Georgia Farmworker Health Program (GFHP) Governance Board Meeting Minutes
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, June 18, 2026

Participants Present:

Jennifer Dunn*
Alma Young*
Olga Contreras-Martinez*
Patrick Gallagher*
Ivelisse Howell*
Felipe Pacheco*
Gwen Love*
John McElveen*
Erin Lepp*
Gabby Munoz*
Carla Calderon-Bonilla*
Sarah Cook*
Courtney Griffin*
Jodie Guest *
Jennie Wren Denmark
Jaren Veal
R.B. Tucker
Laura Calhoun
Pam Tillman
Christy Jones
Pam King
Tonya Cox
Chris Haught
Remy Hutchins
Tabitha Johns

Absent:

Dora Garcia*
Jessica Kirk*
Charles Ruis
Shelia Ramer
Emma Abernathy
Martha Espinoza
Jessica Padron*
Jessica Patrick*

Staff (present)

Tiffany Hardin
Tina Register
Brian Annino
Sophia Clark-Leslie (Guest)
Jontavia Cobb {Guest)

***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 10:02 AM. A quorum of voting members was present and recorded.

Meeting Minutes: Minutes were sent out prior to meeting for the board to review.

- ***Sarah Cook made a motion to approve May minutes.***
- ***Courtney Griffin provided the second.***
- ***All in favor; none opposed; none abstained.***
- ***Board Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.***

Agenda Items: Tiffany Hardin provided an update regarding the FY27 budget reduction. Following discussions with HRSA, it was determined that the reduction resulted from the patient target submitted in the grant application. The application listed a patient target of 10,000, based on prior• year projections. However, HRSA had issued guidance indicating that Uniform Data System {UDS) patient numbers would serve as the new patient target benchmark. Because this guidance was not received prior to submission, the application reflected outdated projections, resulting in the funding reduction. HRSA advised that the reduction cannot be reversed but indicated there may be opportunities throughout the grant cycle to receive Quality Improvement funding as patient numbers increase. Staff will continue working to strengthen program performance and patient numbers to support future funding opportunities. Tiffany emphasized that the reduction was not the result of any errors or noncompliance by the program, but rather a change in HRSA's patient target methodology. The conservative patient projections submitted were intended to ensure realistic, achievable goals. Tiffany also provided an update on the Expanding Nutrition Services funding opportunity. The previously anticipated FY26 Expanding Nutrition Services funding opportunity has transitioned to FY27. The funding opportunity remains in the forecast stage, and no additional movement has occurred. HRSA representatives have advised applicants to continue monitoring Grants.gov for the official Notice of Funding Opportunity {NOFO). Staff will continue monitoring the announcement and prepare to apply once the opportunity is released.

Chair Jennifer Dunn provided an update on the Program Director Evaluation Tool. She reported that the review committee had completed its evaluation and submitted feedback on the tool. Chair Dunn stated that the revised evaluation tool would be distributed to Board members for future use. It was noted that the evaluation tool will be used to evaluate Tiffany Hardin and Tina Register due to new leadership roles.

The Board considered a budget revision as presented for South Central Primary Care.

- ***Sarah Cook made motion to accept the budget revisions.***
- ***Patrick Gallagher provided the second***
- ***All infavor; none opposed; none abstained***
- ***Budget revision unanimously approved***

Brian Annino presented **Action Item #3,** recommending that the Board consider allowing the two participating Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to utilize their own HRSA•approved policies for program compliance rather than adopting separate Georgia Farmworker Health Program policies.

Brian summarized discussions held during the Board workgroup meetings established in November, which were created to strengthen collaboration between Board members and participating clinics following recommendations from the Operational Site Visit {OSV). He explained that the workgroup recognized the unique operational and regulatory requirements of the FQHCs participating in the program.

The Board was reminded that the two participating FQHCs are: East Georgia Healthcare Center and South Central Primary Care Center.

Key discussion points were:

- Both FQHCs are independently governed organizations with their own governing boards.
- Each FQHC is required to comply with HRSA Health Center Program requirements, many of which mirror the compliance standards applicable to the Georgia Farmworker Health Program.
- The FQHCs maintain HRSA-approved policies that have already been reviewed and approved through their own governance processes.
- Requiring the FQHCs to submit those same policies for approval by the Georgia Farmworker Health Program Board creates unnecessary duplication and administrative burden.
- Allowing the FQHCs to operate under their existing HRSA-approved policies would better recognize their unique compliance obligations while improving administrative efficiency.

Brian reported that preliminary discussions had taken place with the program's HRSA Compliance Officer. HRSA appeared receptive to the proposal, although additional discussions and formal approval would be required before implementation. He emphasized that Board approval at this meeting would establish the Board's policy position and authorize staff to continue pursuing the necessary approvals with HRSA. Brian also explained that adoption of this approach would simplify development of the Sliding Fee Discount Policy, allowing the Board to focus on creating a policy for the four non-FQHC clinic partners while permitting the two FQHCs to continue using their existing HRSA-approved Sliding Fee Discount Policies.

Chair Jennifer Dunn opened the floor for questions, comments, and feedback from Board members and clinic representatives before proceeding with further discussion and potential action.

Jennie Wren Denmark expressed support for the recommendation, stating that allowing the Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to utilize their own HRSA-approved policies would make compliance easier and more efficient for all parties involved. No additional comments or questions were offered by Board members.

Chair Dunn clarified that the action before the Board was to authorize staff to explore implementation of the proposal rather than immediately adopt the policy.

Brian Annino clarified that the proposed Board action was to:

- Authorize program management to seek formal approval from HRSA to allow participating FQHCs to utilize their existing standalone, HRSA-approved policies for program compliance.
- Develop an implementation plan following discussions with the HRSA Project Officer regarding the proposed approach.
- Request that participating FQHCs submit their approved policies to the Georgia Farmworker Health Program Board for informational purposes, while recognizing that those policies would continue to be governed by each organization's own Board of Directors.
- Allow the Board workgroup to focus future policy development efforts on the four non-FQHC clinic partners, including revisions to the Sliding Fee Discount Policy, Billing and Collections Policy, and other program policies requiring Board approval.

Brian further explained that the recommendation was the culmination of approximately one year of discussions stemming from the Operational Site Visit (OSV), collaboration with clinic representatives, and ongoing conversations with HRSA regarding program compliance. He stated that implementing this approach would reduce duplication of effort, improve administrative efficiency, and better recognize the distinct governance and compliance responsibilities'of the participating FQHCs.

- ***Sarah Cook made motion to authorize program management to begin working with HRSA to pursue approval for participating FQHCs to utilize their existing HRSA•approved standalone policies for program compliance and to develop an implementation plan for future Board consideration.***
- ***John McElveen provided second***
- ***All infavor; none opposed; none abstained***
- ***Motion unanimously approved***

Chair Jennifer Dunn announced that her one-year term as Board Chair was concluding in accordance with the Board's bylaws. She stated that although she would be stepping down as Chair, she would continue serving as a member of the Board.

Chair Dunn explained that under the Board's leadership succession process, Vice Chair Sarah Cook would assume the role of Board Chair for the upcoming term. As a result, the Board would need to establish a nominating committee to identify candidates for the remaining officer positions, including Vice Chair, who would serve under the Board's leadership succession model.

Jennifer Dunn turned the discussion over to Sarah Cook, who outlined the nomination process. Sarah Cook recommended following the same process used during the previous year by establishing a nominating committee composed of Board volunteers. She explained that the committee's responsibilities would include:

- Identifying prospective Board members through members' professional networks.
- Recruiting candidates interested in serving on the Board.
- Identifying candidates for Board leadership positions, including Vice Chair, who would transition into the role of Board Chair in 2027 under the Board's succession plan.
- Conducting the committee's work primarily through email, with a virtual meeting, if necessary, before the next Board meeting.

Jennifer Dunn volunteered to serve on the nominating committee to assist with recruiting new Board members and leadership candidates.

Additional volunteers for the nominating committee included: Sarah Cook, Patrick Gallagher, and Alma Young.

Chair Dunn encouraged Board members who were interested in serving in future leadership roles to contact members of the nominating committee. She also noted that committee members would actively recruit candidates to encourage broader participation and leadership development.

Jennifer thanked Sarah Cook for agreeing to assume the role of Board Chair and expressed appreciation to the Board for its support during her term. She emphasized the importance of leadership rotation to provide opportunities for new Board members while maintaining continuity and avoiding long-term overcommitment by individual officers.

QI Committee Update: Felipe Pacheco presented the Quality Improvement {QI) Committee report, summarizing discussions from the committee meeting held the previous day. The committee reviewed the Quality Improvement {QI) performance dashboard, including current performance measures across participating clinics. Discussion focused on two priority quality measures: Hypertension Control, which remains the committee's current Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) improvement project and Colorectal Cancer Screening, with participating clinics sharing strategies and best practices to improve screening rates. Clinic representatives exchanged valuable feedback regarding their individual workflows and approaches for addressing these quality measures. The committee reviewed patient visit data and noted an increase in patient volumes at several clinics as the agricultural season progresses. Combined program data indicates the program is approaching the midpoint of the calendar year, providing an opportunity to evaluate progress toward annual performance goals during the peak farmworker season. The committee also discussed documentation practices used during mobile outreach activities, including the use of paper forms when electronic documentation is not feasible in the field. Clinic representatives shared best practices for documenting outreach encounters to improve consistency across the program. Felipe concluded by noting that the meeting was productive and that the committee will continue monitoring quality measures, reviewing program performance, and sharing best practices among participating clinics.

Finance Committee Update: Patrick Gallagher provided an update on the Finance Committee's efforts to revise and improve the program's cost reporting process. The Finance Committee has been meeting over the past several months to redesign the cost report to make it simpler and more user-friendly for participating clinics. Patrick reported that the revised format has been streamlined and that the committee believes it is moving in the right direction. The next step is to align the cost report line items with the Uniform Data System {UDS) Manual to ensure consistency with federal reporting requirements, and he indicated he would complete the line-item comparison before distributing the revised cost report for testing. Once finalized, the revised cost report will be shared with participating clinics for a pilot review to obtain feedback on usability and identify any needed revisions before implementation. Patrick noted that the final version will include protections limiting editing access to designated users while incorporating formulas throughout the report to improve accuracy and simplify data entry. The committee believes the revised cost report will provide a more efficient, standardized reporting process for all participating clinics.

Clinic Updates:
EGHC: Jennie Wren Denmark reported they had 3 camp visits last month and that is about it. They are getting to the end of their season so they will be doing some in-house quality projects during the off season.
South Central: R.B. Tucker reported that the clinic conducted 847 field health checks on blueberry and blackberry farms. They had 222 patient visits in the clinics. They are not seeing any trends right now as far as flu or anything like that.

Migrant Farmworker: Christy Jones reported that they don't have a lot going on right now. They have seen an increase in farmworkers arriving. Christy has four CPR classes that she is teaching to farmworkers scheduled over the next couple of months.
Decatur: Tonya Cox reported that they have finally moved to their new location and they did their summer project the next week after moving in. They are a little lower on numbers than usual. This summer has brought fewer farmworkers than normal.
Phoebe Ellaville: Pamela King reported that they are having their summer project June 23-25th at the hotels in Cordele. They have a pending contract with a dentist.
Colquitt: No report due to summer project going on.
AHEC: No report due to helping with summer project.

New Business: None

Hearing no **requests for further discussion, Jennifer Dunn closed the June meeting at 11:21 AM. Minutes transcribed by Tina Register.**

The next meeting for the GFHP Governing Board will be held via Teams on Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 10:00am.

Board Secretary, Jessica Padron



Board Chair, Jennifer Dunn