

Georgia Farmworker Health Program (GFHP) Governance Board Meeting Minutes
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, December 18, 2025

Participants Present:

Erin Lepp*
Jessica Padron*
Jennifer Dunn*
Dora Garcia*
Alma Young*
John McElveen*
Olga Contreras-Martinez*
Patrick Gallagher*
Grisdelia Domingez*
Remy Hutchins
Shelia Ramer
Tonya Cox
Chris Haught
Jennie Wren Denmark
Jaren Veal
Emma Abernathy
Pam King

Staff (present)

Tiffany Hardin, LPN, Program Director, Georgia Farmworker Health Program
Tina Register, Program Operations Specialist

Brian Annino, DCH Attorney

***Denotes Voting Board Member**

Call to Order: Board Chair Jennifer Dunn greeted everyone and thanked those who were in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 9:50AM. A quorum of voting members was present and recorded.

Meeting Minutes: There were no requests for edits to the minutes.

- *Olga Contreras-Martinez made a motion to approve November minutes.*
- *Erin Lepp provided the second.*
- *All in favor; none opposed; none abstained.*
- *Board Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.*

SORH Updates: Brian Annino then shared that all conditions have now been lifted for the Farmworker program and he thanked everyone that was involved. The notice of award has been sent showing all is lifted. He also thanked HRSA for the support that was given while working on getting the conditions lifted. They were very helpful and very supportive of the program.

SAC Application and Budget: Tiffany reported that the SAC application for the FY26-27 fiscal year has been submitted and that it was submitted 5 days early.

Finance Committee: Jennifer Dunn then presented Patrick Gallagher as the chair of the Finance committee. He then took the floor and stated that the committee needs to be formed now, and he is asking for volunteers to be on the committee. He then presented the duties of the committee and what is expected of the committee. Jennifer Dunn then stated that the committee would meet prior to the board meetings at 9:00 am on same day as board meetings. Olga Contreras-Martinez stated that she would like to join this committee and then stated her experience.

QI Committee Update: Tiffany Hardin gave a quick QI update due to Felipe Pacheco, QI board chair being absent. Felipe did send notes concerning the meeting. He let everyone know that the QI data was reviewed from the Google spreadsheet. Overall performance remains strong. Hypertension continues to remain one of the hardest challenges to maintain in the clinics. The QI committee proposed that Hypertension be the next PDSA project to focus on. The PDSA will be presented to the board in January and if approved, interventions will be implemented, and progress reports will be reported back to the board. Alma Young also noted that there is an importance of free healthcare for farmworkers, which supports access and chronic disease management and proposed to have a guest speaker at one of the QI meetings. There was also discussion of creating a questionnaire to present to the sites to get a consensus on trends that they are seeing throughout the farmworkers. There was also discussion about adding an interactive calendar for the QA community to post events and specials dates for the board members and the sites to be able to attend. Jaren Veal had also mentioned having a quality program evaluation process to include accomplishments, barriers, and to be able to report how we continue to monitor data and include our quality badges we received.

Program Updates:

Lake Park: Christy Jones then gave a report for the Lake Park clinic. They have had an increase in cold and upper respiratory infections. They did just receive a big donation of blankets from a Catholic church to give out to the farmworkers. They also had a big donation of toys that she is giving to the migrant community. She also stated that she is working UDS reports.

Decatur: Sheila Ramer stated that Chris and Tonya went to the UDS training in Atlanta and that they will present to the staff what they learned at their next staff meeting. The farmworkers have pretty much left the area and the camps are closed. They are also seeing many cases of upper respiratory infections and cold.

Pearson: No report due to R.B. Tucker being absent.

Colquitt: Remy Hutchins gave report for Colquitt. She said that Emma and many of the staff are out sick. Several of the staff did attend the UDS training in Atlanta and they are working

on the reports. They are also getting ready to get the Emory unit out more to do more comprehensive physicals and assessments.

East Georgia: Jennie Wren Denmark stated that they are seeing a lot of flu and covid with patients and staff. They now have an opening for a dentist. If they don't get one soon, they will have to close the dental portion of their care. They will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Years Day. They have had 9 camp visits with 365 medical visits and 133 chiropractic visits.

Phoebe Sumter-Ellaville: Pam King from the Phoebe Ellaville clinic stated that they have seen more flu A&B and that they have started monthly clinics at the farms so that workers would not have to leave and that it is going pretty well. They started this in November, and they have 3 farms that have committed. They hope to get more to increase their numbers. They have made a tentative offer to a dentist, but are waiting for the response.

NEW BUSINESS: Alma Young presented two candidates to the board. One is Jodie Guest from Emory. She is a professor, director, and researcher. The next candidate is Ivelisse Howell. She is a career advisor with Southeast non-profit.

- *Olga Contreras-Martinez made motion to accept the nominees for the board*
- *Jennifer Dunn provided the second*
- *All in favor; none opposed; One abstention*
- *Nominees were approved*

Tiffany Hardin then shared a document concerning the program evaluation tool for the program director. This is to let everyone know that this is a requirement of HRSA in the compliance manual. A committee would need to be formed for this. Jennifer Dunn then asked for a motion to create the Program Director Evaluation committee.

- *John McElveen made motion to form the program director evaluation committee*
- *Alma Young provided the second*
- *All in favor; none opposed; none abstained*
- *Program Director evaluation committee approved*

Tiffany Hardin then shared a document for a self-assessment form. This is a HRSA requirement. Brian Annino suggested this be tabled until January or February since new committees have been formed.

Emma Abernathy then stated that they needed to change their hours to accommodate patients needs. They do not want to decrease hours or increase hours, they just want to adjust hours that they are already working.

- *Jennifer Dunn made a motion to approve the change in hours*
- *Dora Garcia provided the second*
- *All in favor; none opposed; none abstained*
- *Change in hours at Colquitt clinic approved*

Tiffany Hardin then shared the board action calendar for 2026. Everyone was able to review. Jennifer Dunn then asked for a motion to approve the board action calendar.

- ***John McElveen made a motion to approve the 2026 board action calendar***
- ***Patrick Gallagher provided the second***
- ***All were in favor; none opposed; none abstained***
- ***2026 Board action calendar is approved***

Jennifer Dunn then let everyone know about the Farm Stress Summit that is coming up on March 12th at Fort Valley State. She wanted everyone to know about it and that they could obtain lots of information from this meeting.

Hearing no requests for further discussion, Jennifer Dunn closed the December meeting at 11:24 AM. Minutes transcribed by Tina Register.

The next meeting for the GFHP Governing Board will be held in person at the State Office of Rural Health office on Thursday, January 15, 2025, at 10:00am.

Jessica Padron

Board Secretary, Jessica Padron



Board Chair, Jennifer Dunn