



Public Health
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Lee County Board of Health Report January 14, 2025

The Lee County Board of Health met at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at the Lee County Health Department.

Board members present were Sue Shippert, Dr. Shailee Patel, Dr. Christine Doyle, and Janice McCoy. Members Piper Grazulis, Dr. William Long, Katie White and Emily Rose were absent. Also present at the meeting were health department employees Cathy Ferguson, Angel Lillpop, Lisa Wiggins, & Jenny Conderman.

Guests Present: None

President Dr. Shailee Patel called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Due to lack of a quorum, no action could be taken, so only reporting was done.

Public/Visitor Comments:

None

Administrator's Report:

Cathy reported:

- A thank-you note was received from Stacie Kemp, Sinnissippi Centers for the continued behavioral health funding.
- Wage adjustments were effective December 1, 2024.
- Dr. Plescia could no longer be our Family Planning Medical Director due to his employer's (OSF) policies regarding women's reproductive healthcare. Dr. Doyle has graciously agreed to assume this role.
- Next year's wage increases may be merit-based. The county administrator and HR director will develop details. Cathy recommended the board complete an evaluation on her as it has been some time. She recommends having this completed by her next anniversary date in June. Board members present thought the executive committee could do this. Cathy will send some samples of tools used in other counties. Janice also mentioned that some executive level evaluations are done in narrative form, describing the level at which the job description is being carried out.

- An unusual FOIA request was received by a then-county board member regarding Cathy's work history. Most items requested do not exist; Cathy provided what few items requested were available.

Division Reports

Community & Personal Health

Jenny stated she was grateful for Dr. Doyle agreeing to serve as our Family Planning Medical Director. A state review of our Family Planning program will take place in March. We should know the exact day sometime next month. Respiratory illnesses are rampant in the area right now and reports are pouring in. There are currently several respiratory illness outbreaks in congregate care facilities. We continue to offer COVID tests for residents and they are moving quickly.

Fiscal & Front Office

Angel discussed a slightly new claims process. It will take us a little more time, but she thinks it will be good for the county. We have a new front office staff person who is doing well.

Maternal & Child Health

Lisa explained that we lost our lead & HealthWorks nurse, due to her family relocating. The state has adopted the CDC threshold for elevated blood lead levels in children, which will result in more being identified. Until we can find a new nurse, Lisa will provide the case management and Ashton will do the lead screenings. Whiteside County Health Department currently has only one nurse doing their WIC appointments. Some people are being referred to us so they can be seen sooner. The state is aware of this and is monitoring the situation.

Environmental Health:

Cathy stated that because one of our EH staff chose not to return after her maternity leave, we have a new health inspector who is currently being trained.

New Business: None

Old Business:

The board had requested Whiteside County Community Health Clinic service numbers for Lee County residents as they determine FY25 funding. Cathy sent these figures prior to the meeting for their review. Due to no quorum being present, this will be discussed at the next board of health meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Health is March 11, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Ferguson, M.P.H.
Administrator