



**Macon County
Public Health**

**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
7/17/2025**

Members: Garrett Higdon, Engineer; John Shearl, County Commissioner; Barry Breeden, County Commissioner, filling the spot for Optometrist; Dr. Roy Lenzo, Veterinarian; Cortney Patrick, Pharmacist; Dr. Matt Corbin, Dentist and Vice Chair; Angela Stone, Nurse Representative; Dr. Carlos Vargas, Physician; Members of General Public, Jerry Hermanson Chair, Dr. Nathan Feibelman III, General Public; Steve Grissim, General Public

Members Absent: Dr. Roy Lenzo

Staff Present: Kathy McGaha, Christina Stamey, Melissa Setzer, Lisa Browning, Jessica Baucum, Jimmy Villiard, Jessica Jones, Jamie Waldroop, Peighton Bartell, Mercy Avila, Julie Rogers, Camelia Chang, Julie Gasbarro, Jennifer Germain, Madison Johnson, Nancy Roman, Bonnie Morgan, Toni Wade, Tina Morel, Kristina Loughborough, Sharon Roper Jessica Robertson, Ashley Woody, Jessica Cochran, Brayden West, Sarah Slack, Sarah Bradley, and Meredith Taylor.

Guests: Jimmy Villiard, Jessica Jones, Jamie Waldroop, Peighton Bartell, Mercy Avila, Jen Germain, Madison Johnson, Bonnie Morgan, Nancy Roman, Tina Morel, Amy Medlock, Ann Hyder, Rita Salden, Michael McKee, and John Barry.

Media: Shelby Powell (The Franklin Press), Bobby Coggins (Macon Media News, Weather and Information), John Deville (Podcaster at Mountain Philosopher), and Kristen Fox (The Highlander).

Call to Order: Jerry Hermanson called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

Public Comment: Public Comment focused on concerns about the proposed change to move the Health Department under the Board of Commissioners, with speakers urging against it. Dr. Villiard highlighted the risks of political influence on public health decisions. Jennifer Germain emphasized the importance of trust and collaboration in public health. Bonnie Morgan, Nancy

Roman, Tina Morel, Amy Medlock, Anne Hyder, Rita Salden, Michael McKee, and John Barry, all expressed their concerns if the Commissioners were to take control of the Health Department and urged against the commissioners not to take control. They also expressed the need of looking into and validating staff complaints. Jessica Jones, Jamie Waldroop, Peighton Bartell, Mercy Avila, and Madison Johnson criticized poor management, lack of support, low staffing and high turnover. Board of Health members acknowledged the need for better communication and more frequent meetings. The Board of Commissioners was urged to address these issues before considering structural changes. Jerry Hermanson, Dr. Carlos Vargas, and Matt Corbin thanked all the speakers for their courage to stand up and address their concerns. Commissioner John Shearl followed up with negative comments and opinions about different situations within Macon County Public Health. After a brief debate between Commissioner John Shearl and members of public comment, Jerry Hermanson halted further discussion. The meeting concluded with a motion to enter closed session to discuss personnel issues.

- Agenda Approval: Steve Grissim made a motion to approve the agenda. Garrett Higdon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Presentation: None
- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: No approval at this time due to it being a special meeting. Approval of the May Board of Health Meeting Minutes will be presented at the regularly scheduled meeting on July 29th, 2025.
- Old Business: None
- New Business: New Business was the concerns from the joint meeting between the Commissioners and Board of Health that was held on July 8th, 2025. This discussion involved personnel issues, therefore was discussed in closed session.
- Closed Session: Garrett Higdon made a motion to go into closed session. Steve Grissim seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously at 7:10 PM.
Matt Corbin made a motion to come out of closed session. Steve Grissim seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously at 9:05 PM.
- Next Meeting Date: July 29th, 2025
- Adjournment: Steve Grissim made a motion to adjourn. John Shearl seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously at 9:07 PM.
- Minutes Recorded by: Christina Stamey