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

I. Call to Order

Chairman Storms called the meeting to order on Friday, February 21 at 10:05 a.m.

II. Roll Call and Confirmation of a Quorum

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

Board members absent: Dr. Lim, Dr. Whittington, Dr. Wolff

Central staff present: Keith Reed, Commissioner of Health; Baylee Williams, Legislative Liaison, who served as recording secretary; Buffy Heater, Chief Strategy Officer; Patrick Crowe, Stefan Van Dollen, CFO; Lisa Leeper, Chief Administration Officer, Erica Rankin-Riley, Roseangela

III. Review, Discussion and Approval of Minutes for the August 9, 2024, Regular Meeting

Mr. Osterhout moved board approval of the August 9, 2024 minutes as presented. Second Dr. Krishna. Motion carried.

Aye: Dr. Krishna, Mr. McCroskey, Mr. Osterhout, Dr. Storms, Dr. Sudduth

Absent: Dr. Lim, Dr. Whittington, Dr. Wolff

Abstain:

IV. Regional Health Collaboratives – Rich Rasmussen, President, Oklahoma Hospital Association

Mr. Rasmussen began by sharing his background and introduced Maggie Martin, their Chief Legal Officer. He emphasized the organization's focus on primary care planning and spending, noting the importance of strategic investment before allocating resources solely to increased provider pay. They are evaluating approaches from other states to determine the best path forward, with interest in strengthening existing models like FQHCs, which benefit from additional federal funding. To effectively expand primary care, they highlighted the need for non-claims-based support. Their key priorities include: Developing regional care collaboratives, exploring second-mile investments, addressing social determinants of health, enhancing provider recruitment and retention and reducing hospital overuse. OHA aims to advocate for advanced primary care models, expand access to primary care providers, and support implementation of regional care collaboratives.

V. Office of Client Advocacy Update – Patrick Crowe, *Director of Office of Accountability Systems*

Mr. Crowe informed the Board that the OCA transfer has been in effect for just over 100 days. The agency initially faced staffing vacancies but is now nearly fully staffed, with only two positions remaining open. Several legislative updates have been identified, including missed references that still cite DHS instead of OSDH and issues related to investigative authority. There is also a need to clarify the division of responsibilities between OCA and Adult Protective Services. Ongoing staff training includes the Reid technique to enhance interview and interrogation skills, aiming to improve the quality of investigations and overall outcomes.

VI. 2025 Legislative Session Update – Baylee Williams, *Legislative Liaison*

Ms. Williams provided a legislative update, the first session of the 60th Legislature is underway and approaching key committee deadlines. Over 3,000 bills have been filed, with more than 500 on the agency's watch list—most related to regulatory functions. Nearly half of all filed bills are shell bills, so the agency is closely monitoring for new language and preparing for movement as deadlines approach. The agency has two request bills: SB 949 is authored by Senator Rosino and co-authored by Representative Roe, this bill addresses missed references in last session's SB 1709, which transferred OCA functions to OSDH. It clarifies investigative authority among agencies handling vulnerable adult populations to prevent gaps in oversight. It also adds a requirement for OCA to report final investigative findings to DHS, ensuring timely updates to the Community Service Worker Registry. This helps protect vulnerable populations by preventing individuals with substantiated neglect findings from continuing to work in these settings. The second request bill is HB 1688, authored by Representative Roe and co-authored by Senator Stanley. This bill allows amendments to birth and death certificates in cases of scrivener's errors. Current law limits these corrections to within one year for birth certificates and 60 days for death certificates. If errors are not caught within these timeframes, corrections cannot currently be made. This bill removes the time limit for amending birth certificates and extends the window to one year for death certificates. The agency's administrative court process will be used to verify the legitimacy of requests, with documentation required to support the correction.

VII. Grants Review – Keith Reed, *Commissioner* & Buffy Heater, *Chief Strategy Officer*

The Agency remains highly dependent on federal funding, with approximately two-thirds of its overall budget coming from federal sources. During the meeting, Buffy shared a document listing all currently active agency grants. The majority of these grants are awarded by the CDC, followed by the USDA and HRSA. Federal grants have been a major driver in advancing key agency initiatives, particularly in technology modernization. One notable example is the replacement of the agency's surveillance system, funded through the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grant. These funds are also used to support contractors who help carry out federally funded projects. The number of contracts supported by grants has grown significantly—from 73 in 2023 to 278 in 2024, with 467 projected for 2025. While these resources have enabled substantial progress, the agency reported a 60% spend rate on available federal grant funds. This indicates solid utilization but also highlights the need to improve how the agency maximizes available funding in the future.

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

Commissioner Reed began by informing the Board that the Agency has submitted its legislative budget request, which reflects a flat funding request. In addition to maintaining its current budget, the Agency has requested the transfer of funds from other agencies to account for programmatic shifts that occurred during the past legislative session. As part of the Governor's State of the State address, a plan to reduce full-time workforce (FTE) counts was announced. Currently, the Agency employs approximately 1,760 staff members. There is a two-year window to reach the Governor's targeted FTE number. To support this goal, the Agency is relying on its calibration process as well as natural attrition, to streamline staffing levels while maintaining operational effectiveness. In alignment with the Governor's recently issued executive order requiring all state employees to return to in-person work, the Agency is also adjusting its workspace accordingly. Plans are underway to acquire an additional floor in the building to better accommodate staff returning on-site, with the goal of completing that transition by the end of

1 March. At present, approximately 90–95% of Agency staff have returned to in-office work.
2 Commissioner Reed also noted the release of the latest America’s Health Rankings, in which Oklahoma
3 was ranked 47th overall. While this remains a low national ranking, the state is seeing measurable
4 improvements in several key health indicators.

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6 **IX. Election of Officers**

7 Dr. Krishna made a motion to elect Dr. Storms as Chair. Dr. Sudduth second.

8 Aye: Dr. Krishna, Mr. McCroskey, Mr. Osterhout, Dr. Storms, Dr. Sudduth

9 Mr. Osterhout made a motion to elect Mr. McCroskey as Vice Chair. Dr. Sudduth second.

10 Aye: Dr. Krishna, Mr. McCroskey, Mr. Osterhout, Dr. Storms, Dr. Sudduth

11 Mr. Osterhout made a motion to elect Dr. Lim as secretary. Dr. Sudduth second.

12 Aye: Dr. Krishna, Mr. McCroskey, Mr. Osterhout, Dr. Storms, Dr. Sudduth

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14 **X. New Business**

15 No new business

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17 **XI. Adjournment**

18 Mr. McCroskey moved board approval to adjourn. Mr. Osterhout provided a second. Motion carried.

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20 Aye: Dr. Krishna, Mr. McCroskey, Mr. Osterhout, Dr. Storms, Dr. Sudduth

21 Absent: Dr. Lim, Dr. Whittington, Dr. Wolff

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23 The meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m

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