



# BELL COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT

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## **MINUTES**

### Bell County Board of Health

The Bell County Public Health District Board of Health met in regular session Monday January 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Harris Community Center, 401 N. Alexander, Belton, Texas 76513

#### **REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:**

Dr. Andre Avots (City of Temple)  
Mr. Michael Blomquist – Chairman (City of Harker Heights)  
Mr. Wayne Carpenter (City of Belton)  
Dr. Sam Fiala (City of Killeen)  
Ms. Kathy Long – Vice Chairman (Bell County)  
Mr. Russ Nelson (City of Little River/Academy)  
Mr. Bobby Whitson (Bell County)

#### **REPRESENTATIVES not present:**

Mr. David Broecker (City of Salado)  
Mr. Louis Lourcey (City of Rogers)  
Mr. Dale Rendon (City of Holland)

#### **EX OFFICIO:**

Ms. Amy J. Yeager, District Director  
Dr. Janice Smith, Health Authority

#### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL PRESENT:**

Cathy Brem  
Consuelo Elliott  
Becky Flores  
Tammy Hayes  
George Highsmith  
Amber Oltmann  
Kent Stephens  
Bonnie Walton

**OTHER:**

Charla Peters – Possible alternate to Mr. Carpenter

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bell County Public Health District Board of Health was called to order at 6:00 pm on January 9, 2023 by Mr. Blomquist, Chairman.

The presence of a quorum was established.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**III. REVIEW AND ACTION REGARDING MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 12, 2022 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

The Board of Health minutes from December 12, 2022 were reviewed. Mr. Avots motioned to approve the minutes with one amendment. Dr. John Mituri was present for the December 12, 2022 Board of Health meeting and was not documented. The motion with the amendment to add Dr. John Mituri was approved and seconded by Dr. Nelson. The motion passed. Mr. Carpenter introduced his alternate, Ms. Charla Peters.

**IV. BOARD ACTIONS**

Expenses over \$10,000 that were expended since the last BOH meeting were as follows.

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| • RK Marshall (deposit for Lowe’s Blvd building)                      | \$19,562.84 |
| • RK Marshall (1 <sup>st</sup> month’s rent for Lowe’s Blvd building) | \$19,562.84 |
| • Lighthouse IT   | \$10,367.00 |

**V. FIRE MARSHAL UPDATE**

Mr. Mahlstedt continues his 12-week peace officer training. Mr. Whitson gave a brief update on several nuisances throughout Bell County. Ms. Yeager received Mr. Mahlstedt’s Nuisance Case update in an email on 1/9/2023 at 7:03 p.m. and stated the following for his update.

- There is no update on the progress of the two cases which were heard in Judge Blackburn’s court a month or so ago. The defendants were each given 30 days to obtain compliance.
- One new case has been opened on a property on Firefly in south Bell County involving vehicles parked on adjacent property. This is currently being investigated.
- One new case has been filed regarding property on Coyote Circle in Kempner. Mr. Mahlstedt spoke with the complainant, and they were advised someone would be out in person as soon as possible, but possibly not until February to initiate an investigation.
- One property in Cedar Valley has been cleared through voluntary compliance and the case will be closed out.

**VI. DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORT**

The District Director’s report was provided in advance. The highlights are as follows:

## A. Building Issues

1. Status on the Belton renovation update – The clinic is complete excluding the floors being cleaned. The clinic needs several nurses, so job posting will be on the website as soon as the Nurse’s salaries are adjusted. Ms. Yeager briefed on the need for nurses and the incentives the Health District has to offer.
2. Status on the Lowe’s Drive building – The Health District took over the lease January 1, 2023. Scott & White server is still on the property and will be moved accordingly. Rooms have been assigned, Scott & White gifted furniture, TVs, and wall bookshelves. Cubicles will be removed to make room for meetings and staff training. The building will be repainted, and some carpet will be replaced. Josh Langley has been re-assigned over the OSSF program; Kent is overseeing the Lowe’s building. Lighthouse is working diligently on the phone system and internet installations.

## B. Paycom Launch

Paycom was launched on January 1, 2023 and a summary was given to the Board of Health. Paycom will have a positive impact on all staff as this app offers the capability to see their paystubs, view their total hours of annual and sick leave, and request time off all-in-one app.

## C. CDC Grant

1. The CDC Grant coming from the Texas Department of State Health Services will be a total of \$2,380,078.00 to spend over the next five-year period. Ms. Yeager’s plan for this grant is to continue to support staff that the Health District has hired as well as future infrastructure for Public Health. The Cooperative revision update is being looked over by our Attorney. The Health District has been in search of the 1994 signed cooperative agreement that was signed by the Commissioners of their vote to move the Health District from the County to be an independent District under the Cooperative Agreement. If this vote did not happen, it will need to happen soon.
2. Two new Health Educators have been hired, Mr. Jason Stanford and Ms. Hilton Gilbert. The Health Educators have scheduled a Touch a Truck event to take place at the Bell County Expo Center on March 18, 2023 in conjunction with the Bell County’s office of Emergency Management team. There is one more Health Educator position open currently to complete the Health Educator team. A Community Health Director will be posted on our website in the next couple of weeks.
3. Dr. Janice Smith briefed on the Covid data and stated that according to CDC, Bell County has jumped from low straight to level high. There is a discrepancy because the State uses PCR confirmed Covid cases, however, very few PCR testing is being done, most testing is antigen testing, and the State doesn’t accept antigen as a positive. CDC testing as a positive which is much more accurate. Our report reads that Bell County has 283 active cases, whereas the CDC report reads there are 635 active cases in Bell County. Our dashboard has always reflected what we do with the State, which is only the PCR confirmed cases. Dr. Smith recommends that Bell County’s dashboard should tie into the CDC as it is more accurate. The other challenge is that Scott & White is no longer reporting Covid cases to Bell County directly. Dr. Smith also recommends that the County consider tying into the CDC’s data. Mr. Blomquist suggested that all counties should use CDC data. There are no new deaths in the County but the majority of the Covid cases remain in the elderly community.

## VII. FINANCE DIVISION UPDATE

A copy of the Finance report was provided to the Board of Health prior to the meeting. Ms. Tammy Hayes mentioned that our Auditor is still proceeding with our audit, and we are waiting for some final approvals. The program codes are lined out in the payroll system.

Ms. Hayes requested the Board to come up with 2-3 categories that they would be interested in from the Finance Division. The main checking account has right at \$350,000 in main checking account, \$330,000 in the PNC account. All grant funding goes into the Text Pool account and this account is only touched to cover payroll. Reconciliations are now being done monthly.

**VIII. DIVISION PROGRAM REPORTS**

Division program reports were provided in advance. Mr. Blomquist asked WIC about the formula supply. Ms. Amber Oltmann briefed that WIC changed their contract formula on the formula in October, 2022 from Similac to Enfamil and there is some trouble locating Enfamil Gentle Ease which is one of the Enfamil choices in the grocery stores. WIC is offering alternate formulas to help with this shortage. Job openings include Sanitarians, Nurses, and a new receptionist for Lowe's Drive. A brief discussion was made regarding job postings to be listed on the Bell Count Public Health District website to include a new Sanitarian for Retail Food and several Nursing positions.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Mr. Blomquist requested that the Board of Health members continue to search for an alternate so that all meetings are covered and to insure a quorum is met prior to each scheduled meeting.
- b. Ms. Yeager asked the Board to consider updating their website links to search cities in Bell County, Texas as some cities listed are not in Bell County.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were submitted or given.

**XI. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be February 13, 2023.  
Location will be provided on the agenda.  
No Dinner will be provided.  
BOH Meeting: 6:00 p.m.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.