

**NORTHEAST TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
March 25, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Northeast Texas Public Health District Board of Directors was held on March 25, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., Center for Healthy Living, 2815 Frankston Hwy, Tyler, Texas with the following present:

Board Members: Laura Newsome, Chair absent
 Jessica Bowen, MSN, R.N.
 Kent Boozer, D.D.S., Sec. absent
 Jeremy Butler
 Cynthia Ball, D.O.
 Scott Williams
 Nancy Rangel
 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
Environmental Health Director: Ginger Points
Community Outreach Director: Terrence Ates
 Vital Statistics Director: Rosie Meza absent
 Human Resources Director: Dawn Strickland absent
Interim Laboratory Director: Amanda Catlin absent
 WIC Director: Tecora Smith
 Legal: Gary Landers
Recorder: Janie Jolly

Guests: Joy Johnson
 Liz Villalobos, MD
 Fariba Yazdanp, MD
 Jason Phung, MD
 Jonathan Hudson, MD
 Khari Wright, MD

The meeting was called to order by Scott Williams, Vice-Chair, at 5:02 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.

PRESENTATION, THE CENTER FOR HEALTHY LIVING, by JOY JOHNSON

Joy Johnson gave a report to the Board regarding the Center for Healthy Living. The Center for Healthy Living is a free health education and resource center designed to empower residents of East Texas to make healthier choices for a healthier life. Ms. Johnson spoke about the Breast Cancer and Cervical Cancer (BCCS) Program stating that approximately 463 clients are seen each year with that number increasing year over year. Ms. Johnson stated that the client demographics for this program have an average income of \$850 per month, they are 55% unemployed and 76% minority. BCCS enables low-income women to have access to high quality screening and diagnostic services for breast and cervical cancer. This program is accomplished through an extensive network of contractors and private and public stakeholders. With partners such as Tyler Circle Family of Care and Titus Regional Medical Center, referrals have risen 130%. NET Health has been a contractor with BCCS since 2009.

Ms. Johnson also spoke about the other services and programs at the Center for Healthy Living including Diabetes screening, blood pressure and blood sugar screenings. Each Tuesday at 5:30 pm, there is a free 1-hour session for persons with Type-2 Diabetes. Clients are highly encouraged to bring their spouse, caretaker, family and friends. The Center for Healthy Living offers meal planning, physical activity, education about medication and medical care, and monitoring of the body. There are approximately 5,000 clients are seen each year.

Ms. Johnson concluded the report by stating the Center for Healthy Living has gained the trust in the community and referrals are increasing greatly. The Board thanked Ms. Johnson for her report.

HEALTH AUTHORITY REPORT by JOSE SERPA, MD

Dr. Serpa gave the Health Authority Report to the Board. Dr. Serpa reported on the Northeast Texas Public Health District Disease Surveillance, February 2026 report stating that there were 81 disease cases being investigated. Of those, 16 were Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales, (CRE) and 27 were Hepatitis C cases. The Texas Respiratory Illness Dashboard for Emergency Department visits for March is trending downward for RSV, Influenza, and Covid-19. The

hospital rates for March are also trending downward.

Dr. Serpa informed the Board of the of the CDC Outbreaks listed for February and March. In February 2026, Salmonella was found in the Moringa Leaf Powder Capsules and were recalled. In March 2026, E Coli was found in Raw Cheddar Cheese and certain products were recalled. In the raw cheddar cheese instances, there were 7 cases, 2 hospitalizations, 0 deaths, and 3 states, Texas, California, and Florida. Dr. Serpa stated that the CDC recommends that while this investigation is ongoing, consider not eating affected cheese from the brands that he noted. If one has come in contact with the affected cheese, consider washing items and surfaces that may have touched the cheese using hot soapy water or a dishwasher.

Dr. Serpa stated that if a diagnosis of E coli has been determined stay hydrated, avoid antibiotics and antimotility agents. Most people will recover without treatment after 5-7 days. Dr. Serpa emphasized proper food handling, cooking, and hygiene. The Board thanked Dr. Serpa for his report.

MINUTES

Motion made by Mike McCrady to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2026, regular meeting; seconded by Jeremy Butler; motion carried; approved as presented.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

For the month of February 2026, we had revenues of \$1,020,922 which was \$109,808 over budget. Expenses were \$1,010,946 which was \$86,636 over budget. Our net income for the month of February 2026 was \$9,976, which was \$23,172 over budget.

For FY 2026 YTD, we have revenues of \$5,800,809 which was \$317,698 over budget. Expenses were \$5,519,915 which was \$216,091 over budget. Our net income for the first 5 months of FY 2026 was \$280,894, which was \$101,607 over budget.

Motion by Nancy Rangel to approve the February 2026 financial report; seconded by Pam Cunningham; motion carried; approved as presented.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Mr. Roberts gave his report to the Board. He mentioned the following:

1. Mr. Roberts recognized Dusty Gonzalez as the permanent Director of Public Health emergency Preparedness.
2. He mentioned Fit City Health & Wellness Expo that will be held at the Tyler Rose Garden on Tuesday, April 7th, from 4-7pm. He mentioned all the sponsors and thanked those that were in attendance. He stated that Yoga would be offered at 4pm provided by Texas Spine & Joint Hospital, and "Walk with a Doc" at 5pm and Zumba at 6pm.

Everyone participating will receive their own Fit City Passport which will document their health screenings throughout the Expo. He encouraged all the Board to attend.

3. Mr. Roberts informed the Board that Public Health Week will be celebrated April 6th – 12th. He mentioned the Resolution and Proclamation by the City and County observing Public Health Week. He spoke of all the events occurring during the week.
4. Mr. Roberts concluded his report by mentioning the Employee Appreciation Luncheon that will be on Friday May 1st at The Villa.

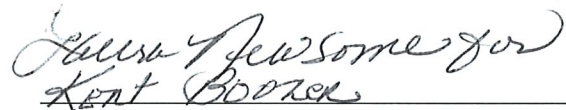
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 pm.

THE NEXT NET HEALTH BOARD MEETING IS THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026.



Jamie Jolly, Recorder



Kent Boozer, Secretary
NET Health Board of Directors