**COOK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

**MINUTES**

**June 28, 2022 | Budget Meeting**

The Cook County Board of Health met June 28, 2022 12:00 p.m. at the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

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| **Members Present** | **Members Absent** | **Others Present** |
| Dr. Tom Fausett, Chairman | Dr. Tim Dixon | Dr. William Grow |
| Terry McClain | Mayor Buddy Duke | Dwain Butler |
| Debra Robinson – Secretary | Shelva Keeley, Vice-Chairman | Patrina Bowles |
| Col. (Ret.) Ronald Mitchell |  | Teresa Giles |
|  |  | Rebecca Allgood |
|  |  | Shelby Fulghum |
|  |  | Councilwoman Celestine Hayes |
|  |  | Danielle Hurst |

**Call to Order**

* Dr. Fausett called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m.

**Public Comments**

* There were no public comments.

**Approval of Minutes April 19, 2022 Minutes (Attached)**

* With no opposition, the minutes from the April 19, 2022 meeting were approved as presented. Dr. Fausett thanked all board members for being in attendance.

**Business**

**Financial Information – Teresa Giles (Attachments)**

* The Cook County Health Department’s Revenue and Expense Summary through March 31, 2022 was presented. The health department is through three-fourths of the budget year.
* The budget increased since the beginning of the fiscal year.
* The Fiscal Year 2023 Budget for the Cook County Health Department was presented. Ms. Giles noted several areas including salaries, which accounts the bulk of the budget. The $5,000 increase provided by the state was also discussed, with Ms. Giles indicating the state will also send down additional funding to support the salary increases.
* Ms. Giles directed the Board’s attention to utilities and noted very little was spent on this item due to a billing issue with the city. A $1,024 invoice was received for October. Ms. Giles reached out the utilities department requesting the total amount due; however, she was informed those amounts would be sent out to customers as the department got to the record in question. This item will be monitored.
* Cook’s budget is in line for the fiscal year and all expenses have been settled.
* Ms. Guiles reviewed financial resources received including county participating funding ($26,020) and county non-participating funding ($48,980). After a brief discussion, Dr. Grow noted participating funding amounts, determined in 1970, have not changed since that time; however, the county has provided function on the old allocation alone.
* Dr. Grow added county participating funds must be used for direct health department purposes and non-participating funds provide more flexibility. Any of these funds not spent are rolled into the health department’s fund balance.
* Ms. Giles reviewed the remainder of the proposed budget for the Cook County Health Department, which totals $627,298. This budget will be revised by the next meeting.
* Col. (Ret.) Mitchell made a motion to approve the Cook County Health Department’s FY2023 budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Public Health Updates – William R. Grow, MD, FACP**

* Dr. Grow provided the most current COVID-19 update for Cook County and noted a flat caseload over the last two weeks. Four and five are the two most significant variants identified. Currently, there are no counties in Georgia with high levels of transmission.
* The number of COVID-related hospitalizations increased 10%-15% since the last report; however, that number has decreased in the last week. Many of the deaths have been in either the unvaccinated or under-vaccinated populations.
* The state is currently at 53% fully vaccinated. Cook County has 43% of residents fully vaccinated.
* A legislative breakfast has been scheduled for the southern counties on Friday, October 21, 2022 at the District Office. More information will be sent out.

**Nurse Manager’s Report – Rebecca Allgood (Attachment)**

* Ms. Allgood announced health department services are available. Patients are asked to be masked when receiving direct services.
* Rapid COVID tests are still being offered; however, there has been a decrease in requests. Patients are now being scheduled with other clinic appointments.
* There have been a few increases in positive cases, many are symptomatic and test positive for COVID.
* Vaccination numbers have decreased and are also scheduled with other clinic services. Approximately 15 are scheduled to be vaccinated June 29, 2022.
* At-home COVID test kits are available. Cook received 588 kits in May and have approximately 190 remaining. Kits are also being offered during patient visits.
* The health department has been vaccinating high school students who would not be normally seen until they are college-bound.
* Family planning services have improved with the second nurse practitioner coming to the health department, which has decreased the wait-time for these services.
* Ms. Allgood shared Cook’s fees are approximately $4,000 from FY2019 fee income, noting the good recovery by the health department. Dr. Grow added the health department has done an incredible job providing services and improving fees since COVID.

**Environmental Update –Danielle Hurst – (Attachments)**

* Ms. Hurst announced all environmental health inspections for FY2023 have been completed.
* Fees have been difficult to collect from three establishments. Ms. Hurst plans to visit them today to discuss those outstanding amounts.
* The restaurant and hotel inspection reports were reviewed with no issues indicated.

**Announcements**

* Col. (Ret.) Mitchell informed the Board he attended the Georgia Public Health Association’s 92nd Annual Meeting and Conference and found the information he gained to be very informative. He noted he is proud of the work everyone has done.
* Dr. Fausett noted the next meeting scheduled is August 9, 2022.

**Adjournment**

* There being no further business, Mr. McClain made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Col. (Ret.) Mitchell. All were in favor and Dr. Fausett adjourned the meeting at 12:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Debra Robinson, Board Secretary

Beth Magsanay, Typist