

**NORTHEAST TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
August 28, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Northeast Texas Public Health District Board of Directors was held on August 28, 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.	
	Kent Boozer, D.D.S., Sec.	
	Jeremy Butler	
	Cynthia Ball, D.O.	
	Scott Williams	
	Nancy Rangel	absent
	Pam Cunningham	
	Mike McCrady	absent

Chief Executive Officer:	George T. Roberts, Jr.
Smith County Health Authority:	Valerie Smith, M.D.
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
Human Resources Director:	Dawn Strickland
Interim Laboratory Director:	Amanda Catlin
WIC Director:	Tecora Smith
Legal:	Sharon Roberts
Recorder:	Janie Jolly

Guests:	Dr. Liz Villalobos	
	Dr. Srishti Goel	
	Dr. Fariba Yazdanpanah	
	Dawn Franks	
	Jason Phung, MD	
	Gold Uzochukwu, MD	
	Kharl Wright, MD	absent

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.

MINUTES

Motion made by Scott Williams to approve the minutes of the July 31, 2025, regular meeting; seconded by Pam Cunningham; motion carried; approved as presented.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

For the month of July 2025, we had revenues of \$1,330,461 which was \$124,230 over budget. Expenses were \$1,349,503 which was \$103,543 over budget. Our net income for the month of July 2025 was \$19,042, which was \$20,687 under budget.

For FY 2025, we have revenues of \$11,868,714 which was \$287,386 over budget. Expenses were \$11,552,397 which was \$294,149 over budget. Our net income for the first 10 months of FY2025 was \$316,317, which was \$6,763 under budget.

Motion by Scott Williams approve the July 2025 financial report; seconded by Kent Boozer motion carried; approved as presented.

APPOINTMENT OF SMITH COUNTY HEALTH AUTHORITY

The Cooperative Agreement authorizes the Northeast Texas Public Health District Chief Executive Officer to appoint a Health Authority subject to approval by the Board and the governing bodies of each operating member, Smith County and the City of Tyler. The Health Authority serves a two-year term and can be appointed to successive terms. With Valerie Smith's, M.D., promotion and new responsibilities at UT Tyler School of Medicine, it is necessary to appoint a replacement.

NET Health has a long-standing agreement with the UT Tyler School of Medicine to provide the Smith County Health Authority. In consultation with the Leadership of the UT Tyler School of Medicine, George Roberts, Chief Executive Officer of the Northeast Texas Public Health District, is proposing to appoint Jose Serpa Alvarez, MD, MS, PHD, as the Smith County Local Health Authority for a two-year term, upon NET Health Board of Director's, Smith County, and the City of Tyler approval.

Dr. Serpa Alvarez is a Professor of Medicine and the Vice Chair for Education and Faculty Development in the Department of Medicine at the University of Texas at Tyler. He is an

Infectious Disease physician with extensive experience in patient care, research, and medical education. Additionally, he holds a Doctoral degree in Healthcare Management and Health Policy and has significant experience in educational and public health leadership roles. Before joining UT Tyler, he was a tenured faculty member at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, where he directed the Infectious Diseases Fellowship Training Program and served as the Medical Director of HIV Services at Harris Health (Harris County). Dr. Serpa Alvarez has made key contributions to various national scientific society committees and was a member of a study section for a federal agency. He has published 40 papers in peer-reviewed journals and written more than 10 book chapters.

Motion by Cynthia Ball to approve the appointment of Jose Serpa Alvarez, MD, MS, PHD, as the Smith County Local Health Authority for a two-year term and authorize submission to the Smith County Commissioners Court and the Tyler City Council for their approval; seconded by Kent Boozer, motion carried; approved as presented.

PROPOSED RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENT FEE SCHEDULE

Ginger Points, Director of Environmental Health addressed the Board regarding the Proposed Retail Establishment Fee Schedule and Suspension of Portions of District Order 2024-2 which conflict with new Texas Law. She stated that Sec. 437.012 of the Texas Health and Safety Code provides for the establishment and collection of reasonable fees for permitting and inspecting retail food establishments required and conducted for the public's protection.

She also stated that the Northeast Texas Public Health District, (NET Health), a Texas public health district, is authorized to ensure retail food establishments operate in compliance with applicable state and local health regulations by both Chapter 437 and Chapter 121 of the Texas Health and Safety Code. The law requires the Board of Health to approve an updated and compliant fee schedule to then be submitted to the Texas Department of State Health Services State Registry of Retail Food Permits for posting at least 60 days *prior* to the effective date of the new fee schedule and; that NET Health shall provide notice to stakeholders of their right to receive NET Health email updates, such notice to be provided at least 60 days prior to the effective date of new and/or revised fee schedules.

Ms. Points pointed out that along with adoption of the NET Health Retail Food Permit Fee Schedule, the Resolution suspends all provisions of NET Health District Order 2024-2 inconsistent with amendments made by SB 1008 to Chapter 437 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

Motion by Pam Cunningham that the Board approve Resolution R-2025-1 adopting a Retail Food Permit Fee Schedule and otherwise aligning with mandates required by SB

1008 amending Chapter 437 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; seconded by Scott Williams; motion carried, approved as presented. NET Health Retail Food Permit Fee Schedule is attached.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION FOR NET HEALTH

Dawn Franks with Dawn Franks Consulting facilitated a strategic planning session with the Board and the NET Health Leadership Team. The discussion focused OK on five main areas.

1. Strengthen Identity, Visibility, and Trust.
2. Focus on Priority Health Challenges
3. Build Workforce Resilience & Leadership Succession
4. Secure Financial Sustainability
5. Expand Partnerships & Embrace Innovation

All agreed that this was a helpful session. The proposed Strategic Plan will be brought back to a future meeting of the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

THE NEXT NET HEALTH BOARD MEETING IS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2025.



Janie Jolly, Recorder



Kent Boozer, Secretary
NET Health Board of Directors