



OCONEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 222 ~ Watkinsville, GA 30677
Phone: 706-769-3983 ~ Fax: 706-769-3913

OCONEE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES February 10, 2021

Members Present:	Kellie Templeman Laura Mitchell-Spurlock Susanna Rains Moriarty Mark Thomas Dr. Jason Branch Rachel Swartz	Staff:	Emily Eisenman Apyl Singer Dr. Goggans	Keli Hinson Whitney Howell Kristy Stanley Miranda Bieber
		Guest:	Ashley Cave	

The regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Health was held on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. via teleconference call.

Item: Minutes from the last meeting

Action: The minutes from the last meeting were motioned to be approved by Kellie Templeman, seconded by Susanna Rains Moriarty, and passed by those present.

Item: Oath of Office

Action: Rachel Swartz was sworn in as a new member of the board. She has filled the position previously held by Dr. Gilbert.

Item: Election of Officers

Action: Mark Thomas nominated Dr. Jason Branch to continue as Chairperson, this was seconded by Kellie Templeman. Dr. Branch nominated Mark Thomas to continue as Vice Chairperson, it was seconded by Rachel Swartz. Laura Mitchell Spurlock was nominated to continue as Secretary, it was seconded by Mark Thomas. It was motioned by Mark Thomas for the slate of positions to remain the same for the new year, this was seconded by Kellie Templeman, and passed by those present.

Item: FY22 Budget Proposal

Action: Emily Eisenman presented the proposed budget for FY22 (Attach#1). She explained to the board what our general revenue amounts consist of and what is to be expected. She also explained that, at this point in time, we are anticipating that the Covid funding will discontinue at the end of this fiscal year. The new budget shows a drop in the revenue with an equal drop in personnel being that hazard pay would no longer be funded. Mark Thomas motioned to approve the budget for FY22, it was seconded by Kellie Templeman, and passed by those present.

Item: Update on Covid 19 Vaccine

Info: Dr. Goggans informed the board that January was the worst month so far in the number of positive cases in Georgia. He explained that the goal is to have more providers that can vaccinate so they number of people being vaccinated can increase. The problem right now is the vaccine supply. We are not receiving enough to ramp up the number being administered. All of the health departments in our district are now administering vaccines. He also mentioned that the Johnson vaccine will be coming out soon and it being a single dose will help.

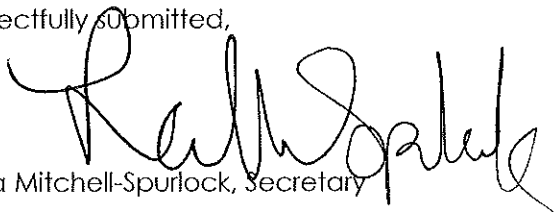
Item: Environmental Health- Variance request for floatation tanks

Action: Keli Hinson presented the board with a variance request for the pool regulations. (Attach#2) Ashley Cave from Serenity Float Center was on the call to answer any questions regarding the variance request and

the facility. Keli explained that the center's "pods" were having to follow the regulations for a pool but the variance would better accommodate the equipment at their facility. Mark Thomas motioned to approve the variance, it was seconded by Laura Mitchell Spurlock, and passed by those present.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Mitchell-Spurlock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Laura" being more prominent than the last name.

Laura Mitchell-Spurlock, Secretary

A G E N D A
OCONEE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

February 10, 2021

3:30 P.M.

1-470-344-9228 United States Toll

Meeting number (access code): 871 407 417#

CALL TO ORDER

MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

NEW BUSINESS-

OATH OF OFFICE- RACHEL SWARTZ

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

FY22 BUDGET- EMILY EISENMAN

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH- KELI HINSON

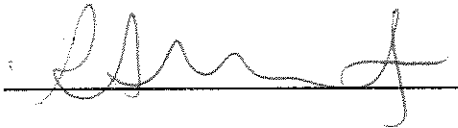
Variance request for a sensory deprivation flotation tank

UPDATE ON COVID 19 VACCINE- DR. GOGGANS

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF OCONEE

I, Rachel Swartz, do solemnly swear that I will well and truly perform the duties of Member of the OCONEE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH, to the best of my ability.
So help me God.

I do further swear that I am not the hold of any public money due this State unaccounted for, that I am not the holder of any office or trust under the government of the United States, nor any of the several states, for any foreign State, and that I am otherwise qualified to hold said office according to the Constitution of the Laws of Georgia, and that I will support the Constitution of the United States and of this State. So help me God

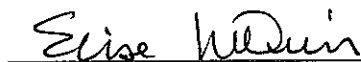
 2/11/2021

Signature of Public Officer

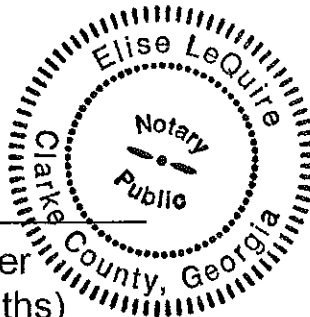
Rachel
Swartz

Typed Name of Public Officer

Sworn and subscribed before the
Undersigned this 11 day of
February, 2021.



(Signature of Notary Public or Other
Person Qualified to Administer Oaths)



(SEAL)

Oconee

	2021	2022	% of Budget	\$ Difference	% Difference
Revenue					
Prior Year Fees	\$467,266	\$467,266	43%	\$0	0%
Grant In Aid	\$217,482	\$217,482	20%	\$0	0%
County	\$150,000	\$150,000	14%	\$0	0%
Medicaid Admin	\$126,148	\$126,148	12%	\$0	0%
Interagency	\$127,082	\$67,634	6%	-\$59,448	-47%
Contracts	\$66,908	\$66,908	6%	\$0	0%
Total	\$1,154,886	\$1,095,438	100%	-\$59,448	-5%
Expenditures					
Personnel	\$537,188	\$495,504	45%	-\$41,684	-8%
Fringe: Health Insurance	\$155,164	\$140,644	13%	-\$14,520	-9%
Fringe: Retirement	\$106,531	\$110,504	10%	\$3,973	4%
Fringe: FICA	\$33,306	\$30,721	3%	-\$2,585	-8%
Fringe: Medicare	\$7,789	\$7,185	1%	-\$604	-8%
Pharmaceuticals	\$79,777	\$79,777	7%	\$0	0%
IT & Acctg Support	\$54,208	\$54,208	5%	\$0	0%
Contracts	\$49,590	\$49,590	5%	\$0	0%
Supplies	\$20,143	\$20,143	2%	\$0	0%
Utilities	\$18,208	\$18,208	2%	\$0	0%
Advertising	\$13,436	\$13,436	1%	\$0	0%
Janitorial & Medical Waste	\$13,150	\$13,150	1%	\$0	0%
Repairs & Maintenance	\$16,503	\$12,475	1%	-\$4,028	-24%
Travel & Vehicle Expense	\$10,817	\$10,817	1%	\$0	0%
Telecommunications	\$10,173	\$10,173	1%	\$0	0%
Insurance	\$7,765	\$7,765	1%	\$0	0%
Lab Fees	\$5,350	\$5,350	0%	\$0	0%
Computer Software	\$5,127	\$5,127	0%	\$0	0%
Other Operating	\$4,444	\$4,444	0%	\$0	0%
Credit Card & Bank Costs	\$4,102	\$4,102	0%	\$0	0%
Postage & Shipping	\$2,115	\$2,115	0%	\$0	0%
Total	\$1,154,886	\$1,095,438	100%	-\$59,448	-5%

Oconee County Environmental Health recommendation. The Environmental Health Office is in support of the Board of Health granting the variance request for Serenity Float Center for the following reasons:

The Oconee County Pool Rule does not address all the operational and design considerations for float tanks. Their method of operation and design will require variances from several items in the Pool Rule. Currently, a CDC sponsored work group has published the Model Aquatic Health Code that addresses factors to consider when permitting float tanks for public use. One key factor is the potential risks and routes of exposure are different than swimming pools. The float tank contains about 300 gallons of water combined with about 800 pounds of Epsom salt. The water depth is 10 to 12 inches and the user is lying in a prone position on their back. Due to the high salinity and bitter taste of the solution, clients avoid ingestion or eye contact. Clients will be teenagers or adults and no one will be allowed to float with open wounds or sores. All users must shower before entering the water to reduce the transmission of pathogens and organics. The recommendations are based on the CDC MAHC to support this method of operation. The Rule requires a pool or spa to be continuously disinfected by an approved agent with a measurable residual. The US EPA reports that chlorine or bromine products have not been approved for use in float tanks. The petitioner's method of sanitation, an ozone/UV system, meets the recommended standard in the MAHC. The code requires an NSF 50 approved system that meets the 3-log reduction of influent bacteria disinfection efficacy as tested in Annex H.1. Although ozone and UV are disinfectants, they do not provide a measurable residual. Therefore, the petitioner has proposed to conduct monthly testing for *Pseudomonas* to verify the water cleanliness. The Environmental Health Office recommends additional monthly water tests fecal coliform and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* as indicator organisms. The Environmental Health Office will monitor the facility quarterly the first year for compliance to the variance.

The following variance conditions are recommended for operation:

Variance Conditions - Serenity Float Center, 3651 Mars Hill Rd. Ste 3200, Watkinsville:

1. The operator must provide a trained operator onsite during the hours of operation.
2. The operator must abide by the standard operating procedures and properly train staff.
3. The operator must provide monthly water testing results for fecal coliform and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* to the local county health department and immediately close a float tank if it results in a positive test.
4. The variances and conditions will be reviewed annually for compliance and appropriateness.
5. The operator must have an electrical inspection every six months on the tanks and equipment.
6. The ozone/UV systems must be evaluated annually by a qualified company representative.
7. The operator shall sanitize the shower surfaces that come in contact with users between each float session.
8. The ozone monitoring equipment must be calibrated annually or more often if required by the manufacturer.

9. The owner must provide the local county health department written approval from other agencies that the facility meets other codes, such as electrical, HVAC, construction and fire.
10. Provide a copy of the certificate of occupancy for the facility to the Department upon completion.

The variance will be reviewed annually for compliance with the conditions.

Rules Variance/Wavier Register

Date: January 29, 2021

Chapter: 511-3-5

Rule Number: Chapter 511-3-5-

- .11(1) ...surface skimming devices shall comply with NSF 50
- .16(2)(b) The pool or spa water shall be continuously disinfected by a disinfecting agent that imparts an easily measured residual.
- .07(5) circulation system... shall operate twenty-four hours per day
- .22(9)(d) The trained or responsible person shall collect water samples from the pool for monitoring. For spas and hot water venues, free available chlorine or total bromine, pH and water temperature shall be tested prior to opening and recorded every four hours.

Action Requested: Variance

Name of Petitioner: Adam and Ashley Cave
160 Glenn Trail
Winder GA 30680

Contact Person: Adam and Ashley Cave

Phone number: 706-202-7875

Reason for Request:

The petitioner is requesting several variances for Serenity Float Center, 3651 Mars Hill Rd. Ste 3200, Watkinsville, GA 30677. Floating is a health and wellness practice in which users float in a saturated Epsom salt solution (MgSO4) in a small isolated vessel similar in size to a large garden tub. The practice is intended to reduce sensory input from the external environment and therefore some float tanks are entirely enclosed. The dense, highly buoyant salt solution allows users to float without effort, and is maintained at or near the external temperature of the skin about 93-95 degrees Fahrenheit. The float tanks may vary in design, ranging from a pod or chamber to float room enclosure, but are generally designed to reduce the light and sound penetration. Each is designed for one user a time. The Rules consider these as pools because the vessel is not completely drained between users and it recirculates water in a closed loop between the vessel and a filtration system. Work by NSF found that common indicator organisms could survive the high salinity conditions and some form of treatment is required for a float tank. However, due to the unique nature of the Epsom salt solution and the operation parameters, floats tanks will not meet all the requirements in Chapter 511-3-5.

The following variance is requested for operation:

.11(1) surface skimming devices shall comply with NSF 50

The float tank is approximately 10 inches deep with a volume of 300 gallons of water. Most NSF approved skimmers have height and depth requirements that will not work in 10 inches of water. The petitioner will require users to shower before entering and the operator will check the

filtration and water flow between users to ensure the system is working. Any debris seen between users will be removed manually. The skimmer and inlet piping is sufficient in size to carry the volume of water to adequately provide the number of turnovers between users based on the hydraulic analysis reviewed. Returns aid in mixing recirculated water and the chemical disinfection agent. In this system the total flow of the water returning through the skimmer is being treated by a UV/ozone system and then returned to the float tank. Proper chemical mixing to ensure an adequate residual in the water is not a requirement in this configuration. The main concern is providing sufficient turnovers between users to ensure the water is treated by the Ozone/UV disinfection system. The strip surface skimmers provide adequate surface area and functions to remove debris from the top of the water in these environments. All the water is theoretically passed through the filtration system. The requirements for a skimmer basket to remove large debris and a weir are not necessary in this operation. They are not exposed to the outside environment and children are not allowed to float. The petitioner will only allow one person at a time to float and the pods are checked and serviced between users.

Rule 511-3-5 .16(2)(b) the pool or spa water shall be continuously disinfected by a disinfecting agent that imparts an easily measured residual.

.07(5) circulation system shall operate twenty-four hours per day.

To reduce noise and enhance the sensory experience, the petitioner requests a variance to allow their tanks to shut down while in use by the floater. The petition will operate the circulation and disinfection systems to achieve the required turnovers to provide adequate water filtration and disinfection between each user. The petitioner's alternative is to provide an onsite operator to manage the float tank circulation systems to ensure each facility operates according to the standard operating procedures and achieve three turnovers between users. The national standard supported by CDC model aquatic health code requires a minimum of three volumetric turnovers between users which provides for 95% of the total volume of the floatation tank solution passing through the filter and disinfection system. The standard was based on the consideration of the potential concentration of pathogens that may be expected in a float tank. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* is one of the main pathogens of concern which is reduced to an infective dose through these required volumetric turnovers.

.22(9)(d) The trained or responsible person shall collect water samples from the pool for monitoring. For spas and hot water venues, free available chlorine or total bromine, pH and water temperature shall be tested prior to opening and recorded every four hours.

The petitioner would like to vary from testing the stated parameters in the rules because of the float tank solution. The high salt content interferes with water testing procedures for pH, chlorine, bromine and total alkalinity. These parameters are required when providing traditional halogen based disinfectants. The pH requirement helps with chlorine efficacy and disinfection. The use of a UV/Ozone system removes the requirement for testing these parameters but requires different monitoring. The float tank solutions will be treated with a minimum of three volumetric turnovers at the beginning of the operating day and between each user. The petitioner proposes to monitor water temperature, flow, specific gravity and ozone concentration in the air above the float tank water surface between users and to clean obvious contaminants between users. The petitioner will have monthly bacterial samples for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and fecal coliform.