

**NORTHEAST TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
January 29, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Northeast Texas Public Health District Board of Directors was held on January 29, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., 315 North Broadway, Genecov Room, Tyler, Texas with the following present:

Board Members:	Laura Newsome, Chair	
	Jessica Bowen, MSN, R.N.	
	Kent Boozer, D.D.S., Sec.	absent
	Jeremy Butler	
	Cynthia Ball, D.O.	
	Scott Williams	absent
	Nancy Rangel	absent
	Pam Cunningham	
	Mike McCrady	

Chief Executive Officer:	George T. Roberts, Jr.
Smith County Health Authority:	Jose Serpa Alvarez, M.D.
Chief Financial Officer:	Lawanda Owens
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Director:	Dusty Gonzalez
Immunizations/TB Program Director:	Sylvia Warren, R.N.
Environmental Health Director:	Ginger Points, R.S.
Community Outreach Director:	Terrence Ates
Vital Statistics Director:	Rosie Meza
Human Resources Director:	Dawn Strickland
Interim Laboratory Director:	Amanda Catlin
WIC Director:	Tecora Smith
Legal:	Gary Landers
Recorder:	Janie Jolly

Guests:	Liz Villalobos, MD
	Fariba Yazdanp, MD
	Gold Uzochukwu, MD
	Jason Phung, MD
	Srishti Goal, MD
	Alex de Ravel

The meeting was called to order by Laura Newsome, Chair, at 5:00 p.m.

INVOCATION- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the invocation was given by George Roberts.

VISION/MISSION

The Vision and Mission of the Northeast Texas Public Health District was recited by all in attendance.

HEALTH AUTHORITY REPORT by JOSE SERPA, MD

Dr. Serpa gave the Health Authority Report to the Board. Dr. Serpa began his report by informing the Board on the latest NET Health Disease Surveillance Report. There were 88 disease cases investigated during December 2025. 19 Campylobacter, 16 Hepatitis C, and 17 Streptococcus. The Texas Respiratory Illness Dashboard showed a slight increase in January for Influenza. Covid 19 and RSV cases remained low. Hospitalizations mirrored the Respiratory Dashboard with the majority of hospitalizations being due to Influenza. Covid 19 and RSV did not increase in January.

Dr. Serpa reported on the recent CDC Outbreaks List citing Salmonella in Super Greens Supplement Powder in January 2026. On January 15, 2026, Superfoods Inc. recalled all Super Greens supplement powders in both bags and sticks. Epidemiologic data showed that Super Green supplement powders may be contaminated with Salmonella Typhimurium. Illnesses were reported from August to December 2025. There were 41 people impacted, and of these, 12 individuals were hospitalized. No deaths have been reported.

Dr. Serpa reported that DSHS is implementing the Anti-Rabies Program to include vaccine bait distribution in El Paso, Texas. In addition to aerial bait distribution, which occurs along much of the Texas-Mexico border, rabies vaccine baits will also be distributed by hand in targeted areas around the city.

Dr. Serpa concluded his report with an update on Influenza so far in the 2025-2026 season. The CDC estimates 19,000 flu infections; 250,000 hospitalizations; and 10,000 deaths. There have been 44 reported influenza-associated pediatric deaths reported to the CDC. Among children who were eligible for influenza vaccination and with known vaccine status, approximately 90% of reported pediatric deaths occurred in those not fully vaccinated against influenza.

The Board thanked Dr. Serpa for his report.

MINUTES

Motion made by Mike McCrady to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2025, regular meeting; seconded by Cynthia Ball; motion carried; approved as presented.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

For the month of November 2025, we had revenues of \$1,099,123 which was \$86,476 over budget. Expenses were \$1,089,875, which was \$61,546 over budget. Our net income for the month of November 2025 was \$9,248, which was \$24,930 over budget.

For the month of December 2025, we had revenues of \$1,418,135 which was \$51,168 over budget. Expenses were \$1,335,529 which was \$3,657 over budget. Our net income for the month of December 2025 was \$82,606 which was \$47,511 over budget.

For FY 2026, we have revenues of \$3,776,745 which was \$166,535 over budget. Expenses were \$3,490,927 which was \$109,577 over budget. Our net income for the first 3 months of FY 2026 was \$285,818 which was \$56,958 over budget.

Motion by Jeremy Butler to approve the November 2025 and December 2025 financial report; seconded by Mike McCrady; motion carried; approved as presented.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Mr. Roberts gave his report to the Board. Mr. Roberts thanked Dusty Gonzales for her participation in the Emergency Operations calls during the bad weather days. He stated that we work with sheltering if there is a need, and thankfully there was none. Cherokee and Rusk Counties had the most power outages during the snow/ice storm.

Mr. Roberts informed the Board that it is renewal time for the NET Health Employee Health Insurance. He stated that a 15% increase in employee health insurance costs was budgeted in 2026. We put the program out for bid and we are going to switch to United Health Care for medical as we will receive a 16% decrease in premiums for this next year. We will remain with BCBS for Dental, Vision, and Life. Open enrollment is underway now for a March 1st start date. Mr. Roberts stated that Pharmaceuticals could be increased somewhat but overall Employee cost is going down.

Mr. Roberts informed the Board that our grant funding for FY 26 is coming in positive.

Mr. Roberts stated that information regarding Strategic Planning will be brought to the Board at the February Board meeting.

Mr. Roberts reported that the Health Foundation of East Texas is funding the “Blue Zone” initiative for Tyler. “Blue Zones” are a community lead well-being, improvement initiative designed to make healthy choices easier through using permanent changes to a cities environment policy and social networks. Initially, the idea for “Blue Zone” came from looking at communities throughout the world where that had a number of community members living 100 years of age and beyond. One of these initial communities is Loma Linda California. Fort Worth, TX went through the “Blue Zone” analysis and work starting in 2013. A meeting is being scheduled for Tuesday, February 3 to bring the “Blue Zone” concept to group of Tyler community leaders. We will have more to come on this topic in the coming days.

Mr. Roberts concluded his report reminding the Board of the Fit City Health and Wellness Expo on April 7th, 2026, from 4-7 pm at the Tyler Rose Garden.

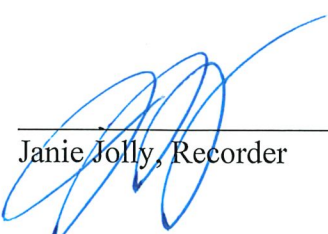
ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting of the Northeast Texas Public Health District Board of Directors adjourned at 5:47 pm, and Laura Newsome, Chair, stated the Board would immediately convene in Executive Session. Any vote or action taken will be made when the Board returns to open session.

The Board reconvened in open session at 6:08 pm, and Ms. Newsome stated that no action was taken in Executive Session.

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 pm.

THE NEXT NET HEALTH BOARD MEETING IS THURSDAY, FEBUARY 26, 2026.



Janie Jolly, Recorder



Kent Boozer, Secretary
NET Health Board of Directors