**ECHOLS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

**MINUTES | FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

The Echols County Board of Health met February 21, 2023 by conference call.

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| **Members Present** | **Members Absent** | **Others Present** |
| Evelyn Howell, Chairman | Dianne Richardson, Vice-Chairman | Dr. William Grow |
| Bobby Walker |  | Dwain Butler |
| Dr. Vincent Hamm |  | Allie Pridgen |
| Cathy Swilley |  | Leigh Ann Combass |
|  |  | Tiffinee Dasher |
|  |  | Matthew Turner |

**Call to Order**

* Ms. Howell called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

**Public Comments**

* Cathy Swilley was introduced as the newest member of the Echols County Board of Health.

**Approval of November 15, 2022 Minutes (See attachment)**

* Dr. Hamm made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**New Business:**

**Financial Information** – **Allie Pridgen (See attachments)**

* Ms. Pridgen presented the Echols County Health Department’s Revenue and Expense Summary along with the Echols County Board of Health’s FY2022 Audit Report.
* Mr. Walker made a motion to accept the Echols County Board of Health’s FY2022 Audit Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hamm. All were in favor and the motion passed.

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

* Dr. Grow began by announcing a decrease in COVID numbers across the state.
* The Board was also informed of Dr. Grow’s plans to retire in June. The state has posted his position and interviews will be scheduled soon. More information will be passed along to the boards as it is received.
* Board members were invited to attend the Georgia Public Health Association’s 93rd Annual Meeting and Conference scheduled for May 3-5, 2023 on Jekyll Island. Everyone was encouraged to secure their hotel reservation as soon as possible. Patrina Bowles should be contacted by March 15, 2023 to confirm attendance.

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

* Echols has been working to increase numbers and fees by sending letters to clients who qualify for Shingles and HPV vaccines.
* Echols has collaborated with the schools to distribute flyers for the upcoming Pre-K registration, which will inform parents to contact the health department for immunizations, along with Ear, Eye, Dental and Nutrition (EEDN) screenings and birth certificates.
* COVID vaccines, testing and free test kits are still available at the health department.

**Environmental Health Update – Matthew Turner (see attachments)**

* All Echols County food service and inspection permit information was provided, including inspection reports.
* Mr. Turner announced a loan program available through Seven Rivers, which provides low-interest loans to homeowners in rural areas to repair or renovate an existing well system or to replace a non-functioning septic system.

**Announcements**

* There were no announcements.

**Adjournment**

* There being no further business, Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hamm. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Bobby Walker, Board Secretary

Tiffinee Dasher, Typist