**COOK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

**MINUTES**

**October 18, 2022**

The Cook County Board of Health met Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. by conference call.

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| **Members Present** | **Members Absent** | **Others Present** |
| Dr. Tom Fausett, Chairman | Dr. Tim Dixon | Dwain Butler |
| Shelva Keeley, Vice-Chairman |  | Patrina Bowles |
| Debra Robinson – Secretary |  | Teresa Giles |
| Col. (Ret.) Ronald Mitchell |  | Rebecca Allgood |
| Terry McClain |  | Danielle Hurst |
| Mayor Bubby Duke |  | Beth Magsanay |

**Call to Order**

* Dr. Fausett called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

**Public Comments**

* There were no public comments.

**Approval of August 9, 2022, Minutes (Attached)**

* Col. (Ret.) Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 9, 2022, meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Shelva Keeley. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Business**

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

* Ms. Giles presented the Cook County Health Department’s Revenue and Expense Summary for September 2022. No changes have been made to the budget since the last meeting.
* Revenue and Expenses are on track for this time of the year. Cook’s fees increased by 14% compared to last year due to billing private insurance and DSPS Medicaid for services. Family Planning income also increased $2,500 from last year.

**Public Health Updates – Dwain Butler**

* Mr. Butler presented on behalf of Dr. Grow and noted a slight increase in COVID reporting since August. Twenty cases were reported in August and 47 in September. Georgia is considered a low transmission state for COVID cases.
* Much of the state is seeing an increase in flu numbers. About 4.9% of patients visit the doctor with flu-like symptoms. Cases around this time of year are normally around 3.1%. There have been no reported deaths to date.
* Mr. Butler referenced a report identifying Georgia as leading the nation in maternal mortality. It was added the district is one of the four receiving additional funding for the Healthy Start program to aid in combating the infant mortality rate. Georgia recognizes this issue and is focusing on decreasing those rates in the upcoming year.
* Mr. Butler reminded the Board Members about the Legislative Breakfast that will be held on November 4, 2022, at the South Health District Office at 8:30 AM.
* The 2023 Board of Health Meeting Schedule will be emailed soon.

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

* Ms. Allgood informed the Board of health department activities.
* Cook has been providing immunizations, COVID services and has been conducting breast cancer awareness activities.
* Schools are being visited to administer flu vaccinations if parents have signed consents. Ms. Allgood outlined the number of vaccinations administered: Elementary (October 6, 2022) / 86 students and 18 staff; Primary (October 12, 2022) / 93 students and 26 staff. The middle school will be vaccinated October 19, 2022 and the high school October 20, 2022. Staff also provided flu vaccines at Cook Community Bank and have other places identified for future vaccinations.
* All school immunization audits have been completed. Staff also worked with the schools regarding the 11th grade vaccination requirements.
* COVID testing has decreased but services are still available to the community. Free at-home test kits are provided at no charge for the community. Bivalent booster vaccines are also available.
* In observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, staff displayed banners and pink ribbons on a display table in the lobby with additional information about breast cancer. Staff will wear t-shirts on October 21, 2022 to show support for the month’s awareness. The Breast and Cervical Cancer (BCCP) Program, a service available at the health department, will allow women 40-64 years old with no insurance and who qualify a chance to receive yearly mammogram screenings to help prevent breast cancer. Pap smears are also available to those who qualify for this service.

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

* Ms. Hurst reviewed environmental health activity from August 2, 2022, through October 12, 2022.
* A few establishments have been opened and closed since the last meeting. There have been no changes with tourist accommodation or swimming pools and there has been a decrease in activities during the summer, while there has been an increase in land usage.

**Announcements**

* Dr. Fausett reminded the Board about the Legislative Breakfast and 2023 meeting schedule. Questions should be submitted to Patrina Bowles.
* Dr. Fausett and Ms. Allgood are looking into getting the health department updated with some improvements.
* Mayor Buddy Duke asked if a crew filming in Cook would be able to receive at-home COVID test kits. Dr. Fausett indicated he would speak with Ms. Allgood to see if the request could be filled.

**Adjournment**

* There being no further business, Dr. Fausett adjourned the meeting at 12:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Debra Robinson, Board Secretary

Beth Magsanay, Typist