



OCONEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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OCONEE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES November 8, 2023

Members Present: Dr. Jason Branch, Mark Thomas, Kellie Templeman, Dr. Ronald Atchley

Staff Present: Dr. Goggans, Sarah Peck, Emily Eisenman, Keli Hinson, Apryl Singer, Miranda Bieber, Kathleen Wiltse

Guests Present: Emily Nguyen, Student Nurse

The regular quarterly meeting of the Oconee County Board of Health was held Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. The meeting was in person at the Oconee County Health Department with the option for virtual presence via Microsoft Teams.

Item: Approval of Minutes- August 9,2023

Action: Mark Thomas motioned to approve the minutes and Dr. Ronald Atchley seconded. Minutes were approved by those present.

Item: Old Business

Info: No old business

Item: Environmental Health Update Keli Hinson

Info: Keli Henson explained to the Board that the State has adopted new tattoo regulations statewide. Keli explained that about eleven years ago that each County Board of Health's adopted their own regulations locally because the state did not currently have regulations in place. Keli informed the Board that the regulations that the State put in place went into effect October 6, 2023. Keli explained to the Board that Oconee County did not have any tattoo or body art facilities currently permitted in the county. Keli informed the board that there is a one-year implementation period, within that period the County will need to rewrite the current regulations and adopt the States regulations. Keli explained to the board that the first Board of Health meeting in 2024 she will propose that a public hearing be scheduled for the May Board of Health Meeting to start the process of adopting the State regulations.

Item: Oconee County Health Department update Miranda Bieber

Info: Miranda Bieber shared with the Board that it is was currently flu season and the Health Department has given 450 Flu vaccines and of those 82 were high dose Flu that were given at a local long-term care facility. Miranda explained that the school audits were completed. Miranda explained to the board that Oconee County had a good response going to the schools to give the meningitis vaccine to the students. Miranda stated that Covid 19 vaccines were going well, and that 14 doses of the six months to four-year-old vaccines have been given. Miranda informed the board that she will start training on removing the Nexplanon Implant birth control option and when training is complete, she will

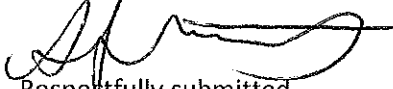
be able to perform swaps at the same visit. Miranda informed the Board that the clinic was getting new flooring in the Conference room, WIC offices, and the Nurses office to match the existing flooring throughout the Health Department.

Item: Mobile vaccine clinic Sarah Peck

Info: Sarah updated the board on the activities of the mobile vaccination unit. Sarah explained to the board that she believes that our district is the only district in the state that operates a full-time mobile vaccination unit that began running in February of 2021. Sarah went on to explain that the mobile unit has given several hundred covid vaccines to Oconee County Residents through Community events. Sarah explained to the Board that there were two changes that has occurred to the Mobile unit, The first being that the Medicaid billing has changed to now allow off site billing, with the new change the Mobile unit has more opportunity to expand what vaccines can be offered. The second change happened at the end of the Covid 19 emergency, Covid vaccines were no longer covered by the Federal Government. Sarah explained to the Board that because of the Covid vaccines not being covered by the government the Individual clinics would need to now order their Covid 19 Vaccines.

Dr. Goggans mentioned to the Board that the district has received some additional funding from the Legislature to expand the PrEP program. Dr. Goggans explained to the Board what PrEP was and that a pilot program was started in Clarke County with the hopes of expanding the program to other counties.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Swartz, Secretary



Guidance on the Transition to Chapter 511-3-8, Rules and Regulations for Body Art

The State Environmental Health Section was asked about the best way to implement the state rules and repeal any county board of health rules and/or ordinances to avoid any issues in adopting these new rules. Specifically, how can we best ensure such repeals do not create either conflicting regulations (county and state), or noncompliance while existing studios and artists obtain permits under the state rules during the 12-month grace period, and what will work best as we phase in new requirements.

In order to facilitate a smooth transition to the new Department Rules, county boards of health can repeal their rules and regulations addressing body art by October 2024 (i.e., 12 months after October 6, 2023, effective date). This will provide counties an extended adjustment period in which to transition to the regulations, allow studios and individuals the 12-month period to obtain permits, and let counties complete their final inspections during this period under their previous rules.

If permits terminate during the period prior to October 2024, studios (and individuals) can obtain local permits/licenses pursuant to the local rules with the understanding that they should be transitioned to the new Body Art Rules by October 2024. Of course, new studios and individuals should be permitted under the new rules and artists would not need a local certification. Counties should work with their county attorneys to ensure the boards of health comply with any local requirements and the boards' bylaws for changing/repealing rules and regulations.

Key Points to Consider During the Transition Period

1. The State rules will go into effect alongside any existing local rules on October 6, 2023.
2. Studios and artists can continue to work under their local permits and licenses until they expire.
3. The Local Health Authority should work with the existing studios and artists on transitioning them to a new studio permit and State artist certification.
4. If an existing studio needs to renew their local studio permit or an artist's needs to renew a license during this time because they need more time to transition to compliance with the new rules, this is allowed.
5. Counties should attempt to transition all their existing studios to comply with the new rules before beginning the process of rescinding their local rules.
6. All local rules should be rescinded by October 6, 2024.
7. Any new studios and artists that apply for permits should be permitted under the new rules and regulations.