

**MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING
ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
April 28, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lane Crider, PE, President
Mike Riddell, MD, President-Elect
José Romero, MD, FAAP, FIDSA, FPIDS,
FAAAS, Secretary of Health
Greg Bledsoe, MD, Surgeon General
Perry Amerine, OD
Loy Bailey, RS
Marsha Boss, PD
Eddie Bryant, MD
Dwayne Daniels, MD
Brad Erney, MD
Melissa Faulkenberry, DC
Darren Flamik, MD
Phillip Gilmore, PhD, MS, MHA
Anthony Hui, MD
David Kiessling
Balan Nair, MD
Donald Ragland
Clay Waliski
Susan Weinstein, DVM
Terry Yamauchi, MD
James Zini, DO

MEMBERS ABSENT

Vanessa Falwell
Stephanie Barnes
Mellie Bridewell

GUESTS PRESENT

Renee Mallory, ADH, Chief of Staff
Dr. Jennifer Dillaha, ADH, Chief Medical Officer
Dr. Bala Simon, ADH, Deputy Chief Medical Officer
Dr. Naveen Patil, ADH, Deputy State Health Officer
Dr. Austin Porter, ADH, Deputy Science Officer
Dr. Namvar Zohoori, ADH, Deputy State Health Officer
Don Adams, ADH, Deputy Director for Admin Operations
Cassie Cochran, ADH Deputy Director for Public
Health Programs
Connie Melton, ADH, Director, Center for Health Protection
Dr. Mike Cima, ADH, State Epidemiologist
Dr. Katie Seely, ADH, Director, Public Health Lab
Shane David, ADH, Pharmacy Services Section Chief
Laura Shue, ADH, General Counsel
Reginald Rogers, ADH, Deputy General Counsel
Christy Sellers, ADH, Ctr for Health Advancement Director
Terry Paul, ADH, Environmental Health Branch Chief
Matt Gilmore, ADH, Coordinator, Boards
Christy Kresse, ADH, Emergency Medical Services
Haley Ortiz, ADH, Health Policy Director
David Vrudny, ADH, Stroke/STEMI System Manager
Whitney Ochoa, ADH, STEMI Nurse Coordinator
Amanda Gulley, ADH, Public Health Nurse
Sherian Kwanisai, ADH, Director, Center for Local
Public Health
Meg Mirivel, ADH, Director of Communications
Martin Nutt, ADH, Water Training & Certification Officer
Jo Thompson, ADH, Chief Financial Officer
Linda Rothfeldt, ADH, Public Health Veterinarian
LeAnna Clark-Daniels, ADH, Grants Analyst
Charles "Chuck" Thompson, ADH, Managing Attorney
Brooks White, ADH, Attorney
Brian Nichols, ADH, Attorney
S. Craig Smith, ADH, Attorney
Chuck Hardin, ADH, Attorney
Tressa Williams, ADH, Legal Services Specialist
Michael St. Clair, ADH, Law Clerk-Legal
Aliza Brown
Andy Davis
Corey Couch
Gwynetta Adesuyi
John Ripper

The quarterly meeting of the Arkansas State Board of Health was held on Thursday, April 28, 2022, in the Joseph H. Bates Auditorium of the Arkansas Department of Health.

CALL TO ORDER

Lane Crider, President, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. and asked for a roll call. General Counsel Laura Shue conducted the roll call.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Phillip Gilmore moved, and Dr. James Zini seconded, with a correction to be made that Mike Riddell's title being changed from Mr. to Dr., that the Minutes of the January 27, 2022, Quarterly Meeting be approved with the correction. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Update on Arkansas Acute Stroke Activities

Dr. Bala Simon presented the annual update from the Arkansas Acute Stroke Task Force members and committee. The Task Force was formed in 2005. There are approximately 1600 deaths every year due to strokes.

Rules Pertaining to State Board of Sanitarians

Mr. Don Adams requested approval to amend the rules pertaining to the State Board of Sanitarians. The Board was created in 1957. Sanitarians are professionals working in the field of environmental health and are now referred to as environmental health specialists. The amendments being requested are incorporating language to comply with Act 135 of 2021 and Act 725 of 2021. Dr. Sue Weinstein moved, and Dr. Zini seconded, to approve the changes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Reappointment of Larry Lloyd to Arkansas Drinking Water Advisory and Operator Licensing Committee

Mr. Terry Paul requested approval of the reappointment of Mr. Larry Lloyd to the Arkansas Drinking Water Advisory and Operator Licensing Committee. Dr. Anthony Hui moved, and Dr. Marsha Boss seconded, for approval of Mr. Lloyd to the Arkansas Drinking Water Advisory and Operator Licensing Committee. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusion of Law, and Order of EMS Provider Corey Couch

Mr. Brooks White presented proposed findings for an EMS hearing involving Mr. Corey Couch. A subcommittee disciplinary hearing was held on March 4, 2022. The subcommittee consisted of Dr. Mike Riddell, Dr. Darren Flamik and Dr. Brad Erney. Mr. Couch appeared at the meeting via Zoom. This case involved a call that Mr. Couch took as a paramedic to a residence in Osceola, Arkansas. It was determined through investigation and confirmation subsequently by the subcommittee findings that Mr. Couch committed malpractice while responding to that call. The subcommittee requests that the Board adopt its recommendation of revocation of Mr. Couch's license.

Mr. Couch, speaking in his defense, asked the Board for leniency about revocation of his license. He read a letter of support from Ms. Jill Paytom.

Dr. Zini moved, and Dr. Marsha Boss seconded, that the Board approve the proposed Order to revoke the license of Mr. Couch. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

EMS Proposed Findings of Facts, Conclusion of Law, and Order of John Ripper

Mr. Brooks White presented proposed findings for an EMS hearing involving Mr. John Ripper. A subcommittee disciplinary hearing was held on March 4, 2022. The subcommittee consisted of Dr. Mike Riddell, Dr. Darren Flamik and Dr. Brad Erney. Mr. Ripper appeared at the meeting via Zoom. This case involved an incident that occurred at Crittenden Memorial Hospital. As a result of this incident, the subcommittee found that the allegations were warranted and recommended a period of suspension together with some continuing education and anger management courses and requests that the Board adopt its finding and recommendations.

Mr. Ripper said he stated his case before the subcommittee and has accepted the terms. He has completed all except two hours of the continued education that was recommended, and he also apologized.

Dr. Boss moved, and Dr. Perry Amerine seconded, that the Board approve the proposed Order for a period of suspension followed by a term of probation, including completion of the two hours of professional education Mr. Ripper stated he needed to complete. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Appointment of County Health Officers

Dr. Namvar Zohoori presented four County Health Officers for approval. Corrections to the agenda included Dr. Matthew Wagner, Cleburne County CHO, being disregarded because was previously approved. Dr. Harvie Attwood, Cleveland County CHO, and Dr. Mike Verser, Montgomery County CHO, were reappointments.

Dr. Zohoori presented Dr. William Smith for appointment as Baxter County CHO. Dr. Mike Riddell moved, and Dr. Zini seconded, for approval of Dr. Smith's appointment. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Shakeb Hashmi was presented for appointment as Crittenden County CHO. Dr. Balan Nair moved, and Dr. Anthony Hui seconded, for approval of Dr. Hashmi's appointment. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Clay Ferguson was presented for appointment as Howard County CHO. Dr. Susan Weinstein moved, and Dr. Zini seconded, for approval of Dr. Ferguson's appointment. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Stephanie Patyk was presented for appointed as Prairie County CHO. Dr. Hui moved, and Dr. Zini seconded, for approval of Dr. Patyk's appointment. Motion carried by unanimously.

Reappointment of County Health Officers

Dr. Zohoori presented 41 reappointment recommendations for County Health Officers. Mr. Crider asked the Board to consider the entire slate of reappointments together. Dr. Riddell moved, and Dr. Weinstein seconded, to consider the entire slate of reappointments together. Dr. Zini abstained from voting since he was one of the recommendations. Reappointments were approved by unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Administrative Updates ADH Facilities Replacement Plan

Mr. Adams presented the ADH facilities replacement plan. The replacement study proposes to increase the Markham facility by 40% or approximately 100,000 sq. ft. with an estimated cost slightly over \$100 million. The Department decided to move forward with a combination of keeping some of the existing structure and refurbishing but also demolishing some of the structure and building new.

The estimates that have been given in the design phase will take about two- and one-half years and the construction phase will take about two- and one-half years. By rough projection, the project would be complete by June 30, 2027.

PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCE/PROGRAM UPDATES

Publication Updates

Mr. Mike Cima gave an update on ADH academia and published peer review articles. In the past two years, ADH staff has published at least 63 articles and peer review journals.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Crider congratulated Dr. Weinstein on her being selected as the 2021 veterinarian of the year by the Arkansas Veterinarian Medical Association at their winter meeting.

Mr. Crider spoke of Dr. Romero leaving the ADH for a new opportunity with the CDC. Dr. Romero will be Director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Disease.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Dr. Romero thanked everyone for their personal support. He talked about the decrease in COVID cases but an increase of the BA2 variant. He added that the pandemic has led to insurgence of certain conditions and diseases that were previously under control. He talked about the importance of the vaccine and the future of funding for public health.

Mr. Crider presented a Resolution of the Arkansas State Board of Health recognizing Dr. Romero for the Board's consideration. Dr. Zini moved, and Dr. Riddell seconded, the approval of the Resolution.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lane Crider", written over a horizontal line.

Lane Crider, President
Arkansas State Board of Health