STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
123 Robert S. Kerr
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

I. Call to Order

Chairman Storms called the meeting to order on Friday, March 13th at 10:05 a.m.

II. Roll Call and Confirmation of a Quorum

Board members present: Dr. Duininck, Mr. Hartgraves, Dr. Krishna, Mr. McCroskey, Dr. Storms, Dr. Sudduth, Dr. Whittington

Board members absent: Dr. Wolff, Dr. Krishna

Central staff present: Commissioner Keith Reed, Brandie Combs, Baylee Williams, Ryon Fields, Jackie Kanak, Roseangela Miguel, Lisa Rother Roy Walker, Lisa Leeper-Martinez, Kelli Rader, Jasmine Brawner, Dr. Gitanjali Pai, Buffy Heater, Molly Clinkscales.

III. Review, Discussion and Approval of Minutes for the February 21, 2025 Regular Meeting

Dr. Whittington moved board approval of the February 21, 2025, minutes as presented. Second Dr. Storms. Motion carried.

Aye: Dr. Lim, Mr. McCroskey, Dr. Storms, Dr. Sudduth, Dr. Whittington
Absent: Dr. Lim, Dr. Wollf
Abstain: Dr. Duininck, Mr. Hartgraves

IV. Review, Discussion and Approval of Minutes for the August 15, 2025 Regular Meeting

Dr. Duininck moved board approval of the August 15, 2025, minutes as presented. Second Dr. Sudduth. Motion carried.

Aye: Dr. Duininck, Mr. Hartgraves, Dr. Krishna, Mr. McCroskey, Dr. Storms, Dr. Sudduth, Dr Whittington
Absent: Dr. Lim, Dr. Wolff
Abstain:

V. **Commissioner's Report –** Keith Reed, *Commissioner*

Commissioner Keith Reed provided agency updates, including staffing, leadership, operational, and programmatic updates across OSDH.

Commissioner Reed reported that agency FTE counts have been reduced in alignment with the Governor's Executive Order to return staffing levels closer to 2019 benchmarks. OSDH is currently operating at approximately 1,700 FTEs, compared to approximately 1,600 FTEs in 2019. Staffing associated with the 2025 transition OCA from DHS to OSDH as well as newly hired staff to support the Rural Health Transformation Project (RHTP) does not count against the

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agency's FTE totals. Approximately 50 positions were reduced through a Reduction in Force (RIF) associated with federal funding changes, with additional reductions achieved through attrition and operational efficiencies.

Leadership changes within the agency were also discussed. Josh Anderson, former General Counsel and Deputy Commissioner of Regulatory and Quality Assurance, has transitioned to the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA). Clay Bullard is serving as the new CEO of OHCA and as Cabinet Secretary. Jasmine Brawner has assumed the role of General Counsel for OSDH. Kelli Rader now oversees Quality Assurance and Regulatory functions. Stefan Von Dollen remains CFO and is temporarily assisting ODMH in an additional assignment, while Ryon Fields is serving as Deputy CFO and acting in an interim CFO capacity.

Commissioner Reed also provided an update on the ARPA-funded Electronic Health Record (EHR) project. Approximately two-thirds of County Health Departments have completed implementation, with the agency utilizing a phased rollout approach to address issues as they arose throughout deployment. Full implementation is anticipated by the end of May.

Additional ARPA-funded projects remain ongoing. OSDH was entrusted with approximately $120 million across multiple initiatives. Of the 30 projects, 20 have been completed, while the remaining projects are approximately 80% complete. Although the federal ARPA deadline is December 31, the Oklahoma Legislature established an end-of-June deadline to allow time for project closeout activities. Two to three programs are expected to extend slightly beyond the June deadline, and OSDH has received legislative approval for those extensions.

Commissioner Reed also discussed the agency's decision related to a federal Tobacco Grant. He noted that Oklahoma's structure is unique due to the role of TSET. Approximately 13 months ago, during a period of agency-wide staffing reductions and operational review, OSDH evaluated programs for potential overlap with efforts conducted by other agencies. Due to overlap identified within this grant area, discussions were held with TSET regarding continued necessity and alignment. The agency ultimately decided not to continue participation in the grant, citing overlap concerns and inconsistencies with certain federal grant requirements. Following the decision, the American Heart Association, American Lung Association, and American Cancer Society issued a letter expressing concern regarding the decision.

An update was also provided on America's Health Rankings. Oklahoma improved from 47th to 45th overall, with notable improvement in obesity rankings, where Oklahoma is now ranked 36th nationally.

Commissioner Reed concluded by noting that Oklahoma received the fifth-highest award nationally for the Rural Health Transformation Project (RHTP). Additional details regarding the project will be presented separately by Jackie Kanak and Lisa Rother.

VI. **Legislative Update –** Baylee Williams, *Director of Government Affairs*

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Baylee Williams provided a legislative update to the Board. She noted that approximately 2,500 bills were initially tracked about one month into the legislative session. Following the first legislative deadline, that number was reduced to approximately 400 active bills. Of the remaining legislation, approximately 260 bills were newly introduced this session, while the remainder were carryover bills introduced during the previous session.

Williams noted that OSDH did not submit any request bills this session and that the agency's role has primarily focused on providing technical assistance, feedback, and guidance on legislation as needed. She highlighted HB 3066 and HB 3975 as notable bills currently receiving agency input, both of which relate to components of the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP).

Board members asked questions regarding HB 3066, specifically related to the proposed funding mechanism associated with the bill. Discussion among Board members also included potential partnerships and initiatives with Oklahoma universities aimed at increasing the number of primary care students and strengthening the healthcare workforce pipeline. Commissioner Keith Reed discussed ongoing conversations with medical schools regarding these efforts and broader workforce development considerations.

VII. **Rural Health Transformation Update –** Jackie Kanak and Lisa Rother, RHTP Directors

Jackie and Lisa began the presentation by introducing themselves and providing the Board with an overview of their professional backgrounds and current roles within the Agency. Jackie shared details regarding her work as Director of Population Health, while Lisa discussed her responsibilities as Director of Health Systems. They explained that leadership and oversight of the various Rural Health Transformation Program initiatives are divided between their respective areas based on the focus and scope of each project.

They provided the Board with a high-level overview of the Rural Health Transformation Program and discussed the funding structure associated with the initiative. The Agency received just over $225 million in funding for the first year of the program. They explained that the initiative operates under a cooperative agreement with CMS, and future years of funding will be dependent upon the state's ability to meet performance expectations and demonstrate progress on program goals and deliverables.

Jackie and Lisa then walked through the six core initiative areas that make up the framework of the program. These initiatives include: innovating care models, moving upstream to focus on prevention and early intervention efforts, facilitating regional collaboration, shifting healthcare systems toward value-based care models, growing next-generation healthcare talent, and building a statewide health data utility.

The Board was also provided with an overview of the individual programs and projects that fall within each of the six initiative categories. Jackie and Lisa discussed current implementation efforts and shared that the Agency is nearing completion of agreement development for many of the initiatives and other administrative processes necessary to begin fully operationalizing the

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program. They noted that multiple funding opportunities are expected to be released in the near future.

Additionally, they discussed ongoing stakeholder engagement efforts and highlighted several upcoming listening sessions, educational opportunities, and learning collaboratives that are being planned to support implementation and gather feedback from communities and partners across the state. They emphasized the importance of public engagement and collaboration throughout the process and discussed efforts underway to increase awareness of the program, encourage participation, and ensure partners remain informed as implementation activities continue to move forward.

VIII. **Election of Officers –**
Dr. Bruce Storms, *Chair*
Nominated by Dr. Sudduth. Second, by Dr. Krishna. Those who voted in favor were Dr. Duininck, Mr. Hartgraves, Dr. Krishna, Mr. McCroskey, Dr. Storms, Dr. Sudduth, and Dr. Whittington.

Dr. Chris Sudduth, *Vice Chair*
Nominated by Dr. Storms. Second by Mr. McCroskey. Those who voted in favor were Dr. Duininck, Mr. Hartgraves, Dr. Krishna, Mr. McCroskey, Dr. Storms, Dr. Sudduth, and Dr. Whittington.

Dr. Jeffrey James Lim, *Secretary*
Nominated by Dr. Whittington. Second by Dr. Storms. Those who voted in favor were Dr. Duininck, Mr. Hartgraves, Mr. McCroskey, Dr. Storms, Dr. Sudduth, and Dr. Whittington.

IX. **Approval of Remaining Meeting Dates for 2026 –** Dr. Bruce Storms, *Chair*
Slated remaining meeting dates: May 15th, August 21st, November 20th

Aye: Dr. Duininck, Mr. Hartgraves, Dr. Krishna, Mr. McCroskey, Dr. Storms, Dr. Sudduth, Dr. Whittington
Absent:
Abstain:

X. **Executive Session –** Keith Reed, *Commissioner*
Dr. Duininck, Mr. Hartgraves, Dr. Krishna, Mr. McCroskey, Dr. Storms, Dr. Sudduth and Dr. Whittington were present.

Motion was made by Dr. Sudduth and seconded by Dr. Krishna to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307.

Voting Aye: Dr. Duininck, Mr. Hartgraves, Dr. Krishna, Mr. McCroskey, Dr. Storms, Dr. Sudduth and Dr. Whittington

Voting Nay:

Motion carried, and the Board entered Executive Session at 11:30.

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The Board returned to Open Session at 12:05. No action was taken while in Executive Session.

XI. New Business

No new business

XII. Adjournment

Dr. Krishna moved board approval to adjourn. Mr. Hartgraves provided a second. Motion carried.

Aye: Dr. Duininck, Mr. Hartgraves, Dr. Krishna, Mr. McCroskey, Dr. Storms, Dr. Sudduth, Dr. Whittington
Absent: Dr. Lim, Dr. Wolff

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 P.M.

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