

**BOARD OF HEALTH FOR SOMERSET COUNTY**  
**TUESDAY MAY 27, 2025**

At 2:00 pm President Charles Laird called the Board of Health for Somerset County to open in regular session. Present for today's meeting were President Charles Laird, Vice President Randy Laird, Commissioner Craig Mathies, and Commissioner Darryl Webster. Commissioner Eldon Willing was not present for today's meeting.

Also in attendance were Interim County Administrator Ernie Leatherbury and Executive Secretary Kimberly Lopez.

President Charles Laird asked for Commissioner Craig Mathies to lead those present in devotion and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Leatherbury prepared for the presentation of the proclamation for National Stroke Awareness Month; however, Ms. Lauren Hitchens, the representative from Tidal Health, was not in attendance at this time to receive it. Therefore, the proclamation presentation was placed on hold until her arrival.

Ms. Danielle Weber, Somerset County Health Officer, Ms. Christie Taylor, Somerset County Health Department Director of Administrative Services, Ms. Korey Colbert, and Ms. Leslie Leester were now before the Board to present the bi-annual update.

Ms. Leester and Ms. Colbert provided an overview of the Somerset County Health Department FY25 Performance Management Dashboard, advising that this is a newly designed element they are utilizing for tracking various programs and projects throughout the Health Department.

An update was then provided on the Federal Grant Stop Orders, with Ms. Weber advising that they have four grants that have been affected by this in the month of March. Ms. Weber continued by stating that those activities will not stop, but they will no longer be federally funded.

In regards to pending grants, Ms. Weber advised they have letters of intent for many of their State Grants but no award letters at this time. Ms. Weber and Ms. Taylor are keeping track of available funds, but they wanted to bring awareness to this as there could be changes in the future.

Ms. Weber provided a measles update, advising that there have been approximately over one thousand cases across the country with three of them in the state of Maryland (all travel

related). Ms. Weber continued by advising they are doing their best to bring awareness to this outbreak and ensure of vaccinations.

Moving on., Ms. Weber provided an update on the High Pathogen Avian Influenza that began with dairy cows and has now spread to chickens and wild fowl. Maryland has had no dairy cows or workers affected, however some chicken farms have had to depopulate due to this strain of illness.

Next, Ms. Weber advised that the Pathways Certification-Registration process has begun. She continued by stating that they are starting this from ground zero with staff working on creating policies and processes. She further advised that herself and Ms. Colbert were able to register for Pathway Certification last month and will do a readiness assessment to apply for the actual Pathway Certification in the fall. This will all lead up to and allow for accreditation.

Ms. Weber then advised that they have been funded for a HERC Grant (Health Equity Grant) that will put health workers in the community throughout different agencies (DSS, the Woodrow Wilson Building, and the Seton Center) in an effort to assist residents more easily and link them with the care they need.

Ms. Weber advised they have received funding with regards to gun violence awareness and provided information for a community event being held on June 21, 2025. More events will follow as funding becomes available to promote gun safety throughout the county. Ms. Weber also advised that law enforcement has requested gun traps (for safe handling), and future funding will allow for them to complete this request.

In regards to recreational cannabis, Ms. Weber advised that grant funding has been provided to the Health Department to promote and provide awareness for safe use of cannabis (no driving under the influence, etc.).

Ms. Weber advised that wet season is officially over and messages will be sent out advising of that. Current land evaluations are being finished up.

The meeting was then opened up for questions and comments from the members of the Board.

Commissioner Craig Mathies inquired of the amount of residence in the county that are/will be affected by the loss of federal funding. Ms. Weber advised that, as far as she's concerned, all of them but spoke on Medicaid enrolled residents and how 30% of our population are currently enrolled. Per a proposal at an earlier meeting, reliability enrollment for Medicaid is proposed to be

reviewed every six months instead of yearly moving forward. This will bring individuals in and out of eligibility, causing a strain on our health care system. Ms. Weber spoke on the proposal of penalties for any state that provides coverage for undocumented individuals. Currently Maryland provides Medicaid to undocumented pregnant women (up to four months post-partum) and the children. There is a proposed 10% penalty for states that do that and she has been informed that for Maryland that amounts to around \$400 million. Per another meeting she attended, she was informed that some of these changes won't occur until 2028/2030.

Commissioner Darryl Webster inquired if the Seton Center was closing as the concern was brought to his attention by a constituent. Ms. Weber advised it was not, however she does not have a community health worker staffed at the location at this time as she needs to hire for that position.

Vice President Randy Laird inquired if Ms. Weber was aware of any funding opportunities that could assist the county with the recent on taking of the EMS service. Ms. Weber advised that she was not aware of any at this time (CARES assisted during COVID but that was one-time funding).

Ms. Weber also advised the local abatement dollars are being used to hire new staff for the Health Department.

The Board thanked Ms. Weber and her staff for the information provided today during the bi-annual Board of Health meeting.

Mr. Leatherbury advised that Ms. Hitchens from Tidal Health was not in attendance and requested to move forward into County Commissioner Special Session.

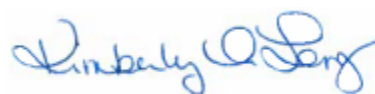
A motion was made by Vice President Randy and seconded by Commissioner Craig Mathies to adjourn Board of Health and enter into County Commissioners Special Session at 2:26 p.m. By a show of hands in favor of all present Board members, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Kimberly Lopez  
Executive Secretary