

**NORTHEAST TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
June 24, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Northeast Texas Public Health District Board of Directors was held on June 24, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., The 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	
	Pam Cunningham	
	Mike McCrady	absent

Chief Executive Officer:	George T. Roberts, Jr.	
Smith County Health Authority:	Jose Serpa Alvarez, M.D.	
Chief Financial Officer:	Lawanda Owens	absent
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Director:	Dusty Gonzalez	
Immunizations/TB Program Director:	Sylvia Warren	
Environmental Health Director:	Ginger Points	
Community Outreach Director:	Terrence Ates	
Vital Statistics Director:	Rosie Meza	
Human Resources Director:	Dawn Strickland	
Interim Laboratory Director:	Amanda Catlin	
WIC Director:	Tecora Smith	absent
Legal:	Gary Landers	absent
Recorder:	Janie Jolly	

Guests:	Charlotte Coultas
	Angela Driggs
	Jenny Lasiter
	Alex de Ravel
	Li-Yu Mitchell and Family
	Doc Ballard Family
	Allison Pollan
	Meg Reitmeyer, MD

The meeting was called to order by Laura Newsome, Chair, at 5:03 p.m.

INVOCATION- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

VISION/MISSION

The Vision and Mission of the Northeast Texas Public Health District was recited by all in attendance.

PRESENTATION OF THE DOC BALLARD AWARD

George Roberts, CEO, began the presentation by stating that the W.T. “Doc” Ballard Award for Excellence in Public Health is an annual award given by the Northeast Texas Public Health District to an individual or organization for outstanding service contributing significantly to the enhancement of public health. Doc Ballard was a Registered Professional Engineer for the Texas Department of State Health Services, and he was a Leader in protecting the health of the public. Mr. Ballard was a Charter Member of the NET Health Board and served as a key figure in the formation and establishment of the Health District. Mr. Roberts reviewed the history of the “Doc” Ballard Award and the previous recipients of the award. He then recognized the members of Doc Ballard’s family who were in the audience and thanked them for attending.

Mr. Roberts announced that the 2026 W.T. “Doc” Ballard Award was being presented to Li-Yu Mitchell, MD, FAAFP. Dr. Mitchell grew up in Angleton, TX, as one of three children of an OB-GYN physician. She received a B.A. in Public Health, then a Master’s in Health Science (public policy) both from Johns Hopkins University. To focus on her passion for public health she pursued a career as a physician, receiving her Medical Degree from the Texas A&M College of Medicine in 1999 followed by a Family Practice residency in Waco, TX.

In 2002, Dr. Mitchell and her Anesthesiologist husband, Dr. Derek Mitchell, moved to Tyler where she initially worked full time for the East Texas Medical Center Family Practice Clinic. Over time, she transitioned to working exclusively in Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine with UT Health East Texas.

To address public and community health more broadly, she became active in multiple organizations including the Texas Medical Association, Texas Academy of Family Practice, American Medical Association and American Academy of Family Practice. She quickly earned a reputation for designing innovative programs to educate the public and bridge gaps between the public and healthcare professionals. She founded the Tyler Walk With A Doc movement and in 2018, she received the Texas Medical Association Health Hero Award. She has shown consistent attention to youth, working for years with the Whitehouse Independent School District, organizing and promoting events to encourage exercise for our children.

The crowning jewel of her public health dedication to East Texas came when she was serving as Chair of the NET Health Board of Directors. She maintained the highest degree of professionalism and acted as a voice of calm and reason during the COVID-19 crisis. In an unprecedented move, she was asked to serve as Board Chair for three years during this time.

Li-Yu Mitchell is truly a worthy recipient of the 2026 Doc Ballard Award.

HEALTH AUTHORITY REPORT by JOSE SERPA, MD

Dr. Serpa gave the Health Authority Report to the Board and reported on the following:

1. NET Health Disease Surveillance Report for May, 2026 the 3 diseases with the greatest number of cases were: Hepatitis C with 24 cases reported; Campylobacter with 16 cases reported; and CRE with 16 cases reported.
2. Texas Respiratory Illness Dashboard shows a decline in cases of RSV, Influenza, and Covid-19 for May and June. The hospitalization rates are reporting the same decline.
3. The CDC reports that there is a multi-state outbreak of Infant Botulism linked to powdered formula. There have been 3 hospitalizations reported, no deaths in Washington, California, and Pennsylvania. There have been no cases in Texas.
4. Ebola Update: There have been no confirmed cases of Ebola disease in the U.S. due to this outbreak, and the risk to the general public is considered low.
5. The New World Screwworm is a species of parasitic fly that can cause infestation in humans and animals. New World Screwworm is generally an agricultural problem. Screwworm myiasis in cattle can lead to the animal's death. Treatment involves removal of the larvae. There have been no locally acquired human infestations reported in the U.S. thus far.

The Board thanked Dr. Serpa for his report.

MINUTES

Motion made by Scott Williams to approve the minutes of May 28, 2026, regular meeting; seconded by Nancy Rangel; motion carried; approved as presented.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

For the month of April 2026, we had revenues of \$1,147,589 which was \$250,701 under budget. Expenses were \$1,059,239 which was \$198,225 under budget. Our net income for the month of April 2026 was \$88,350, which was \$52,476 under budget.

For the month of May 2026, we had revenues of \$959,086 which was \$12,604 over budget. Expenses were \$992,142 which was \$16,531 over budget. Our net income for the month of May 2026 was (\$33,056), which was \$3,927 under budget.

For FY 2026 YTD, we have revenues of \$9,035,399 which was \$112,729 over budget. Expenses were \$8,638,055 which was \$72,755 over budget. Our net income for the first 8 months of FY 2026 was \$397,344, which was \$39,974 over budget.

Motion by Kent Boozer to approve the April 2026 and May 2026 financials; seconded by Scott Williams; motion carried; approved as presented.

REAPPOINTMENT OF NET HEALTH BOARD MEMBERS

The Northeast Texas Public Health District is governed by a nine-member Board which consists of the following:

- 2 members nominated by the Tyler City Council;
- 2 members nominated by the Smith County Commissioners Court;
- 2 physicians nominated by the Smith County Medical Society;
- 1 dentist nominated by the Smith County Dental Society; and
- 2 members nominated by the Northeast Texas Public Health District Board.

Board appointments are made for two-year terms and these terms are staggered. Board members may be appointed to three successive two-year terms. Members appointed to fill vacant positions will serve any unexpired term period and then can be considered for a full two-year term. Board members currently serving terms that expire September 30, 2025, are:

Jeremy Butler – appointed by the City of Tyler in 2024; eligible to serve two more terms

Pam Cunningham –appointed by NET Health in 2024; eligible to serve two more terms

Motion by Scott Williams to approve the Reappointment of NET Health Board members, Pam Cunningham and Jeremy Butler; seconded by Kent Boozer; motion carried; approved as presented.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW NET HEALTH BOARD MEMBER

Action tabled

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Mr. Roberts gave his report to the Board. He mentioned the following:

1. Mr. Roberts thanked the Mitchell Family again for being present tonight and making this year's 2026 Doc Ballard Award so special.
2. Mr. Roberts commented on the Mobile Food Unit/Licensure and the aspects of how this will affect NET Health.
3. Mr. Roberts spoke about the Parenting Conference set for Saturday, June 20, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.

THE NEXT NET HEALTH BOARD MEETING IS THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2026.


Janie Jolly
Administrative Assistant


Kent Boozer, Secretary
NET Health Board of Directors