

**MINUTES OF THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
QUARTERLY MEETING
July 24, 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Darren Flamik, MD, President
Brad Erney, DMD, President Elect
Renee Mallory, RN, Secretary of Health
Loy Bailey, RS
Robert Bonner, DVM
Darlene Byrd, DNP
Chris Cathey, DC
Lane Crider, PE
Dwayne Daniels, MD
Keith Davis, MD
Justin Franks, OD PA
Phillip Gilmore, PhD
Tina Ipe, MD
Anthony Hui, MD
Laura Moore, MD
Donald Ragland
Jim Terry
Blake Torres, PharmD
Clay Waliski
James Zini, DO

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mellie Bridewell
David Kiessling, MD

GUESTS PRESENT

Jennifer Dillaha, MD, ADH Director,
Secretary of AR Board of Health
Kay Chandler, MD, Surgeon General
Don Adams, ADH, Chief of Staff
Cassie Cochran, ADH, Deputy Director
for Public Health Programs
Bala Simon, MD, ADH, Deputy Chief
Medical Science Officer
Adelia Oldenbroek, ADH, Health
Physicist Supervisor
Laura Shue, ADH, Chief General
Counsel
Reginald Rogers, ADH, Deputy General
Counsel
Mike Wilson, ADH
Charles Thompson, ADH, Attorney
Connie Melton, ADH, Director, Division
Officer for Health Protection
Cristy Sellers, ADH, Director, Division,
for Health Advancement
Austin Porter, DrPH, MPH, ADH, Chief
Science Officer and State
Epidemiologist
Matt Gilmore, ADH, Public Health
Programs Policy Coordinator
Shane David, PharmD
Branch Chief, Health Systems
Licensing and Regulations
Jeremy Courtney, ADH Director,
Division of Public Health Practice
Jomeka Edwards, ADH, Public Health
Section Chief
Brian Nichols, ADH, Attorney
Deborah Reagan, ADH, Attorney
S. Craig Smith, ADH, Attorney
Chuck Hardin, ADH, Attorney, Privacy
Officer
Karla Lock, ADH, BOH of Health Liaison
Charles Bedell, MD, MPH, Branch
Manager, Personal Care Services
Kelli Kersey, ADH, Director,
Cosmetology Board
Kelli Adcock, ADH, Senior
Environmental Health Specialist

Katie Seely, Ph.D, ADH, Director, PHL
Steven Speer, ADH, Computer Support
Specialist
Shirley Louie, ADH,
Nuclear/Radiological and
Environmental Liaison Officer
ChyChy Smith, Ph.D, MPH, ADH,
Director, Office of Health Disparities
Elimination
Hattie Scribner, ADH, Branch Manager
Naveen Patil, ADH, Deputy State Health
Officer
Amanda Hunter, ADH, Program Nurse
Coordinator
Sherian Kwanisai, ADH, Director,
Center for Local Public Health
Savanna Ledford, ADH, Deputy Chief
Science Officer
Christy Kreese, ADH, EMS Section
Chief
Bernie Bevill, ADH, Section Chief,
Radiation Control
Liyah Wasson, ADH, Breastfeeding
Peer Counselor
Olivia Norman, ADH, Stead Scholar
Karhiya Woods, ADH, Stead Scholar
Reha Nunna, ADH Stead Scholar
Emily Berry, ADH, Stead Scholar
Brianna Winters, ADH, Stead Scholar
Hannah Davison, ADH, Stead Scholar
Joni Yarnell, ADH Women's Health
Nell Smith, DHS
Crystal McMuntry, DHS
Steffie Tuesink, Optum
Adrienne Nevola, UAMS
Haley Cormican, AACF
Lori Ross, Doula Alliance of AR

The quarterly meeting of the Arkansas State Board of Health was held on Thursday, July 24, 2025, in the Main Conference Room, Room 906, at the Freeway Medical Tower Building in Little Rock, Arkansas.

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Darren Flamik, President, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m., and asked for a roll call which was conducted by General Counsel Laura Shue.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Lane Crider moved, and Dr. Phillip Gilmore seconded, that the Minutes of April 24, 2025, Quarterly Meeting be approved. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Business Board

PROPOSED AMENDED BYLAWS

Ms. Shue presented amended bylaws of the Board of Health, which were reviewed and approved by the executive committee. The amendments consisted of clarifying attending remotely for a quorum, removal of Legislative Committee, and clarifying Nominating Committee. The reminder announcement was made for nominations for President-Elect for the next year by the end of the October meeting. By December 15 of each year, the Nominating Committee will meet to discuss forwarding a nomination to the full Board of Health prior to the January meeting. There is a rotation between medical doctors, MDs and DOs, and non-medical doctors for nominations for President for 2027, which are due by the end of the October meeting. There being no questions, Dr. Flamik called for a motion for approval of the amended bylaws. Dr. Anthony Hui moved, and Dr. Gilmore seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMITTEE OF PLUMBING EXAMINERS NOMINATION

Mr. Terry Paul, Environmental Health Branch Chief, presented Mr. Ralph McClenahan, new plumbing inspector supervisor, to introduce their candidate for the Committee of Plumbing Examiners board nomination. Mr. McClenahan presented Mr. Ronald Wheelless as nominee for a consumer representative. He will replace Ms. Betty Burlison. Dr. Flamik moved for approval of nomination of Mr. Ronald Wheelless. Dr. Gilmore moved and Dr. Keith Davis seconded the nomination. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Austin Porter, Chief Science Officer and State Epidemiologist, first recognized Stead Scholars who were present. Dr. Porter presented Dr. Michael Fakouri for reappointment in Drew County and Dr. Carlos Rocha to Polk County. Dr. Porter presented Dr. Chadwick Masters for new appointment to Pope County. Dr. Flamik called for a motion on the nomination of Dr. Chadwick Masters. Dr. Zini moved and Mr. Loy Bailey seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote. Dr. Flamik called for a motion on the nomination of Dr. Carlos Rocha. Mr. Donald Ragland moved, and Dr. Zini seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote. Dr. Flamik called for a motion on the nomination of Dr. Michael Fakouri. Dr. Zini moved, and Dr. Hui seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Renee Mallory, Secretary of Health, introduced Dr. Porter as our new Chief Science Officer and State Epidemiologist, replacing Dr. Sima as State Epidemiologist and Dr. Zohoori as Chief Science Officer.

APPOINTEES TO COSMETOLOGY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ms. Kelli Kersey, Section Chief, Cosmetology, Body Art, Massage Therapy, requested approval of eleven appointments to Cosmetology Technical Advisory Committee. Dr. Flamik called for a motion. Dr. Gilmore moved and Dr. Zini seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

RULES FOR COSMETOLOGY AND BODY ART IN ARKANSAS

Ms. Kersey proposed amendment to the rules for Cosmetology and Body Art. Dr. Flamik asked for a brief review of the changes. After the review, Dr. Flamik called for a motion for acceptance of the new rules. Dr. Cathey moved and Mr. Bailey seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

RULES FOR MASSAGE THERAPY

Ms. Kersey presented changes to the rules for Massage Therapy. Dr. Flamik called for a motion to accept the changes to the rules. Dr. Zini moved and Dr. Gilmore seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

RULES FOR ARKANSAS KIDNEY DISEASE PROGRAM

Dr. Charles Bedell, Branch Chief, Personal Cares Services, requested approval to proceed with revisions to the Arkansas Kidney Disease Program. Dr. Flamik called for a motion. Mr. Crider moved and Dr. Zini seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

RULES PERTAINING TO RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY LICENSURE

Mr. Bernie Bevill, Section Chief, Radiation Control, brought proposed changes to the rules pertaining to radiologic technology licensure. Dr. Flamik called for a motion to accept the rule changes. Dr. Zini moved and Mr. Bailey seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

RULES PERTAINING TO CONTROL OF SOURCES OF IONIZING RADIATION

Ms. Adelia Oldenbroek, Mammography and X-Ray Manager, Radiation Control, requested approval to proceed with rule changes to control of sources of ionizing radiation. Dr. Flamik called for a motion to accept the rule changes. Dr. Robert Bonner moved, and Dr. Blake Torres seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

RULES PERTAINING TO COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

Ms. Cristy Sellers, Division Director, Division of Health Advancement, presented rule changes pertaining to community health workers. After discussion, Dr. Flamik called for a motion to accept the rule changes. Mr. Bailey moved, and Dr. Zini seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

RULES PERTAINING TO DOULA CERTIFICATION

Ms. Sellers presented rule changes pertaining to doula certification. After discussion, Dr. Flamik called for a motion to accept the rule changes. Mr. Bailey moved and Dr. Zini seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

RULES PERTAINING TO FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

Mr. Jeff Jackson, Public Health Section Chief, requested approval of the rules pertaining to food establishments. After discussion, Dr. Flamik called for a motion to accept the rule changes. Dr. Zini moved, and Mr. Clay Waliski seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

RULES FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Ms. Christy Kresse, Emergency Medical Services Section Chief, requested approval of the rules for emergency medical services. After discussion, Dr. Flamik called for a motion to accept the rule changes. Dr. Gilmore moved and Dr. Byrd seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

EMS DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

Craig Smith, Attorney, presented a disciplinary action on Stormy Smith and noted that the Omar Pena-Romero disciplinary action will be revisited at the October meeting. Mr. Smith thanked members of the administrative hearing subcommittee, Drs. Flamik, Ernie and Gilmore, for their time.

Ms. Stormy Smith was cited for a failed drug test. The subcommittee adopted and submitted to the Board a disciplinary action that includes a six-month suspension, to start at the date of the administrative hearing. During that time, the licensee will be required to complete an evaluation--psychological and addiction assessment. She must complete two hours of ethics and professionalism continuing education in addition to what is required for this year and have an attestation that she will be ready to return to work before that suspension is lifted. After the suspension, there will be a twelve (12) month probationary period, which is consistent with how similar issues have been addressed. Mr. Smith noted that Ms. Smith was not present at the Board meeting, in person nor virtual. After discussion, Dr. Flamik called for a motion to accept the administrative hearing results. Mr. Donald Ragland moved, and Dr. Cathy seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

No program updates.

DIVISION/ OFFICE UPDATES

No program updates.

PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCE AND PROGRAM UPDATES

2021-2023 ARKANSAS LICENSED LAY MIDWIFE DATA SUMMARY REPORT

Ms. Joni Yarnell, APRN with UAMS, serves as a consultant for the lay midwife program. The report is required to be published every year. The data for that comes from monthly reports that lay midwives provide and is compiled in the summary report. There are two tables provided as summaries, which both cover a three-year period. The first one shows the number of lay midwives that are licensed in the state, the number of births they attempted, and number of perinatal and maternal deaths that were reported for each of those years. The second table provides more detailed information about the number of clients seen that entered their care, the ones who transferred out, and the number of out-of-hospital births that they attended.

Discussion regarding the tables was had. Dr. Austin Porter stated that the matter of increased risks of individuals who used a lay midwife for birth or if there are significant benefits can be reviewed and presented to the Board at a later time.

ACUTE STROKE TASK FORCE UPDATE

Dr. Bala Simon, Deputy Chief Medical Officer and State Chronic Disease Director, gave an update on the acute stroke task force. Every year, close to 1800 Arkansans die due to stroke and close to 10,000 Arkansans are admitted with suspected strokes. Dramatic progress has been made since the early 2010s when Arkansas was number one in the nation, until now number nine or ten. This could be attributed to the work of the Acute Stroke Task Force created through Act 663 by the Arkansas state legislature. Part of the legislative requirement is to provide an annual update to the Board of Health on some of the activities. This past fiscal year, '24-'25, the Task Force worked with the Arkansas Department of Health and their partners in pushing the acute stroke-ready hospital designation across rural Arkansas. In 2017, the governor kicked off Arkansas Stroke Ready Hospital Designation program, which is a complimentary program to that of the joint commission but at the state level where the Department of Health would designate rural hospitals for stroke care performance. There are no fees with the voluntary program.

Through leadership and staff at the Health Department and working with the Task Force, close to 30 rural hospitals are now designated. The past year, four new hospitals, Baptist Van Buren, Mena, North Arkansas Regional in Harrison and Saline Memorial were designated. Four other facilities were re-designated, which happens every three years. The Task Force chose to address the burden in Arkansas through a systems approach lens where we would address the hospital systems, the EMS and the communities. This is at the hospital level. The Department also secured a \$3.3 million grant, which is a very competitive grant that only twelve states were awarded. The Department, along with the Task Force, launched the first statewide stroke dashboard, designed to review stroke date, risk factors, patient outcomes for both health care providers and the public to see. At the EMS level, six years ago, Arkansas became the first state to roll out a pre-notification system, the Pulsara app. One hundred nine EMS agencies and 92 hospitals are participating in the pre-notification.

While the stroke mortality rate overall in the nation has declined, Arkansas has seen decline, but not statistically different from last year to this year. However, the defect-free measure, which are the hospital measures, show a significant improvement from 62% in 2019 to close to 78% in 2024. One of the problematic trends in Arkansas is the shift in the stroke. It appears the shift of 50s and 60s is now in 40s and 50s. From the prevention aspect, the Department of Health was

able to secure a CDC Public Health Infrastructure Grant to install self-monitoring blood pressure kiosks in the waiting area each of all local health units. We have 94 and have installed 90. The remaining kiosks are in the WIC units. There are close to 165,000 adults visiting our local health units, local health unit staff and the public to access Monday through Friday during the opening hours who can come and check their blood pressure.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Darren Flamik reminded the Board members of the County Health Officers meeting of September 26-28. Registration ends August 8 and encouraged Board members to attend. Dr. Flamik welcomed new appointments (Dr. Darlene Byrd, Dr. Keith Davis, Dr. Tina Ipe, and Dr. Laura Moore) and re-appointment of Dr. James Zini and allowed them to introduce themselves. He recognized Dr. Anthony Hui for 25 years of service on the Board of Health.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Renee Mallory thanked all Board members for agreeing to serve. She stated that a lot of work is done at the Department and hopes that the Board members will take an interest. She reiterated the reminder about the County Health Officers' meeting. Secretary Mallory talked about the amount of effort it takes during the legislative session and recognized the staff at the Department.

Dr. Flamik encouraged new board members to sign up for a subcommittee and circulated the list of those subcommittees.

Dr. Zini moved and Dr. Torres seconded for the adjournment of the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 12:46.



Dr. Darren Flamik, President
Arkansas State Board of Health

