A meeting of the Ben Hill County Board of Health was held March 16, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. via conference call.

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| **Members Present** | **Members Absent** | **Others Present** |
| Jim Turner, Chairman | Dr. Shawn Haralson | William R. Grow, MD, FACP |
| Thelma Graham, Secretary |  | Dwain Butler |
| Heath Parrish |  | Patrina Bowles |
|  Daniel Cowan |  | Chris Naylor |
| Susan Smith |  | Alex Collins |
|  |  | Julie Parker |
|  |  | Teresa Giles |
|  |  | Shirley Brooks |
|  |  | Constance Manley |
|  |  | Jenny McCranie (Ben Hill County Schools) |
|  |  | Bonnie Kelly (Ben Hill County Schools) |

1. **Call to Order**
* Mr. Turner called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and opened with a prayer.
1. **Public Comments**
* There were no public comments.
1. **Election of Officers**
* Mr. Turner announced he would be resigning from the Ben Hill County Board of Health and nominated Daniel Cowan to replace him as chairman of the Ben Hill County Board of Health. Ms. Graham seconded the motion. There were no other nominations presented by the remaining board members. Ms. Graham made a motion to close nominations for chairman of the Ben Hill County Board of Health. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. Ms. Graham made a motion to elect Daniel Cowan as Chairman of the Ben Hill County Board of Health for 2022-2024. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
* Mr. Cowan asked for nominations for vice-chairman of the Ben Hill County Board of Health. There were no nominations from the floor. Ms. Smith made a motion to table election of the vice-chairman of the Ben Hill County Board of Health for 2022-2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graham. All were in favor and the motion passed.
* Mr. Cowan asked for nominations for secretary of the Ben Hill County Board of Health. With no nominations, Mr. Cowan made a motion for Thelma Graham to remain as secretary of the Ben Hill County Board of Health. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
1. **Approval of September 15, 2021 Minutes (Attachment)**
* Ms. Graham made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 15, 2021 meeting Mr. Turner seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
1. **Business**

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

* Ms. Giles provided the Ben Hill County Health Department’s Revenue and Expense Summary for July 1, 2021 – February 28, 2022.
* Expenses are currently at 59.31% and Ben Hill has a current budget of $627,894.
* No problems are foreseen with Ben Hill’s current budget.
* The Ben Hill County Board of Health’s FY2021 Audit Report has been completed and sent to Atlanta for approval.

**Public Health Updates – Dr. Grow**

* Dr. Grow provided a COVID-19 update since the last meeting.
* There was a peak in cases in January across Georgia. Dr. Grow noted many cases resulting in serious illness or death are in the unvaccinated or under vaccinated.
* There is a newly emerging variant (BA2 Omicron) that represents approximately 20% of active cases in England and the Netherlands.
* Dr. Grow noted the good job Ben Hill’s clinical and environmental staff have done at the health department, indicating Ben Hill has collected the most fees this year than in the previous five years.
* The Board was invited to attend the Georgia Public Health Association’s 92nd Annual Meeting and Conference scheduled for May 4-6, 2022 on Jekyll Island. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Patrina Bowles.
* Dr. Grow indicated the possibility of future in-person board meetings depending on the status of COVID by the next meeting.
1. **Nurse Manager’s Report – Chris Naylor**
* Ms. Naylor outlined COVID vaccination activity at Mana and the Life Care Center. Booster doses will be administered March 30, 2022 unless staffing issues at the center change.
* The health department is still conducting COVID testing by appointment due to the decline in requests.
* Moderna vaccine is offered Mondays, Pfizer for adults is available Thursday morning and Pfizer for children is administered Thursday afternoon. Janssen is administered by appointment.
* Flu vaccinations were provided at Polar Beverages January 5, 2022; however, there will not be any additional off-site flu events so the staff can prepare for the upcoming season.
* All clinic services are now available at the health department.
* Scoliosis screening for sixth and eight grade students February 22, 2022.
* A no fee STD clinic was held March 18, 2022. This was the first clinic in over a year.
* Dr. Grow has approved administration of the meningococcal vaccine to approximately 170 rising eleventh grade students on April 26, 2022 at the high school. Ms. Naylor mentioned possibly providing tetanus vaccine to rising seventh graders if the state will give permission to do so.
* A full-time registered nurse was offered a position at Ben Hill. This person will be shared Irwin County Health Department.
1. **Environmental Health Update – Alex Collins (See Attachments)**
* Mr. Collins reviewed Ben Hill’s 2021 yearly summary and noted things went well the previous year.
* Environmental health activities from September 1, 2021 through February 28, 2022 were provided. Staff have been busy with septic systems due to the number of mobile homes moving in.
* Food service inspections are going well. One new restaurant, two Chick Fil-a food trucks and one coffee shop (coming soon) are the newest food establishments or trucks in the county.
1. **The Jessamine Place**

**Financial Report Constance Manley (Attachments)**

* Ms. Manley presented The Jessamine Place’s Annual Audit Report, which has a total net position of $68,549. Also outlined was The Jessamine Place’s total assets, total liabilities and ending unassigned fund balance totaling $1,287,374.
* After a brief discussion, Mr. Turner made a motion to accept The Jessamine Place’s FY2021 Audit Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Smith. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Director’s Report – Shirley Brooks (See Attachments)**

* Ms. Brooks provided an overview of The Jessamine Place’s activities since the last meeting.
* National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, celebrated in March, is held to increase public awareness of individuals with disabilities and to provide opportunities for them to lead productive lives.
* The Jessamine Place currently works with 17 host homes with 20 people supported. Three homes have two clients living together as housemates.
* Danny Smith, Barbara Wallace, and Jeannie Crossin were recognized for their years of service.
* The Jessamine Place’s COVID vaccination rate is currently at 81% - the goal being to keep staff and able to provide quality services.
* Ms. Brooks noted a four percent decrease in productivity, citing the loss of some of the clients served in the past. There has also been a decrease in staffing due to three retirements and a decrease in part-time employees. This accounts for an overall 21% decrease in the workforce. The Jessamine Place is rebounding, and Ms. Brooks feels this is promising with the increase in wages.
* The Jessamine Place has experienced the loss of two persons supported.
* Ms. Brooks informed the Board of the upcoming review by the Council on Quality and Leadership scheduled for the summer.
* The Jessamine Place is excited about their upcoming 50th anniversary.
1. **School-Based Health Centers – Bonnie Kelly**
* Bonnie Kelly presented a school-based health initiative to the Board announcing the receipt of a $10,000 grant to plan and develop a center for Ben Hill schools.
* Ms. Kelly outlined benefits of the center which would include a reduction in absenteeism in staff and students.
* Board members had an opportunity to share their thoughts regarding the health center during the meeting.
* Ms. Kelly also noted a grant was submitted for mental health related funding as well.
* Mr. Butler noted while there were pros and cons for students and parents with the health center being available in schools, there were decreases in revenue in other county health departments with those types of facilities.
* Ms. Kelly indicated additional funding is being sought through other grant sources.
* After further discussion, Mr. Cowan noted the presentation was for informational purposes. Ms. Giles indicated to the Board she would monitor health department revenue, specifically as it relates to immunizations and health checks.
1. **Announcements**
* Mr. Turner congratulated Mr. Cowan on being elected chairman of the Ben Hill County Board of Health.
1. **Adjournment**
* There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Thelma Graham, Board Secretary

Julie Parker, Typist