

**NORTHEAST TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
August 27, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Northeast Texas Public Health District Board of Directors was held on August 27, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., The Genecov Room, Tyler, Texas with the following present:

|                |                              |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Board Members: | Laura Newsome, Chair         |
|                | Jessica Bowen, MSN, R.N.     |
|                | Kent Boozer, D.D.S., Sec.    |
|                | Jeremy Butler                |
|                | Cynthia Ball, D.O.           |
|                | Scott Williams        absent |
|                | Nancy Rangel                 |
|                | Pam Cunningham               |
|                | Mike McCrady                 |

|                                                |                           |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chief Executive Officer:                       | George T. Roberts, Jr.    |
| Smith County Health Authority:                 | Jose Serpa Alvarez, M.D.  |
| Chief Financial Officer:                       | Lawanda Owens             |
| Public Health Emergency Preparedness Director: | Dusty Gonzalez    absent  |
| Immunizations/TB Program Director:             | Sylvia Warren             |
| Environmental Health Director:                 | Ginger Points             |
| Community Outreach Director:                   | Terrence Ates             |
| Vital Statistics Director:                     | Rosie Meza        absent  |
| Human Resources Director:                      | Dawn Strickland           |
| Interim Laboratory Director:                   | Amanda Catlin             |
| WIC Director:                                  | Tecora Smith              |
| Legal:                                         | Gary Landers       absent |
| Recorder:                                      | Janie Jolly               |
| Guests:                                        | Charlotte Coultas         |
|                                                | Vernora Jones             |
|                                                | Brenda Jones              |
|                                                | Srishti Goel, MD          |
|                                                | Goldfield, Uzochukwu, MD  |
|                                                | Dalia Nessim, MD          |
|                                                | Drew Blake, MD            |
|                                                | Alex de Ravel             |

The meeting was called to order by Laura Newsome, Chair, at 5:02 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.

## **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 our 7 County reporting area for July 2026 - the 3 diseases with the greatest number of cases were: *Campylobacter* with 23 cases reported; *Salmonella* with 23 cases reported; and *Hepatitis C* with 22 cases reported.
2. Texas Respiratory Illness Dashboard shows a decline in cases of RSV, Influenza, and Covid-19 for July and August. The hospitalization rates are reporting the same decline.
3. The CDC reports that there is an outbreak of *Cyclosporiasis* linked to iceberg lettuce in 17 states and *E. coli* linked to alfalfa sprouts in 15 states. There have been 10,930 cases of *Cyclosporiasis* confirmed with 454 hospitalizations and 2 deaths reported. There have been 55 cases of *E. coli* confirmed with 4 hospitalizations and 0 deaths reported.
4. The CDC reports that the current situation for Ebola is in DRC and Uganda. There are 5,290 confirmed cases in DRC with 2,516 confirmed deaths. There are currently 837 patients in isolation. This is the 17<sup>th</sup> Ebola outbreak in DRC since 1976. It is important when diagnosing Ebola Disease that two factors are present:
  - a. Compatible Illness, fever plus severe headache, fatigue, myalgia, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or unexplained hemorrhage.
  - b. Epidemiologic risk factor include travel to or residence in an area with an active outbreak within 21 days, contact with a confirmed/probable case, or occupational exposure.

Treatment and Case Management include aggressive fluid and electrolyte repletion, symptom control, nutritional support, and treatment of secondary infections significantly improve survival, regardless of species. Key takeaways for clinicians are:

- a. Maintain a high index of suspicion
- b. Isolate first, test second
- c. Early supportive care saves lives

- d. Species matters
- e. Report immediately

The Board thanked Dr. Serpa for his report.

## **MINUTES**

Motion made by Nancy Rangel to approve the minutes of July 30, 2026, regular meeting; seconded by Mike McCrady; motion carried; approved as presented.

## **MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

For the month of July 2026, we had revenues of \$1,156,102 which was \$56,699 over budget. Expenses were \$1,249,121 which was \$41,599 over budget. Our net income for the month of July 2026 was (\$93,019), which was \$16,100 over budget.

For FY 2026 YTD, we have revenues of \$11,327,214 which was \$285,305 over budget. Expenses were \$11,007,616 which was \$167,925 over budget. Our net income for the first 10 months of FY 2026 was \$319,598, which was \$117,380 over budget.

Motion by Cynthia Ball to approve the July 2026 financials; seconded by Pam Cunningham; motion carried; approved as presented.

## **APPOINTMENT OF NEW NORTHEAST TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER**

The Nominating Committee is recommending Dr. Dalia Nessim to serve on the Board beginning October 1, 2026. She is recommended by the Smith County Medical Society to replace Cynthia Ball, DO.

Dr. Nessim is the Occupational and Environmental Medicine Residency Program Director at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler, TX. She joined the Occupational and Environmental Health Science Department at the UT Health Science Center at Tyler in September 2014 as an Assistant Professor. She has since participated in resident teaching, and clinical activities in the Occupational Health Clinic (OHC) and Eastman Chemical Company TXO, Longview, TX.

Dr. Nessim is Board Certified in Occupational and Environmental Medicine and is actively engaged as a resident preceptor in the OHC, and AOEC clinic, as well as Eastman Chemical Company. Her primary focus is building healthy work environments for rural and vulnerable populations.

Motion by Cynthia Ball to approve the appointment of Dalia Nessim, MD, MPH, GACOEM to the Northeast Texas Public Health District Board for the term period October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2028; seconded by Pam Cunningham; motion

carried as presented.

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT**

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

1. Mr. Roberts recognized Dr. Cynthia Ball for her service to NET Health with a plaque and thanked her and wished her well in retirement and travels.
2. Mr. Roberts mentioned that Dr. Srishti Goel is graduating and will be returning to Illinois to study for her exams. He thanked her for her time at NET Health and wished her well in her endeavors.
3. The October board meeting has been rescheduled for October. 22<sup>nd</sup> instead of October 29<sup>th</sup> due to a conflict.
4. Mr. Roberts spoke of the budget cuts that are being proposed by the City of Tyler. He stated that at this week's City Council meeting, Terrence Ates spoke publicly regarding this situation and did an outstanding job. He also stated that budget meetings with all department heads began this week and will continue through to next week. When completed, a Finance Committee meeting will be scheduled.
5. NET Health participated in many activities this month:
  - a. School is Cool – August 6, 2026
  - b. Distribution of backpacks at Boshears School – August 10, 2026
  - c. TISD Employee Health Fair – August 7, 2026
  - d. Love Thy City event with Immunizations, WIC, and Community Wellness booths – August 22, 2026
  - e. Learn, Grow, Eat, Go was held at The Center for Healthy Living with KLTv showcasing this event during a newscast on July 30, 2026
6. The next City Council meeting will be September 9
7. Mr. Roberts recognized our guest, Vernora Jones and Dr. Dalia Nessim, both of whom will be joining the NET Health Board of Directors.
8. Laura Newsome, Board Chair, stated that the annual evaluation for Mr. Roberts had been completed, both she and Scott Williams met with Mr. Roberts to review this.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

**THE NEXT NET HEALTH BOARD MEETING IS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Jolly', written over the printed name.

Jamie Jolly  
Administrative Assistant

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kent Boozer', written over the printed name.

Kent Boozer, Secretary,  
by Laura Newsome, Chair,  
NET Health Board of Directors