MINUTES OF THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
QUARTERLY MEETING
July 23, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT
Brad Erney, DMD, President
Keith Davis, MD, President-Elect
Loy Bailey, RS
Robert Bonner, DVM
Darlene Byrd, DNP
Chris Cathey, DC
Phillip Gilmore, PhD
Allison Gonzalez, MD
Tina Ipe, MD
Jerry Martin, PE
Laura Moore, MD
Shannon Pate
Shane Speights, MD
Blakes Torres, PharmD
James Zini, DO

MEMBERS REMOTE
Dewayne Daniels, MD
Justin Franks, OD PA
Jake Keet

MEMBERS ABSENT
Renee Mallory, RN, Secretary of Health
Jill Flaxman, MD
David Kiessling, DPM
Jim Terry

GUESTS PRESENT
Jennifer Dillaha, MD, ADH, Director Secretary of AR Board of Health
Kay Chandler, MD, Surgeon General
Cassie Cochran, ADH, Deputy Director for Public Health Programs
Don Adams, ADH, Chief of Staff
Brian Nichols, ADH, Attorney
Austin Porter III, DrPH, ADH, Chief Science Officer and State Epidemiologist
Reginald Rogers, ADH, Chief Legal Counsel
Naveen Patil, MD, ADH, Deputy State Health Officer
Connie Melton, ADH, Director, Division of Health Protection
Jeremy Courtney, ADH, Director Division of Public Health Practice
Bala Simon, MD, DrPH, ADH, Deputy Chief Medical Officer
Matt Gilmore, ADH, Deputy Director For Boards & Governmental Affairs
Jeff Tabor, ADH, Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee, Chair
Cristy Sellers, ADH, Director, Division of Health Advancement
Bala Simon, MD, DrPh, ADH, Deputy Chief Medical Officer and State Chronic Disease Director
William Greenfield, MD, ADH, Senior Physician Specialist
Joe Martin, Director, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Response Systems
Tammy Driggers, ADH, Registered Nurse, Division of Health Advancement
Kierra Cunningham, ADH, Program Coordinator, Division of Health Advancement

Cassandra Brown, ADH, APRN, Family Health
Kerry Drill, ADH, Chief of Communication
Ralph McClenahan, ADH, Inspector Supervisor, Protective Health Codes
Sherian Kwanisai, ADH, Health Program Administrator
Deborah Reagan, ADH, Attorney
Charles Thompson, ADH, Attorney
S. Craig Smith, ADH, Attorney
Chuck Hardin, ADH, Attorney, Privacy Officer
Jessica Upchurch, ADH, Legal Support Specialist
Karla Lock, ADH, Legal Support Specialist
James Joiner, ADH, Facilities Manager
Linda Wooten, ADH, Health Center Manager
Savanna Ledford, ADH, DrPH, Epidemiology Manager
Steven Speer, ADH, User Support Analyst, Information Technology Services
Sara Bailey, ADH, Nurse Abstractor, Women's Health Section
Karly Gore, ADH, Health Program Coordinator, Women's Health Section
Ashley Whitlow, ADH, Health Branch Manager, Office of Administration/ Communications
Shelly Matthews, ADH, Register Nurse, Trauma Section
Mary Alexander, CPM – retired
Silas Camp, CPM, Licensed Midwife
Jonathan Gass, UAMS, College of Pharmacy
Bruce Warren Smith, ADH, Stead Scholar
Sara Smith, ADH, Stead Scholar
Sanaa Fields, ADH, Stead Scholar
Naina Bose, ADH, Stead Scholar
Rinrader Seebcomny, Stead Scholar

Onyekachykari Osch, ADH, Stead Scholar
Luis Langster, ADH, Stead Scholar
Zara McCain, ADH, Stead Scholar

The quarterly meeting of the Arkansas State Board of Health was held on Thursday, July 23, 2026, in Freeway Medical Tower located at 5800 West Tenth Street in Little Rock, Arkansas.

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Brad Erney, President, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:59 a.m., and asked for a roll call which was conducted by Chief Legal Counsel Reginald Rogers. Mr. Rogers advised President Erney that there was a quorum.

President Erney asked everyone to introduce themselves due to the addition of new members to the Board.

Mr. Rogers advised members of recording of the meeting and the recording must be maintained for at least one year and is subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Darlene moved, and Dr. James Zini seconded, that the Minutes of the April 23, 2026, Quarterly Meeting be approved. The motion carried by unanimous vote, including those members present and those attending remotely.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Naveen Patil, Deputy State Health Officer, presented Stead Scholars, undergraduate students who rotate with the Arkansas Department of Health during the summer, who were in attendance. Dr. Stead is known worldwide for his innovations in the field of medicine.

Dr. Patil presented eight County Health Officers for reappointment and one for appointment. Dr. James Zini moved and Dr. Blake Torres, seconded the appointments. The motion carried by unanimous vote, including those members present and those attending remotely.

Dr. Patil explained the purpose of a county health officer for the new Board members.

COMMITTEE OF PLUMBING EXAMINERS APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Ralph McClenahan, Inspector Supervisor for Protective Health Codes, presented Christopher West for appointment to the Committee. Dr. Chris Cathey moved and Dr. Keith Davis seconded,

the appointment. The motion carried by unanimous vote, including those members present and those attending remotely.

Mr. McClenahan presented Gregory Dillett with an appointment to the Committee. Dr. Davis moved and Dr. Byrd seconded, the appointment. The motion carried by unanimous vote, including those members present and those attending remotely.

REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES CLINICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Christy Kresse, Section Chief for Section of Emergency Medical Services presented the prehospital blood administration pilot. Dr. Zini moved and Dr. Speights seconded, the approval. The motion carried by unanimous vote, including those members present and those attending remotely.

Ms. Kresse presented the finger thoracostomy pilot. Dr. Speights moved and Dr. Zini seconded, the approval. The motion carried by unanimous vote, including those members present and those attending remotely.

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION FOR DREW COUNTY LOCAL GRANT TRUST FUND COMMITTEE (LGFT) AWARD

Mr. James Joiner, Facilities Manager, made a correction to the award amount. Mr. Joiner then requested an extension for the Drew County Local Grant Trust Fund Committee Award. Mr. Bailey moved and Dr. Zini seconded the approval. The motion carried by unanimous vote, including those members present and those attending remotely.

OTHER BUSINESS

Cristy Sellers, Director, Division of Health Advancement, presented an overview of the Division.

PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCE AND PROGRAM UPDATES

Dr. Erney stated an error was made to the Arkansas Licensed Lay Midwife Data Summary Report. The years should be 2021-2024, not 2021-2023.

Tammy Driggers, Registered Nurse, Family Health Section gave an update of the report.

Dr. Bala Simon, Deputy Chief Medical Officer and State Chronic Disease Director presented an update to the Acute Stroke Task Force.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Erney commented a signup sheet had been passed around for subcommittees of the Board. President Erney read the description of the Nominating Committee.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Renee Mallory was having difficulty remoting into the meeting and therefore no Secretary's Report was given.

Dr. Jennifer Dillaha reminded all to be mindful of the heat and that our communities are suffering.

Dr. Zini asked that the Stead Scholars introduce themselves and where they are from.

Dr. Zini moved, and Dr. Torres seconded, for adjournment. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 12:28.

Dr. Brad Erney, President
Arkansas State Board of Health