

**Metropolitan Board of Health of Nashville and Davidson County  
March 9, 2023, 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 4:00 p.m. in the Lentz Public Health Center Board Room, 2500 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN 37209.

**Present**

Tené H. Franklin MS, Chair  
Calvin M. Smith III MD, Vice-Chair  
Carol Etherington RN, Member  
David Frederick MS, Member  
Lloyda Williamson MD, Member  
Marie Griffin MD, Member  
Adriana Bialostozky MD, Member  
Gill C. Wright III MD, Director of Health  
Hugh Atkins REHS, Environmental Health Bureau Director  
Melva Black EdD, Deputy Director  
Jim Diamond MBA, Finance and Administration Bureau Director  
Nichelle Foster, MMFT LADAC II, Behavioral Health Division Interim Director  
Tom Sharp, Director of Policy and Governmental Liaison  
Joanna Shaw-KaiKai MD, Medical Services Director  
Derrick Smith JD, Metro Law Department

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

**Approval of February 9, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Mr. Frederick made a motion to approve the February 9, 2023, regular meeting minutes, as distributed. Vice-Chair Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**Approval of Grant Applications**

There were no grant applications.

**Approval of Grants and Contracts**

Jim Diamond presented three items:

1. **Grant Amendment from the State of Tennessee Department of Health – Presumptive Eligibility**  
Term: July 1, 2019-June 30, 2024  
Amount: \$206,600 (new total \$1,033,000)
2. **Grant from the Tennessee Department of Health – Community Health Access & Navigation in Tennessee (CHANT)**  
Term: July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024  
Amount: \$2,026,200
3. **Grant Amendment from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Strengthening US Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce and Data Systems**  
Term: December 1, 2022-November 30, 2027  
Amount: \$8,578,283

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

**Opioids Update**

Ms. Foster updated the Board on the division of Behavioral Health and Wellness program (Attachment I). Lengthy discussion was held regarding the allocation of the Opioid Settlement funds. Dr. Wright explained

that he has convened an Opioid Settlement Steering Committee that is in the process of formulating the allocation. The Board expressed the desire to be proactive in informing local groups of the overdose problem.

### **Legislative Update**

Mr. Sharp updated the Board on recent and upcoming legislation that is anticipated to affect the department (Attachment II).

### **Report of the Director**

Dr. Wright referred to the update provided in the Board packet (Attachment III) and highlighted a few items therein.

Dr. Wright mentioned that the department had been asked to submit a “budget cut exercise” for fiscal year 2024, and would inform the board about budget changes at the earliest opportunity.

Dr. Wright announced various activities being organized by the Public Health Week Committee, chaired by Rachel Franklin <https://nphw.org/>. Dr. Wright invited board members to let him know if they planned to participate. Dr. Wright recognized Hugh Atkins, who will retire March 31, 2023. He, board members and audience extended appreciation for his service and wished him well. Mr. Atkins offered brief remarks and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve.

### **Report of Chair**

Chair Franklin reiterated her commitment to the workforce and invited Board members to share their thoughts about long-term planning, particularly transition planning, with Dr. Wright.

### **New Business / Review of Board Requests**

Board Requests of department:

1. Estimated time of arrival of the Equity Pay Study
2. Trends in clinics in regard to funding, like Ryan White
3. Update on public health recruiting in schools; academic health departments
4. Increase Internships through partners

Departmental Requests of Board:

1. Participate in greeting staff at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, April 3, and in the lunch Wednesday, April 5.
2. Standby to support in regard to HIV funding

### **Employee Recognition**

Dr. Wright noted that Employee Recognition would be announced at the April meeting, as the February honorees had not been informed at the time of the meeting.

### **Adjournment**

**Dr. Williamson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Etherington seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

### **CIVIL SERVICE BOARD**

Chair Franklin opened the Civil Service Board meeting.

### **Other Business**

Dr. Black thanked Dr. Griffin for joining Dr. Black’s direct report retreat recently, and said she would invite other Board members to her next retreat.

Dr. Black thanked board members for their help in disseminating information about the infectious disease physician position, and asked them to utilize their networks to help attract candidates for the workforce development grant director and the data modernization director positions.

**Personnel Changes**

Dr. Black referred to the February 2023, Personnel Changes.

**Adjournment**

Chair Franklin adjourned the Civil Service Board meeting at 5:25 p.m.

Immediately following the meeting, Board members received the Department of Law's presentation on Ethics from Derrick Smith (Attachment IV). The presentation concluded at 6:25 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, April 13, 2023, at the Lentz Public Health Center Board Room, 2500 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN 37209.

Tené H. Franklin, MS  
Chair