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**STATE BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**123 Robert S. Kerr**  
**Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102**

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**I. Call to Order**

Vice Chairman Dr. Storms called the meeting to order on Friday, November 3 at 10:03 a.m.

**II. Roll Call and Confirmation of a Quorum**

Board members present: Mr. McCroskey, Mr. Osterhout, Dr. Storms, Dr. Sudduth, Dr. Whittington, Dr. Wolff

Board members absent: Dr. Grellner, Dr. Krishna, Dr. Lim

Central staff present: Keith Reed, Commissioner of Health; Jackie Shawnee, Chief of Staff; Dr. LaTrina Frazier, Deputy Commissioner of Quality Assurance and Regulatory; and Baylee Williams who served as recording secretary.

**III. Review, Discussion and Approval of Minutes for the August 11, 2023, Regular Meeting**

Mr. Osterhout moved board approval of the August 11, 2023 minutes as presented. Second Mr. Whittington. Motion carried.

Aye: Mr. Osterhout Dr. Storms, Dr. Sudduth Dr. Whittington, Dr. Wolff

Absent: Dr. Grellner, Dr. Krishna, Dr. Lim

Abstain: Mr. McCroskey

**IV. Commissioner's Report – Keith Reed, *State Commissioner of Health***

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Commissioner Reed began providing an update on the issue regarding Title X funding. The Agency has filed an appeal against the HHS decision to revoke Title X funding for the State of Oklahoma. The Agency is working with the Attorney General's office to continue to push back against this decision. The Agency is working on a process to reduce FTE count back to pre-pandemic numbers. This will take place over a 12-month process to ensure that it is done through thoughtful attrition and strategic reorganization. Calibration is ongoing within the agency to provide better employee feedback to ensure better performance. In January, the Agency had 171 employees rated at a 1 or 2 (low), 46% of those improved to a 3 rating or higher (meeting expectations or above) 18% stayed the same and only 3% decreased in performance. Staff development is a high priority for the Agency.

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Breaking the Red Tape, a regulation reduction effort, is ongoing in the Agency. Over the past few years, 283 sections of rule have been removed, 102 subsections have been partially revoked and 5,400 restrictive words have been removed from rule. The goal is to become more business friendly as well as clean up language and ensure it is clearer and minimizes confusion. Another ongoing agency effort is modernizing the financial systems. This encompasses not just technology, but expertise in the department. The Agency also has been working to reduce unnecessary fleet usage which has been ongoing, the Governor recently issued an Executive Order for Agencies to do so, so the Agency was ahead of that Executive Order prior to its

1 issuance. The Agency has reduced from 349 vehicles either leased or owned in September 2021,  
2 to 252 in October 2023.

3  
4 The Agency has been working on centralization of administrative functions, due to different  
5 funding streams there have been silos created in the Agency, and there has been a strong effort  
6 to reduce those silos and ensure the various Agency functions are operating as a single, unified  
7 unit and aligning Agency needs. There has been a large effort to reduce various backlogs, such  
8 as licensure and death certificates. The Public Health Laboratory has made significant  
9 improvements, there are only a small number of tests that the Agency is working to bring back  
10 in-house, specifically those requiring bio-safety level 3 precautions. Pregnancy Resource  
11 Navigators are being implemented to ensure the Agency is providing support for new Oklahoma  
12 mothers to help make sure they are connected to resources in the state.

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14 **V. Subcommittee Reports and Discussion – Dr. Bruce Storms, *Vice Chair***

15 Dr. Storms provided a report and updates upon the conclusion of the first meeting of the  
16 subcommittee on Maternal Health. There is a large portion of rural Oklahoma that are  
17 considered Maternity Deserts and create complications for those expecting mothers to receive  
18 the appropriate care needed. There was discussion around understanding the true depth of the  
19 issues and various methods that could potentially help establish or re-establish care in those  
20 areas. The Agency will be providing additional data requested that will be brought forth at the  
21 next meeting in January to assist in continuing the discussion and finding solutions for this  
22 issue. Dr. Storms provided an update on various issues identified, ongoing Agency programs  
23 geared towards addressing this issue, highest concerns that need to be addressed, and potential  
24 funding solutions. Dr. Storms will provide further updates following the next meeting.

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26 Dr. Wolff provided a report and updates upon the conclusion of the first meeting of the  
27 subcommittee on Long-Term Care. The OSDH regulatory team have been working diligently  
28 to get caught up on required inspections despite staffing issues and are on track to do so. There  
29 was discussion around how to better equip family members to be advocates for their family  
30 members. Access to standards are accessible but widely unknown for those family members, so  
31 there was discussion around how to ensure those families are equipped with the knowledge they  
32 need in order to advocate. There was discussion around facility closures, staffing and job  
33 quality. The Agency is looking to ensure that inspections are not punitive, but productive. This  
34 discussion will continue in the next subcommittee and be brought forward and the next meeting.

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36 **VI. State Board of Examiners for Long-Term Care Administrators Legislative Update,**

37 *Dr. LaTrina Frazier, Deputy Commissioner of Licensure and Regulatory*

38 In this most recent legislative session, the Legislature passed HB 2824, sunseting the State  
39 Board of Examiners for Long-Term Care Administrators (OSBELTCA) and moving under  
40 OSDH. This law went into effect November 1<sup>st</sup> and is now a program within the Agency.  
41 Emergency rules were approved by the Governor allowing for operations to go into effect on day  
42 1. There are proposed permanent rules currently making their way through the process. The  
43 Board for OSBELTCA no longer exists and it is now operating as a licensing and training  
44 program. There is now a right for the licensees to an informal dispute resolution process, which  
45 did not exist before. The change has given these administrators clarity and the process for them  
46 has been streamlined. They were notified at 12:01 AM on November 1<sup>st</sup> that the transition was

1 now active to minimize confusion as to the transition. The Agency has also participated in many  
2 association meetings to help educate as to the transition and expectations to ensure this transition  
3 happened in as smooth a manner as possible.  
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6 **VII. Establishment of 2024 Board meeting dates - Dr. Bruce Storms, *Vice Chair***

7 Proposed meeting dates for 2024 had been presented to the Board members prior to the meeting,  
8 those dates proposed were February 9<sup>th</sup>, May 10<sup>th</sup>, August 9<sup>th</sup> and November 8<sup>th</sup>. November 8<sup>th</sup>  
9 was requested to be altered to November 1<sup>st</sup>. Members agreed.

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11 Final proposed dates are: February 9<sup>th</sup>, May 10<sup>th</sup>, August 9<sup>th</sup>, and November 1<sup>st</sup>.

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13 Mr. Osterhout made a motion to approve the proposed dates. Dr. Whittington provided a  
14 second.

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16 Aye: Mr. McCroskey, Mr. Osterhout, Dr. Storms, Dr. Sudduth, Dr. Whittington, Dr. Wolff  
17 Absent: Dr. Grellner, Dr. Krishna, Dr. Lim

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19 **VIII. Election of Officers – Dr. Bruce Storms, *Vice Chair***

20 Commissioner Reed requested nominations for Chair.

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22 As slated, nominations were made for Dr. Storms to serve as Chair, Dr. Wolff to serve as vice  
23 chair, and Dr. Lim to serve as secretary.

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25 Mr. Osterhout made a motion to approve the slated nominations, Mr. McCroskey provided a  
26 second.

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28 Aye: Mr. McCroskey, Mr. Osterhout, Dr. Storms, Dr. Sudduth, Dr. Whittington, Dr. Wolff  
29 Absent: Dr. Grellner, Dr. Krishna, Dr. Lim

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31 **IX. New Business**

32 Commissioner Reed informed the Board that in a meeting with the CDC that week, there was a  
33 discussion around the State's tobacco usage numbers. In 2011, 26.1% of Oklahomans smoked,  
34 ranking the state 47<sup>th</sup>. 2022 numbers released that we are now at 16%, and 40% decrease,  
35 ranking us now 39<sup>th</sup>. The State has decreased at a faster rate than many other states. Often times,  
36 public health needs to operate in long-term goals as many of these metrics are slow moving, and  
37 this is an example of long-term planning paying off.  
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39 **X. Adjournment**

40 Mr. Osterhout moved board approval to adjourn. Dr. Wolff provided a second. Motion carried.

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42 Aye: Mr. McCroskey, Mr. Osterhout, Dr. Storms, Dr. Sudduth, Dr. Whittington, Dr. Wolff  
43 Absent: Dr. Grellner, Dr. Krishna, Dr. Lim

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45 The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.