**ECHOLS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

**MINUTES**

**November 16, 2021**

The Echols County Board of Health met by conference call on Tuesday, November 16, 2021.

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| **Members Present** | **Members Absent** | **Others Present** |
| Evelyn Howell, Chairman | Dianne Richardson – Vice-Chairman | Dr. William Grow |
| Brenda Corbett, Secretary |  | Dwain Butler |
| Shannon King |  | Patrina Bowles |
| Bobby Walker |  | Blake Lowery |
|  |  | Leigh Ann Combass |
|  |  | Tiffinee Dasher |
|  |  | Teresa Giles |
|  |  | Allie Pridgen |

**Call to Order**

* Evelyn Howell called the meeting to order at 11:59 p.m.

**Public Comments**

* There were no public comments.

**Approval of May 18, 2021 Minutes (See attachment)**

* Ms. King made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Corbett. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**New Business:**

**Financial Information** – **Teresa Giles (See attachments)**

* Ms. Giles presented the Echols County Health Department’s Revenue and Expense Summary.
* One budget revision has been made to finalize the numbers, which increased Echols’ budget by $9,060.

**Bobby Walker joins the call at 12:02 p.m.**

**Public Health Updates – William R. Grow, MD, FACP (See attachments)**

* Dr. Grow provided the COVID-19 update, which included vaccination and testing information available to the community.
* There was a surge in August and September. Eight counties in Georgia have high transmission rates. Plateaus have been noted in both hospitals and schools along with a decline in the number of deaths. Many of the deaths have occurred in the unvaccinated.
* Dr. Grow reviewed Echols’ testing and vaccination data, noting 35% of Echols citizens are fully vaccinated and 30% have received at least one dose.
* There has not been much of a demand for pediatric vaccinations.

**Health Department Update – Leigh Ann Combass (see attachments)**

* Ms. Combass reviewed available vaccines at the Echols County Health Department and provided testing and vaccination information.
* School-based flu vaccinations were completed with similar numbers from the previous year.
* Both flu and COVID vaccinations (Janssen) were offered at Grimway Farms.
* Ms. Combass noted there is a good team in place at the Echols County Health Department and she expressed her appreciation of the school and staff working to keep their students safe.

**Environmental Health Update - Blake Lowery (see attachments)**

* Mr. Lowery reviewed Echols’ food service inspections and septic permit and indicated there were quite a few repairs since the last meeting.

**Announcements**

* Ms. Bowles announced the 2022 state holiday schedule has not been sent down. Once it has been received, the 2022 Board of Health Meeting schedule would be updated and e-mailed to every board of health.

**Adjournment**

* There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Brenda Corbett, Board Secretary

Tiffinee Dasher, Typist