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

A regular meeting of the Northeast Texas Public Health District Board of Directors was held on September 24, 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. absent
	Kent Boozer, D.D.S., Sec.
	Jeremy Butler
	Scott Williams
	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
	Sylvia Warren
Environmental Health Director:	Ginger Points
Community Outreach Director:	Terrence Ates
Vital Statistics Director:	Rosie Meza absent
Human Resources Director:	Dawn Strickland absent
Interim Laboratory Director:	Amanda Catlin absent
WIC Director:	Tecora Smith absent
Legal:	Gary Landers
Recorder:	Janie Jolly
Guests:	Vernora Jones
	Thomas Alford
	Charlotte Coltas
	Dalia Nessim, MD
	Jason Phung, MD
	Kharl Wright, MD
	Matthew Anderson, MD
	Goldfield, Uzochukwu, MD
	Drew Blake, MD
	Alex de Ravel

The meeting was called to order by Laura Newsome, Chair, at 5:08 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 August 2026 - the 3 diseases with the greatest number of cases were: Hepatitis C with 28 cases reported; Salmonella with 15 cases reported; and Campylobacter with 15 cases reported.
2. Texas Respiratory Illness Dashboard shows a slight increase in cases of RSV, Influenza, and Covid-19 for August and September. The hospitalization rates are reporting the same slight increase.
3. The CDC reports that there is an outbreak of Salmonella linked to Broccoli Sprouts. There have been 22 cases reported with 2 hospitalizations and 0 deaths. Four states have these reported cases, Washington, Montana, Idaho, and Utah.
4. The Public Health Topic, Dengue, was presented by Dr. Jason Phung, UT Tyler School of Medicine Resident. Dengue is a febrile illness most commonly transmitted through bites from mosquitoes. Dengue is endemic in tropical and subtropical areas worldwide. Dengue is a common disease in Central and South America, the Caribbean, Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands. In the United States, most cases are travel related. Sporadic outbreaks with limited local transmission have occurred in Florida, Texas, and Hawaii. Since the beginning of 2026, Florida has had 152 cases of locally acquired Dengue and 1 death. Dengue should be suspected in patients who develop a fever and other symptoms within 14 days of travel to an endemic area. Dengue is diagnosed by PCR or antigen testing of plasma, or serum. Testing is ideally performed during the first 7 days of illness. There are no antiviral medications for the treatment of Dengue. Patients should stay well hydrated and avoid anticoagulant medications such as aspirin. Acetaminophen may be used to control fever. Patients with sever Dengue require hospitalization and IV fluids.

Prevention of Dengue include the following:

a. Use insect repellent (DEET)
b. Wear loose fitting, long-sleeved clothing
c. Wear permethrin treated clothing
d. Use screens on windows and doors
e. Stay in Air-conditioned buildings
f. Eliminate standing water

The Board thanked Dr. Serpa and Dr. Phung for their report.

MINUTES

Motion made by Nancy Rangel to approve the minutes of August 27, 2026, regular meeting; seconded by Mike McCrady; motion carried; approved as presented.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

For the month of August 2026, we had revenues of $977,873 which was ($9,172) under budget. Expenses were $1,045,054 which was $110,644 over budget. Our net income for the month of August 2026 was ($67,181), which was ($119,816) under budget.

For FY 2026 YTD, we have revenues of $12,305,087 which was $276,133 over budget. Expenses were $12,052,670 which wa s $278,569 over budget. Our net income for the first 12 months of FY 2026 was $252,417, which was ($2,436) under budget.

Motion by Scott Williams to approve the July 2026 financials; seconded by Jeremy Butler; motion carried; approved as presented.

FISCAL YEAR 2026 FINAL BUDGET REVISION

Lawanda Owens, Chief Financial Officer, stated that a Fiscal Year 2026 budget review was conducted with projected changes as of September 2026. The proposed revised budget for FY 26 shows $14,521,630 in revenues and $14,461,910 in expenses, with a net income of $59,720. The main reason for the decrease in revenues was due to a decrease in district generated revenue of $79,108; however, there was an increase in program income of $9,412 and an increase in revenue from other agencies of $10,323. Compared to the amended mid-year budget totals for FY 26, the overall increase in revised budget expenses was $32,383. The additional expenses were due to an increase in supplies of $370,625; however, there was a decrease in expenses for personnel services of $150,470, contractual services of $102,063 and capital outlay of $82,400. The revised budget result was a net income decrease of $87,386 over the FY 26 mid-year budget.

Motion by the Finance Committee to approve the FY 2026 Final Budget Revision; seconded by Nancy Rangel; motion carried; approved as presented.

FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET

The proposed FY 2027 annual budget for the Northeast Texas Public Health District is attached. The narrative will show the proposed Revenue and Expense budgets for the year.

Budget Surplus/(Deficit) Forecast for 2027:

Revenue	$13,936,021
Expenses	$14,223,864
Budget Surplus/Deficit)	($287,843)

Motion by the Finance Committee; to approve the FY 2027 Budget; seconded by Pam Cunningham; motion carried; approved as presented.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW NORTHEAST TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER

This item was tabled.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOLLOW-UP PRESENTATION

The Board was updated on the progress of the NET Health strategic plan. First, Terrence Ates. spoke on Board Direction 1: Strengthen Identity and Public Trust. He mentioned that we have been working to clarify and simplify our core messaging about NET Health as well taking certain steps to build marketing capacity. Next, George Roberts spoke for Tecora Smith on Board Direction 2: Focus on Priority Health Challenges. He talked about the work that being done with hypertension screenings, chronic disease management, and working with a Maternal And Child Health.

George Roberts then discussed Board Direction 3: Build Workforce Resilience and Leadership Succession. He gave an update on the development of a NET Health succession plan and the discussions with leadership about developing department specific succession plans. Terrence Ates then spoke for Lawanda Owens on Board Direction 4: Secure Financial Sustainability. He discussed the funding strategies that we have been utilizing. We were not successful this year in obtaining additional funding from other Counties. But we need to continue doing to tell our story and request other counties to support this work. We also need to continue to seek out other grants and foundation support for the future. Finally, Ginger Points discussed Board Direction 5: Expand Partnerships and Embrace Innovation. She talked about our work in strengthening relationships with local government officials, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and education organizations.

The Board thanked Leadership for the updates and encouraged them to continue the progress.

ELECTION OF NORTHEAST TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT BOARD OFFICERS

The Northeast Texas Public Health District Board of Directors has three officer positions: Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. Officers are selected by the Board members annually to serve a one-year term effective October 1.

The following officers have been proposed by the Nominating Committee for the term period October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027.

Chair – Scott Williams
Vice Chair – Pam Cunningham
Secretary – Mike McCrady

Motion by Kent Boozer; to approve the election of Northeast Texas Public Health District Board Officers; seconded by Scott Williams; motion carried; approved as presented.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

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

1. Mr. Roberts stated the October board meeting will be Thursday, October 22, 2026.
2. Mr. Roberts recognized two outgoing Board members, Laura Newsome, Board Chair, and Dr. Kent Boozer, Board Secretary. Mr. Roberts thanked them for their years of service to NET Health and presented each of them with a plaque.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:49pm.

THE NEXT NET HEALTH BOARD MEETING IS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026.

Janie Jolly
Administrative Assistant

Mike McCrady, Secretary
NET Health Board of Directors