

MEETING MINUTES
Tulsa City-County Board of Health

November 13, 2024, at 6:00 pm

North Regional Health and Wellness Center
5635 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Tulsa, OK 74126

Board Members Present:

Regina Lewis, D.O., Chair
Mousumi Som, D.O.
Aimee Boyer, J.D., CFP
Mike Stout, PhD.
Krystal Reyes, M.P.A.
Ann Paul, DrPH, M.P.H.
Jana Bingman, M.D.

Staff Present:

Bruce Dart, Executive Director
Reggie Ivey, Associate Executive Director
Sara Rodriguez, Executive Assistant
Adam Austin, Assoc. Director Office of Environmental Health Services
Marcus Anderson, Assoc. Director Office of Maternal & Child Health
Leslie Carroll, Assoc. Director Office of Community Health & Quality Improvement
Julia Profit-Williams, Assoc. Director Office of Preventive Health Services
Kelly VanBuskirk, Assoc. Director Office of Prevention, Preparedness, and Response
Shelby Fields, Associate Attorney
Jesy Whitacre, Health Equity Manager Bilingual
Kandy Whitley-White, Health Equity Director
Daquet Wilson, Be Well CDC Manager
Jessica Rice, Epidemiology Manager
Colleen Giesbrecht, Community Health Program Manager
Alana Wells, Employee Engagement Coordinator
Heaven Kupiec, Preventive Health Services Coordinator

1) Call to Order & Roll Call – Dr. Regina Lewis

Dr. Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

The meeting notice and agenda were posted at the James Goodwin Health Center, the North Regional Health and Wellness Center, and the Tulsa City-County Health Department (THD) website and emailed to the Tulsa County Clerk, the Tulsa City Clerk, and the Tulsa City-County Library on November 7, 2024.

2) Approval of Minutes – Dr. Regina Lewis

Dr. Lewis entertained a motion to approve the September 2024 minutes. A motion was made by Dr. Bingman and seconded by Ms. Boyer. ***The September 18, 2024, minutes were approved:***

Dr. Lewis	aye
Dr. Som	abstained not present for September's Meeting
Ms. Boyer	aye
Dr. Stout	abstained not present for September's Meeting
Ms. Reyes	aye
Dr. Paul	aye
Dr. Jones	not present
Dr. Bingman	aye
Dr. Galles	not present

3) Chair's Report – Dr. Regina Lewis

Dr. Regina Lewis did not share a Chair's Report.

4) Director's Report – Bruce Dart

Dr. Dart mentioned that his report is included in the BOH packet. Linda Jenkins is conducting Strategic Plan trainings. Linda will discuss how the plan was developed and will include the staff role as part of the conversation with each meeting. Staff have enjoyed the opportunity and the engagement of the Strategic Plan meetings. The Strategic Plan rollout date is in January. Marketing will create a campaign for this.

5) Tulsa Health Department Reports

A. North Tulsa Forward Program (Be Well CDC) – Kandy Whitley-White and Daquet Wilson

Kandy Whitley-White and Daquet Wilson led this presentation. Ms. Whitley-White is the Health Equity Director for the Tulsa Health Department and leads the Be Well CDC work, what Ms. Whitley-White calls Health Equity in Action.

Ms. Whitley-White provided the Be Well history and the work that has been done. Be Well was created in 2016 as the North Tulsa Community Coalition after a culture and health summit addressing health disparities in North Tulsa. The group came together because something needed to happen regarding health disparities and addressing these was the goal of the North Tulsa Community Coalition. The work centers around non-medical factors that contribute to poor health outcomes.

Be Well became its own 501c3 in 2017 and in 2020 the North Tulsa Community Coalition rebranded the work into a CDC program known as Be Well. The program works in District 1 which includes zip codes 74106, 74110, 74126, 74127, and 74130 to advance the health in housing education, workforce, and criminal justice

opportunities that are essential to community health and wellness also known as the social determinants of health. The key programs are: The North Tulsa Forward Program which you will hear about today. AMEA (Addressing Maternal Health Through Awareness) to develop a pathway of understanding and supporting healthy pregnancy outcomes by addressing systemic issues in maternal care for minority women. Joyful Movement North Tulsa is an initiative to enhance mental health through physical activity. Be Well Mission, Tulsa's District 1 residents improved health and quality of life outcomes by 2035. Be Well Vision; to advance the health and quality of life in Tulsa's District 1. Be Well has strategic goals that will hopefully be met by 2027, increase home ownership by 10%, decrease black infant mortality by 3% and maternal deaths by 5%, reduce chronic disease by 3%, and close the life expectancy gap between North and South Tulsa from 10.7 years to 7 years (significant progress had been made in this goal since 2010), and to boost the mental health utilization by 10%.

Daquet Wilson presented on the North Tulsa Forward Program. Be Well CDC launched the North Tulsa Forward Program in July of 2022. This program was launched to increase homeownership in District 1. The program's original goal was to provide 50 participants with a \$10,000 down-payment assistance or closing costs in five years. The program was able to execute this goal in 2.5 years.

The North Tulsa Forward Program provides a free virtual financial literacy course that is HUD (Housing and Urban Development) approved, a free in-person homebuyer education, and a grant of up to \$10,000 each to the 50 first-time homebuyers toward the purchase of an owner-occupied primary residence in District 1.

To be eligible for this program, one must have an annual income at or below 80% of the Average Median Income for the Tulsa Metro Area as determined annually by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), have a credit score of 620, and the home purchased must be a residential property located within the City of Tulsa District 1. Since the program launched, there have been 378 applicants, 105 attendees graduated from the in-person classroom training, 57 families closed on their new homes, and there were 4 in-person classes and trainings offered in 2024. The program would like to offer 6 of the in-person classes and trainings in 2025 with one class offered Spanish. Placing those 57 families in a North Tulsa home the financial impact in North Tulsa is greater than \$8.5 million. This increases investment in the neighborhood, civic engagement, improves public health, and reduces crime. An opportunity to expand financial support to a broader group of potential homebuyers, the North Tulsa Forward Program received additional funding to assist buyers whose income exceeds 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI), the original program threshold. The program requires a minimum home purchase price of \$200,000 or more, with buyers' income exceeding the HUD standard of 80% by at least 20%. The ethnicity of the families that have been placed in the homes: 7% are Hispanic, 84% are black, 7% are white, and 2% are Native American.

B. 2024 United Way Campaign – Colleen Giesbrecht, Heaven Kupiec, and Alana Wells

Colleen Giesbrecht presented the THD United Way Campaign for 2024. The United Way Campaign for 2024 was led by tri-chairs Alana Wells, Heaven Kupiec, and Colleen Giesbrecht. The goal was to raise \$10,000 and the goal was met and exceeded. The total THD United Way Campaign raised for 2024 was \$13,062. Pledge Cards raised \$7,861 and Special Events raised \$5,201. When the campaign first started there were a couple of goals that the tri-chairs wanted to meet. One goal was to have leadership participation and to be more visible. The visible goal was done through a video (the video was played for the Board). Penny Wars were also added this year and Bruce and Reggie each had a penny jar. The second goal was to give employees an opportunity to learn more about The United Way. The third goal was to have events that contributed to the culture of community and creativity. The Marketing Department helped with videos, fliers, and the communications regarding the THD United Way Campaign for 2024. The events that helped raise part of the goal were: Downtown Deco Challenge & Campaign kickoff, Auction Baskets, Quilt Raffle, T-shirt sales, and the Penny Wars.

C. Infectious Disease Update – Jessica Rice

Jessica Rice presented the Infectious Disease updates. Respiratory Season overview is still mild. Tulsa had over 800 hospitalizations associated with flu and 36 deaths for the 2023 and 2024 season. Tulsa has had 8 hospitalizations and no deaths, so far. Tulsa pre-pandemic and what last season looks like. Coming out of pre-pandemic when things started to normalize in the 2022 and 2023 seasons there was an early sharp peak of flu in Tulsa County last season the overlay is low. We will see what it will look like this year. Everyone six months and older should get the flu vaccine. The 2024-2025 flu vaccine is trivalent. A study in South America during the 2024 Southern Hemisphere influenza season found that the flu vaccine reduced the risk of hospitalizations among high-risk groups by 35%. Recent modeling indicated a 20% increase in flu vaccine uptake compared to last season. The effectiveness is seen in the 40-50% against hospitalization among at-risk groups. Last year's vaccine had a 50% efficacy.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) last season was at a large peak and in Tulsa, there was a secondary large peak that was seen overall in Oklahoma. The good news is that there was a vaccine. Last year was the first year for immunization products. Early estimates of Nirsevimab effectiveness indicated that it was 90% effective against RSV-associated hospitalization in infants. Half of females with an infant born since April 1 report they will get Nirsevimab for their infants.

COVID-19 in Tulsa is above baseline. KP 3.1.1 is of the Omicron Family which Omicron first emerged in the fall of 2021 and each new Omicron variant seems to have subsequently been replaced by other variants in the Omicron family. Everyone 6 months or older should get the 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine.

Cases in the Southern Hemisphere to find an indicator of what our season may look like, it is not perfectly accurate.

Our goal is to focus on both prevention and mitigation the impact of illness through community engagement and providing the community with data to make informed decisions.

The Epi team partners with our MC&S team with the Don't Bug Me campaign offering materials and education in both English and Spanish. While we have banners, activity booklets, stickers, etc. for distribution, we have created Respiratory Kits available for all ages when attending events. Items in the packet include: DBM tissue packets, DBM sticker, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizing wipes, individually wrapped face mask, cough drops, and a disposable thermometer.

We launched our Epidemiology Stakeholder's Newsletter with the support of MC&S. This Newsletter is published quarterly and focuses on data currently being seen, what to expect in the next season, and how to prevent infection of relevant diseases.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) is a very contagious respiratory illness only found in humans and is spread from person to person via respiratory droplets. The incubation period is 5-10 days and it ranges from 6-20 days. Infectious period is 3 weeks after cough onset. Bacteria is typically cleared from the body after three weeks but symptoms persist for a long time due to damage that the bacteria causes in the upper respiratory system. The disease progression of Pertussis is defined as three different stages: The Catarrhal stage, the Paroxysmal, and the Convalescent stage lasting as long as 10-12 weeks. Also been characterized as a 100-day cough. So long that we conduct a 30-day follow-up to see if the client is still coughing. Treatment is accessible and it lessens the symptoms. Treatment should be discussed with PCP. There is a vaccine for pertussis. After the introduction of the vaccine there was a significant decrease throughout the United States. The last time there was a large Pertussis case in the US was in 2012 and it decreased with time. Then COVID-19 hit and there was an increase. Tulsa's largest spike was in 2011 with 104 cases. The epidemiology team has investigated 35 cases so far. The epidemiology team has changed our approach and our mindset to a more collaborative approach that meets clients where they are at. Having unprepared communities results in pockets of more unprepared communities compared to other communities that are more prepared.

The Marburg Virus is rare but several viral hemorrhagic like Ebola, spread through direct contact with blood or body fluids. There have not been any reported cases outside Rwanda and the risk in the US is low. The CDC had implemented monitoring.

Our communities’ preparedness provides flex and elasticity, but our communities’ lack of preparedness is being stretched unfortunately to the max. This is the reason why the Epidemiology team is working with the community through educational engagements building trust within the community, media interviews, creating resource documents for clients, collaborating with internal programs, and many other engagements to keep our community informed.

6) Current Business – Voting Item Announcements

A. 2025 Tulsa Board of Health Meeting Schedule

Dr. Lewis entertained a motion to approve the 2025 Tulsa Board of Health Meeting Schedule. A motion was made by Dr. Paul and seconded by Dr. Bingman. ***The 2025 Tulsa Board of Health Meeting Schedule was approved:***

Dr. Lewis	aye
Dr. Som	aye
Ms. Boyer	aye
Dr. Stout	aye
Ms. Reyes	aye
Dr. Paul	aye
Dr. Jones	not present
Dr. Bingman	aye
Dr. Galles	not present

7) Announcements – Dr. Regina Lewis

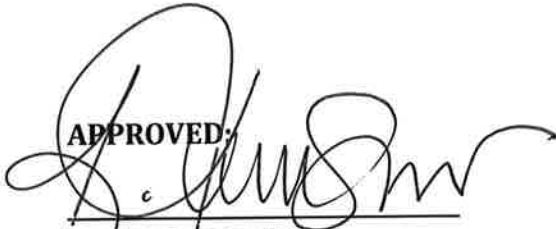
Kristal Reyes shared about a Summit her office hosted in partnership with the Tulsa Area United Way and Leadership Tulsa an Equality Indicator summit. Every year a report is published with 54 indicators and 6 themes that measure any equality or inequality in Tulsa. This was the sixth report and there was a panel with various community partners that talked about how you can take action; by volunteering through the United Way, community organizing through the Action Project, Youth Voice through Tulsa Change Maker, and collective action through Impact Tulsa. It was a great discussion and presentation on how data can be taken and used for advocacy volunteer board service. Mayor Bynum gave a keynote luncheon as a last discussion on the Equality Indicator which is something he established. There were 6 panel discussions one on each theme.

The Next Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 6:00 pm at the James O. Goodwin Health Center in Room 200.

8) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Regina Lewis', written over a horizontal line.

**Regina Lewis, D.O.
Board of Health Chair**

ATTESTED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sara Rodriguez', written over a horizontal line.

**Sara Rodriguez
Executive Assistant
Tulsa Health Department**