

MINUTES
MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
January 14, 2026

The Mississippi State Board of Health met on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 in the first-floor auditorium of the Osborne Building and online at 10am.

Members Present:

Lucius M. Lampton, MD, FAAFP, Magnolia, MS – Chairman
James P. Chaney, MD, Amory, MS – Vice Chairman
Frederick B. Carlton Jr., MD, Oxford, MS
Gene B. Hubbard, Jr., Magee, MS
Thad Waites, MD, MACC, Hattiesburg, MS
Lee Ann Griffin, PharmD, Jackson, MS
John D. Davis, IV, MD, Flowood, MS
Elizabeth Edmiston, PT, Ocean Springs, MS
James L. Perry, Jackson, MS

Members Not Present:

Elayne Anthony, PhD, Madison, MS

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lucius M. Lampton, MD, FAAFP. Dr. Lampton asked everyone to stand for prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

Dr. Edney, State Health Officer, and Dr. Lampton, Chairman, presented previous Board of Health member, Mr. Robert “Bobby” Moody, with a plaque of recognition for his service and dedication to health of Mississippians during his tenure.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the October 2025 minutes. Upon motion by Ms. Elizabeth Edmiston and seconded by Dr. Rick Carlton, the motion passes.

Daniel Edney, MD, FACP, FASAM, presented the State Health Officer’s Report which included the following: preparation for the 2026 legislative session, a review of the issues faced in 2025 by the Department, an update on the Rural Health Transformation Grant, and reaccreditation accomplishments for the Office of Vital Records. Dr. Edney also discussed maternal and infant mortality health changes in the state throughout the 2025 year.

State Epidemiologist, Dr. Renia Dotson provided an update on the epidemiological statistics for the first week of January 2026. Dr. Doston discussed a drop in the rate of patients displaying influenza-like illnesses from week 53 of 2025 to week 1 of January. She also highlighted an overall decline in the amount of influenza, COVID, and RSV-like illnesses reported by the CDC.

MSDH’s Chief Financial Officer, Lucreta Tribune, provided an update on the state fiscal year 2027 budget recommendations as well as the Medical Cannabis recommendations. Overall, the

Department has requested level funding at \$594 million. The Medical Cannabis also requested level funding with \$7.787 million for the 2027 fiscal year. Updates on the renovations for the pharmacy as well as on the Underwood building were discussed.

Consent Agenda:

1. Proposed Regulations Governing the Mississippi Obstetrics (OB) System of Care
2. Proposed Amendments to the Regulations Governing Planning & Resource Development – Certificate of Need
3. Proposed Amendments to the Regulations Governing the Minimum Standards of Operation for Mississippi Hospitals
4. Proposed Amendments to the Regulations Governing Licensure of Child Care Facilities

By unanimous vote of the Board, the consent agenda was approved without further discussion.

Committee Reports

Dr. Chaney provided an update from the Maternal and Infant Health Subcommittee that included discussion of the recommendations for the OB System of Care. Dr. Edney and Dr. Chaney expressed gratitude for the individuals that have supported this ongoing effort. Dr. Chaney elaborated on what is included the OB System of Care plan – rules for both the maternal and infant side as well as outcomes measures to be studied.

Logan Dillon, Director of Government Relations, presented an update on a proposed fee increases for the Onsite Wastewater Program Sustainability which would allow for an annual 33% fee increase towards proposed statutory fees through 2028. Mr. Hubbard provided suggestions in language for legislative support moving forward.

Dr. Lampton recognized Mr. Jim Perry to provide an update from the CON Subcommittee. Mr. Perry explained the progress that CON Subcommittee members have made toward rectifying the current CON process. Mr. Perry also mentioned that the Subcommittee was asked to examine House Bill 569, which was vetoed in the 2025 legislative session by the Governor due to language disagreements. The Committee unanimously provided the following recommendations to the Board with the acknowledgement that the Committee and MSDH staff will continue to work on statutory language supporting such items:

- 1) Continuation of the Board's previously adopted proposals to amend the state code to statutorily exempt certain high-statewide need areas from the CON process. Doing so will remove what can be a costly and time-consuming hurdle for health care investments in high priority areas;
- 2) Provide an exemption to small hospitals from the CON process for dialysis and for geriatric psychiatric facilities, the Committee recommends that any licensed, acute-care 24/7 hospital holding a CON be exempt from the CON requirements for new services; and,
- 3) Removal of expenditure thresholds.

New Business

There was no discussion regarding New Business items.

Old Business

There was no discussion regarding Old Business items.

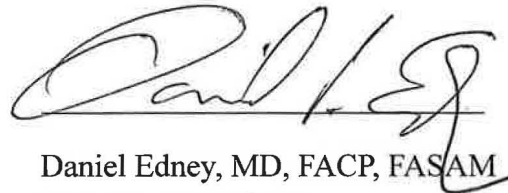
Executive Session

There was no action taken during executive session.

Technical difficulties prevented Zoom from being broadcast after Executive Session. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 pm.



Lucius M. Lampton, MD, FAAFP
Chairman



Daniel Edney, MD, FACP, FASAM
State Health Officer