

Metropolitan Board of Health of Nashville and Davidson County July 14, 2022, Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Health of Nashville and Davidson County was called to order by Chair Tené Franklin at 4:08 p.m. in the Board Room, on the third floor of the Lentz Public Health Center, 2500 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN 37209.

Present

Tené H. Franklin, MS, Chair
Carol Etherington, RN, Member
David A. Frederick, BS, Member
Lloyda Williamson, MD, Member
Gill C. Wright, III, MD, Director of Health
Jim Diamond, MBA, Finance and Administration Bureau Director
Fonda Harris, PhD, Population Health Bureau Director
Anthony Johnson, Health Equity Bureau Director of Strategies
Tom Sharp, Director of Policy and Legislative Liaison
Laura Varnier, MNsc, APRN, FNP-BC, CEN, Clinical Services Bureau Director
Erin Evans, Metro Councilmember, District 12, and Chair, Public Health and Safety Committee
Derrick Smith, JD, Metro Legal

BOARD OF HEALTH

Approval of June 9, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Frederick made a motion to approve the June 9, 2022, regular meeting minutes, as distributed. Dr. Williamson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approval of June 22, 2022, Special Called Meeting Minutes

Ms. Etherington made a motion to approve the June 22, 2022, Special Called meeting minutes, as distributed. Dr. Williamson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Update on the Special Council Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting on July 26, 2022

Councilmember Erin Evans, Chair of Metro Council's Public Health and Safety Committee, invited the Board to attend the July 26, 2022, special meeting of the committee, which is scheduled to begin at 4:00 p.m. at Council Chambers on the second floor of the Metro Courthouse. The meeting will focus on the fentanyl overdose crisis in Davidson County, and is in follow up to a meeting held on March 10, 2022. Tom Sharp was asked to share the process of communications from Council and Council committees to the department bureaus.

Resolution Honoring Tina Lester, RN

Chair Franklin read into the record the Board's resolution honoring Tina Lester upon her retirement from the Department ([Attachment I](#)). Ms. Lester thanked the board, expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve and said her employment with the department had been highly rewarding.

Approval of Grant Applications

There were no grant applications.

Approval of Grants and Contracts

Mr. Diamond presented ten items:

- 1. Grant from the Tennessee Department of Health - High-Impact Area Substance Misuse Epidemic Response**

Term: September 1, 2022-August 31, 2023

Amount: \$681,000

2. **Grant from the Tennessee Department of Health – School-Based Central Preventative**
 Term: July 1, 2022-June 30, 2024
 Amount: \$1,804,200
3. **Grant Donation from Friends of Metro Animal Care & Control**
 Term: NA
 Amount: \$23,000
4. **Grant: Public Health Emergency Preparedness**
 Term: July 1, 2022-June 30, 2027
 Amount: \$4,012,875
5. **Grant: Public Health Emergency Preparedness Amendment #3**
 Term: July 1, 2017-June 30, 2022
 Amount: \$1,036,349 (new total \$5,082,284)
6. **Grant from the Tennessee Department of Health – Viral Hepatitis**
 Term: July 1, 2021-June 30, 2023
 Amount: \$188,200
7. **Contract with the Tennessee Department of Human Services – Childcare Agency Immunization Audits Amendment #1**
 Term: October 1, 2021-September 30, 2023
 Amount: \$198,053 (new total \$378,853)
8. **Grant from the Tennessee Department of Health - HIV Centers of Excellence Amendment #1**
 Term: April 1, 2022-March 31, 2023
 Amount: NA
9. **Grant from the Tennessee Department of Health – Grant in Aid**
 Term: July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023
 Amount: \$725,200
10. **Grant from the Tennessee Department of Health – Immunization Services**
 Term: July 1, 2021-June 30, 2026
 Amount: \$6,473,474

Dr. Williamson made a motion to approve the grants and contracts. Ms. Etherington seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Pay Equity Study Update

Mr. Diamond updated the Board on the status of the Pay Equity Study. Mr. Diamond had explained that Deloitte is preparing a statement of work for Metro to approve. He estimated that the study might commence mid-August, and Deloitte has said the study was expected to take approximately eight weeks to complete.

Update on the Strategic Plan

Dr. Wright invited Anthony Johnson to provide a short overview on the Strategic Plan. Board members shared several comments and Mr. Johnson said he was hopeful that the final document would be presented at the Board’s regular meeting in August. He recognized the work of Tracy Buck, Dr. Celia Larson, KaShawna Lollis, and Letrice Samuels for their work in developing the previous Strategic Plan. The new Strategic Plan will incorporate equity more prominently.

Report of the Director

Dr. Wright referred to the update provided in the Board packet ([Attachment II](#)) and highlighted several elements.

Report of Chair

Chair Franklin reiterated her intention that the Department lead and champion prevention in the areas of masking and vaccinations.

With Board support, Chair Franklin announced that she would attend the National Association of Local Boards of Health conference in Grand Rapid, Michigan, August 1-3.

New Business / Review of Board Requests

Board Requests:

- The Board will develop a Health Equity Statement
- Chair Franklin requested an update on the communications plan for education in regard to COVID
- Dr. Wright will update the Board on messaging on the Charter amendment

Other Business

Fonda Harris announced that Nichelle Foster, MMFT, LADAC II, the Behavioral Health Assessment and Education Coordinator, had been named to serve as interim director of the Behavioral Health and Wellness division until the position can be filled. She advised that requests to fill four positions in the division had been made. A retreat is planned July 26 to discuss findings of an assessment of the program by the Mosaic Group and develop strategic direction for the division.

Dr. Wright recognized Matt Peters, who had been named to serve as interim Public Information Officer until the position can be filled.

Adjournment

Dr. Williamson made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Mr. Frederick seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CIVIL SERVICE BOARD

Request to Schedule a Public Hearing: Proposed Changes to the Medical Doctor Job Description

Mr. Diamond requested the Board schedule a public hearing regarding proposed changes to the Medical Doctor job description ([Attachment III](#)).

Mr. Frederick made a motion to schedule a public hearing regarding proposed changes to the Medical Doctor Job Description on August 11, 2022. Dr. Williamson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Personnel Changes

Mr. Diamond referred to the June 2022, Personnel Changes.

Adjournment

Ms. Etherington made a motion to adjourn the Civil Service Board meeting. Mr. Frederick seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled to be held at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 11, 2022, in the Lentz Public Health Center Board Room, on the third floor, at 2500 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN, 37209.

Tené H. Franklin, MS
Chair