

Board of Community Health
Meeting
September 11, 2025

Members Present

Roger Folsom
Tommy Hopkins
Kathleen Ruth
David Crews
Norman Boyd
Anthony Williamson

Members Absent

Cynthia Rucker
Shane Mobley

The Board of Community Health held its meeting via Zoom teleconference. (An agenda and a List of Attendees are attached hereto and made an official part of these Minutes as Attachments #1 and #2). Chairman Roger Folsom presided and called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes

The Minutes of the August 14, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.

Committee Report

David Crews, Audit Committee Chairman provided the following updates to the Board:

- 2021 Medicaid Dental Program Performance Audit:
 - Follow-up review—5 findings; 3 additional findings to be addressed.
 - Developed a structured and strategic approach to address the findings.
 - David Chong, Deputy Inspector General, reported findings from the State Auditors' FY24 Annual Audit, part of the Georgia Annual Financial Report and Single Audit.
 - 1-2 findings will be carried over to the FY25 audit.
 - The next Committee meeting will take place in December.

Opening Comments

Chairman Folsom shared the following:

- Remarks in remembrance of the 9/11 anniversary.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Burke thanked the Board, members of the public, and staff for participating via Zoom.

The following updates were provided to the Board:

- Updates on the Rural Transformation Grant project that was a part of the Reconciliation Act passed by Congress:
 - The Department received over 150 comments.
 - Having conversations with interested parties to create a package that meets the limitations of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
 - We are awaiting final guidance from CMS.
- CMS has begun approving the Direct Payment Programs (DPPs), despite not being a part of their recent announcement; we are working with them to help them understand our position.
- Recognition for employees' years of service milestones.

Emily Hatchett, Senior Policy Advisor, Medical Assistance Plans, presented to the Board for final adoption the Medical Assistance Plans, Newborn Screening Rate Change Public Notice.

Pursuant to House Bill 68 (HB68) enacted during the 2025 legislative session and pending approval by the Board and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and retroactive to August 1, 2025, the Department of Community Health (DCH) proposes to increase the reimbursement rate for the Department of Public Health (DPH) for Newborn screening. This rate increase reflects the inclusion of an additional disorder approved by the Georgia Newborn Screening Advisory Committee, retroactive to August 1, 2025.

The proposed increase reflects the inclusion of Krabbe disease as a newly approved disorder on Georgia's Newborn Screening panel, consistent with the recommendation of the Georgia Newborn Screening Advisory Committee. DPH, which has historically overseen the Newborn Screening Program, will continue to administer the program and expand the screening panel to include Krabbe disease retroactive to August 1, 2025.

As a result, the current newborn screening fee of \$80.40 will increase by \$7.93, bringing the updated fee to \$88.33. This change reflects the cost of implementing the additional test and ensures the sustainability of the expanded program.

This update continues Georgia's commitment to the early identification of potentially life-threatening genetic and metabolic conditions in newborns, supporting timely interventions and improved outcomes for infants across the state.

The fiscal impact for State Fiscal Year 2026 is as follows:

	State Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
SFY 2026	\$138,813	\$273,218	\$412,031

An opportunity for public comment was held on August 18, 2025 at 11:30 am. via Zoom. Written comments were due on or before August 25, 2025.

Oral comments received:

- None

Written comments received:

- None

Ms. Hatchett respectfully asked for the Board's favorable consideration of final adoption.

Norman Boyd MADE a MOTION to approve the Medical Assistance Plans, Newborn Screening Rate Change Public Notice. Kathleen Ruth SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 7, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED.

(A copy of the Medical Assistance Plans, Newborn Screening Rate Change Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #3).

New Business/Closing Comments

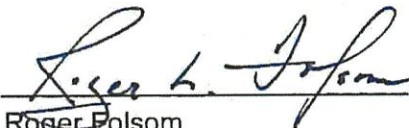
Chairman Folsom shared that the October 9 Board meeting will be held in person in Dublin, Ga.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Roger Folsom adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

THESE MINUTES ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 11th DAY OF September 2025.

Kathleen Ruth
Secretary


Roger Folsom
Chairman

Official Attachments:

- #1 Agenda
- #2 List of Attendees
- #3 Medical Assistance Plans, Newborn Screening Rate Change Public Notice