

**SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
TUESDAY MAY 14, 2024**

At 2:35 p.m., Vice President Randy Laird called the Somerset County Board of Health meeting to order. Present for the meeting were Vice President Randy Laird, Commissioner Craig Mathies, Commissioner Eldon Willing, and Commissioner Darryl Webster. President Charles Laird was absent for the start of today's meeting.

Also in attendance were County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor, Deputy County Administrator Ernie Leatherbury, and Executive Secretary Kimberly Lopez.

Ms. Danielle Weber, Somerset County Health Officer, and Ms. Christie Taylor, Somerset County Health Department Director of Administrative Services, were now before the Board to present the bi-annual update.

Ms. Weber advised of vacancies within the Somerset County Health Department for an HR Officer and a Procurement Officer. Following this, she advised of new mandates for teleworking (for certain classifications) across all state agencies. Ms. Weber advised that this decision is out of her hands and will affect roughly half of her staff. A brief discussion was held.

Next, Ms. Weber provided an update on behavioral health; advising that they are moving forward with the ORF Funds and have been looking into how to use those funds in the community (such as speakers in schools and ECI). Ms. Weber advised they would also like to use the funds to hire another Peer Recover Specialist with a family support focus (salary to be covered half by ORF funds and half by SCOUT funds).

Ms. Weber then advised of elevated overdoses numbers, advising they are counting numbers differently this year (using numbers from EMS response numbers instead of MSP numbers as they are more accurate).

Under community health, Ms. Weber advised of the delays in colorectal screening (due to the limited providers on the Eastern Shore), stating most providers are 18 months out with their scheduling (even for high risk individuals).

Ms. Weber advised of an upcoming shingles vaccination campaign. This vaccine will be given at no charge.

Ms. Weber provided an update on the Wellness Van, stating that they have everything ready to go; however, the van itself is having some issues that are currently being evaluated by a mechanic.

Ms. Weber then advised of an outbreak of HPAI in dairy cows across the US. She continued by advising that, once the milk supply is pasteurized, it is safe to consume. Ms. Weber advised they are working to ensure every precaution is made pertaining to this outbreak (with 4H events and such coming up) and how cattle cannot be transported from state to state without being tested first.

Under environmental health, Ms. Weber advised that wet season is officially over.

Lastly, under prevention, planning, and communication, Ms. Weber advised they are awaiting the final health equity plan (a written plan to go along with the spreadsheet that was provided).

Harm reduction vending machines have been placed throughout the County (one in Princess Anne and one in Crisfield, with a third location to be determined).

Ms. Weber advised they have recently received a 5-year HERC grant from CHRC for an expansion of the CHW program, which will secure the community health worker program and possibly allow for an additional hire within this program.

With the conclusion of Ms. Weber's presentation, the Board circled back to teleworking with concerns on how management will be able to monitor if the teleworking employee is working or not. Ms. Weber advised that this is a union mandate and the teleworking employee's will be measured by performance and expectations to determine how they are completing their job through teleworking.

With no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Craig Mathies and seconded by Commissioner Eldon Willing to adjourn the Somerset County Commissioners Board of Health meeting at 2:57 p.m. By a vote in favor by Vice President Randy Laird, Commissioner Craig Mathies, Commissioner Eldon Willing, and Commissioner Darryl Webster; the motion carried.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Kimberly Lopez
Executive Secretary