

SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR SESSION
TUESDAY OCTOBER 14, 2025

At 2:00 pm, President Charles Laird called the Somerset County Board of Health Meeting to order. Present for today's meeting were President Charles Laird, Vice President Randy Laird, Commissioner Craig Mathies, and Commissioner Eldon Willing. Commissioner Darryl Webster was absent for today's meeting.

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

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

Ms. Danielle Weber, Somerset County Health Officer, Ms. Christie Taylor, Somerset County Health Department Director of Administrative Services, and Ms. Korey Colbert, Somerset County Health Department Health Planner, were now before the Board to present their annual report for FY2025.

The board was advised that the report is organized around four core priority areas, each derived from the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP): Healthcare Access, Communication, Employee Morale, and Workforce Development. Following this brief introduction, Ms. Weber turned the presentation over to Ms. Colbert where a report was provided for board members to review and follow along.

Ms. Colbert began with Priority 1, which addresses the top health issues in Somerset County (access to care, behavioral health, and chronic disease) identified in the CHNA. The following stats and information were provided for the board:

- **Migrant Camp Referrals:** Referrals increased from 127 (FY24) to 184 (FY25), indicating expanded access to services.
- **SCHD Medical Transportation:** 8,728 one-way medical trips were provided for non-emergency Medicaid clients, with drivers often beginning work as early as 3:00 AM to accommodate dialysis and other critical appointments. (It was clarified that the "one-way" medical trips are in fact roundtrip).
- **Somerset Garden Project:** In partnership with ECI, 14,364 pounds of produce were harvested, exceeding last year's total by over 400 pounds.
- **SCHD Wellness Van:** The van is now fully operational and provides health screenings, immunizations, and reproductive health services at rotating community locations.
- **Narcan Training:** 264 individuals trained in FY25.
- **Harm Reduction Vending Machines:** Two new machines were installed, bringing the countywide total to five. These provide discreet 24/7 access to Narcan, hygiene kits, condoms, and other health supplies. The board was advised that the most frequently used vending machine, located at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Crisfield, is temporarily offline due to structural constraints but will soon be

sheltered with a newly constructed awning to improve weather resistance. In the interim, alternate Narcan access points have been provided (at the Health Department and Library).

- **Treatment and Recovery Outcomes:** 8 individuals linked to treatment, 5 individuals reported over 6 months in recovery, 0% of individuals returned into homelessness within two years.
- **HERC Grant:** A \$1.7 million grant was awarded and will be implemented over five years to expand services by community health workers.
- **Public Health Education:** 2,000 youth and adults received tobacco prevention education through community engagement and outreach.
- **Vaccination and Dental Services:** 400 flu vaccines administered in county schools, 600 children referred for dental sealants, and 2,500 communicable disease services delivered

Moving on, Ms. Colbert provided an update on Priority 2, which addresses improvement with internal and external communication. In FY25, SCHD participated in the PH Wins survey that was distributed via web survey to nearly 1,200 local health departments in 49 states. The survey collected employees' perspectives on engagement, satisfaction, intention to leave, training, and workplace infrastructure. The survey highlights are as follows:

- 97% reported high job satisfaction
- 96.5% felt a strong sense of belonging within their teams
- 90% believed resources are aligned with community needs

External Communication Improvements included: LEP (Limited English Proficiency) services rose to 1,200 encounters, and 99.9% of publication requests were fulfilled within 10 days.

Priority 3 addressed Employee Morale, with the SCHD launching a Wellness Committee that focused on wellness initiatives to support the physical and mental health of SCHD staff, consisting of 15 activities ranging from yoga and healthy eating to candle-making and financial literacy. Employee recognition programs were also created: Somerset Salute (recognition by peers), Standing Ovation (recognition by management), and Shout Out (recognition by health officer).

Lastly, Ms. Colbert provided information on Priority 4 which addressed Workforce Development. The board was advised that a new employee intranet was launched as a centralized hub for forms, policies, newsletters, and resources to improve workflow and engagement.

In addition to the priorities addressed, Ms. Colbert also shared FY25 Agency Highlights, including:

- **Performance Management System:** SCHD implemented its first Performance Management System that allows division directors and program supervisors to determine what programs and measures need to be tracked and target numbers they desire to reach.

- **Gun Safety Event:** Distributed over 300 gun lock boxes at a community fair that was held to raise awareness and stop gun violence. The event featured vendors, music, and food.
- **Smith Island Health Fair:** 16 residents were served, with plans to repeat the event semi-annually.
- **Environmental Health:** Hosted two low cost rabies vaccination clinics and administered vaccinations to 283 animals.

Following Ms. Colbert’s presentation, a brief discussion was held as board members shared positive feedback from the public, particularly noting improvements in public perception of the Health Department. The board then commended Ms. Weber and her staff and thanked them for their presentation.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Commissioner Craig Mathies and seconded by Commissioner Eldon Willing to adjourn the open session of the Somerset County Board of Health and transition into Somerset County Commissioners Work Session. By a vote in favor by all present members of the Board, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Kimberly Lopez
Executive Secretary