, and well-being of the community. This is intended to provide a strategy for identifying the resources needed and how those resources should be deployed, while establishing effective communication and response of all the relevant partners to support a coordinated response.

ESF 8 encompasses a broad range of activities, including:

- Supporting local assessment and identification of public health and medical needs.
- Coordinating and supporting the stabilization of the public health and medical system.
- Supporting sheltering of people with medical needs.
- Monitoring and coordinating resources to support care and movement of people with medical needs.
- Supporting monitoring, investigating, and controlling potential or known public health threats.

The plan calls for:

Assessment of public health/medical needs: Identifying the specific needs of the affected population.

Coordination of medical response efforts: Ensuring that medical resources and personnel are available and deployed effectively.

Public health surveillance: Monitoring the spread of diseases and other health threats.

Medical care personnel: Providing healthcare professionals to support the response effort.

Medical equipment and supplies: Ensuring the availability of necessary medical supplies and equipment.

Patient movement: Facilitating the safe and efficient transport of patients to medical facilities.

Hospital care: Providing hospital care and resources to patients.

Outpatient services: Providing outpatient services to those who need them.

Victim decontamination: Providing decontamination services for victims of hazardous materials incidents.

Safety and security of drugs, biologics, and medical devices: Ensuring the safety and security of these items.

Food safety and security: Ensuring the safety and security of the food supply.

Agriculture feed safety and security: Ensuring the safety and security of agricultural feed.

Mr. Hopkins concluded the presentation by providing several NET Health Preparedness Resources. The Board thanked Mr. Hopkins for his presentation.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Mr. Roberts gave his report to the Board. He began by informing the Board that Sharon Roberts was absent today due to a recent medical procedure and hopes to be with us next month. Mr. Roberts spoke about Public Health Week which is the week of April 7th – 11th, 2025. He stated that the activities will begin April 4th from 11:30am to 1pm at our Public Health Employee Appreciation Luncheon, with 22 employees being honored with Service Awards. Mr. Roberts invited the Board and encouraged them to attend if possible.

Mr. Roberts then listed all the various events for the week which include:

April 7th – Press conference at the Rose Garden,

April 8th – Smith County Commissioners Court for a Resolution for National Public Health Week,

April 9th – A proclamation for National Public Health Week 2025 presented by the Tyler City Council,

April 10th – UT Tyler University Center Mabry Theatre screening of “Invisible Shield”,

April 11th – UT Tyler University Center Mabry Theatre, guest speaker, Eduardo Sanchez.

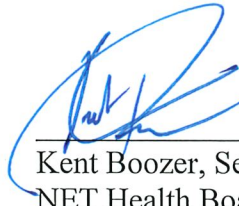
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

THE NEXT NET HEALTH BOARD MEETING IS TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025.



Jamie Jolly, Recorder



Kent Boozer, Secretary
NET Health Board of Directors