A meeting of the Ben Hill County Board of Health was held Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Ben Hill County Health Department.

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| **Members Present** | **Members Absent** | **Others Present** |
| Daniel Cowan, Chairman | Thelma Graham – Secretary | William R. Grow, MD, FACP |
| Heath Parrish, Vice-Chairman |  | Patrina Bowles |
| Susan Smith |  | Teresa Giles |
| Dawn Clements |  | Christine Naylor, RN |
| Mayor Jason Holt |  | Alex Collins |
|  |  | Julie Parker |
|  |  | Shirley Brooks |
|  |  | Stacie “Nikki” Parker |

1. **Call to Order**
* Mr. Cowan called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.
1. **Public Comments**
* Mr. Cowan noted changes to the remaining 2023 board of health meeting dates.
1. **Approval of December 14, 2022 Minutes (Attachment)**
* Mr. Parrish made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Clements. All were in favor and the motion passed.
1. **Business**

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

* Ms. Giles presented the Ben Hill County Health Department’s Revenue and Expense Summary for July 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023, highlighting revisions which included a $74,686 increase in Grant-in-Aid (GIA).
* Minor adjustments were made to expenses to ensure spending is in line.
* Dr. Grow added Ben Hill has a good fund balance and prior year fees are in good shape, commending Ms. Naylor, and her staff for their work.
* Ms. Giles presented the Ben Hill County Board of Health’s FY2022 Audit Report, informing the Board of Ben Hill County Health Department’s $285,058 unassigned fund balance, and $488,844 assigned fund balance. Ben Hill currently has approximately 4.7 months of operating funds in the bank.
* Auditors identified no material weaknesses and no significant deficiencies. There was one finding regarding the board not meeting four times each year; however, scheduling has been updated to accommodate a meeting in the third quarter of the year.
* Ms. Clements made a motion to accept the Ben Hill County Board of Health’s FY2022 Audit Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Holt. All were in favor and the motion passed.

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

* Dr. Grow updated the Board with the most current COVID information. Hospitalizations continue to decline and are at the lowest levels since last October.
* COVID bi-valent boosters are available. This booster may become available each year like flu vaccines.
* Dr. Grow announced a new RSV vaccine to be offered by Pfizer, which will be offered to children. Other vaccines for school children are also available as well as vaccines for college attendance.
* Dr. Grow announced his plan to retire June 30, 2023. Two applications have been submitted and are being vetted by the state office. Board chairs will be contacted for their input when that stage of the application process begins.
* The Board was invited to attend the Georgia Public Health Association’s Annual Meeting and Conference to be held May 3-5, 2023 on Jekyll Island. Anyone who would like to attend should contact Patrina Bowles.
1. **Nurse Manager’s Report – Chris Naylor (Attached)**
* A car seat inventory review was conducted by Cynthia Sharper, who is the state car seat consultant.
* Staff have been contacting parents regarding tetanus and meningitis vaccines for entry into the next grades. There was a low turnout for the meningitis vaccine among rising eleventh grade students.
* There will be a back-to-school bash in July. The health department is partnering with Hope Harmon.
* A total of three infant deaths were reviewed by the child fatality committee. Two were sleep related and the third a failure to thrive. There was also one teen death; however, there was no information to review the case. A child fatality training was held March 9, 2023 in Douglas. Ms. Naylor and Ms. Harrell attended and represented Ben Hill County Health Department.
* A total of 482 scoliosis screenings were conducted for sixth and eight grade students.
* A no-fee STD clinic will be held March 28, 2023.
* Ms. Naylor announced all services are available at the Ben Hill County Health Department and free COVID test kits are available.
* Staff will attend the Wild Chicken Festival March 18, 2023 and distribute information about health department services.
1. **Environmental Health Update – Alex Collins (See Attachments)**
* Mr. Collins provided a summary for Ben Hill County Environmental Health for 2022 and reviewed activities for December 14, 2022 – February 28, 2023.
* A decrease in food service establishments was indicated, which is due to a change in requirements for food trucks who no longer need permits for every county. They are only required to be permitted in their home county.
* Approximately ten restaurants have outstanding balances. One establishment brought their account current.
1. **The Jessamine Place**

**Financial Report Nikki Payne (Attachments)**

* Ms. Payne provided The Jessamine Place’s financial report, announcing The Jessamine Place is approximately $210,230.62 under budget for revenue and $298,453.41 under budget for expenses with a net revenue of $88,222.84.

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

* Ms. Brooks provided an update for The Jessamine Place since the December meeting.
* The advisory board met March 9, 2023.
* The Jessamine Place currently has 21 individuals supported in 17 homes. Four homes currently have two or more persons supported. Two applications are waiting for final approval – one in Valdosta and the other in Ocilla.
* The COVID vaccination rate is currently at 81% with one death.
* Ms. Brooks informed the Board of current recruitment opportunities with a $12/hour starting salary.
* The Jessamine Place participated in Advocacy Day at the Capitol. Representatives have also been sent to the Capitol to speak with legislators in January, February, and March. Topics of discussion included funding for approximately seven thousand who qualify and are waiting for services as well as salary increases needed to attract potential employees. An additional matter discussed was increasing scholarship opportunities for students graduating from special education programs with a desire to attend college.
* Ms. Brooks highlighted other Jessamine Place activities including a Mardi Gras Dinner, Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, the Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner, Dr. Seuss Day at the Pre-K, and the Community in School Annual fundraiser.
* Denise Graham was named The Jessamine Place’s Employee of the year for 2022 and received the Lizzie Award.
* One member of The Jessamine Place Family passed away.
* March is Developmental Disability Month. Upcoming events include a kickball game between The Jessamine Place and Sunny Dale on March 31, 2023. Staff Appreciation Day is scheduled for April 28, 2023 and nurses’ week is May 8-12, 2023.
1. **Announcements**
* There were no other announcements.
1. **Adjournment**
* There being no further business, Mr. Parrish made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Clements. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Thelma Graham, Board Secretary

Julie Parker, Typist