Georgia Farmworker Health Program (GFHP) Governance Board Meeting Minutes
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, August 20, 2026

Participants Present:
Alma Young*
Olga Contreras-Martinez*
Patrick Gallagher*
Felipe Pacheco*
Gwen Love*
John McElveen*
Sarah Cook*
Jodie Guest *
Brian Annino*
Ivelisse Howell*
Courtney Griffin*
Jennie Wren Denmark
Jaren Veal
R.B. Tucker
Pam Tillman
Christy Jones
Pam King
Tonya Cox
Chris Haught
Remy Hutchins
Tabitha Johns
Shelia Ramer
Emma Abernathy
Johanna Gay

Absent:
Dora Garcia*
Jessica Kirk*
Charles Ruis
Martha Espinoza
Jessica Padron*
Laura Calhoun
Erin Lepp*
Jennifer Dunn*
Gabby Munoz*
Carla Calderon-Bonilla*
Jessica Patrick*

Staff (present)
Tiffany Hardin

***Denotes Voting Board Member**

Call to Order: Board Chair Sarah Cook greeted everyone and thanked those who were in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM. A quorum of voting members was present and recorded.

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

- ***Brian Annino made a motion to approve July minutes.***
- ***Alma Young provided the second.***
- ***All in favor; none opposed; none abstained.***
- ***Board Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.***

Agenda Items: Tiffany Hardin reported on a recent meeting with the program's HRSA Project Officer. During the meeting, they discussed the Board's interest in allowing Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) participating in the Georgia Farmworker Health Program to utilize their

existing standalone policies while remaining compliant with applicable HRSA requirements, including the HRSA Program Manual. Brian Annino explained that the HRSA Project Officer, Christine, indicated that there may be a potential path forward for implementing this approach. One possibility discussed would involve the participating FQHCs becoming **subrecipients of the Georgia Farmworker Health Program grant**, which is awarded to the Department of Community Health (DCH) and passed through the State Office of Rural Health (SORH) to support the program.

Because this information was newly discussed with the HRSA Project Officer, the proposed approach has not yet been finalized. Christine plans to consult with HRSA's policy review team to confirm that the proposed structure is permissible and that the understanding of the requirements is correct.

The Board will await additional guidance from HRSA before determining next steps.

Action Items: Sarah Cook reminded Board members that completion of the **Program Director/Program Leadership Evaluation** is required for the Office of Statewide Health (OSV) review. The evaluation is provided through a Google Form and is expected to take approximately 5–10 minutes to complete. The evaluation link was posted in the meeting chat and will also be emailed to all Board members. Board members were encouraged to complete the evaluation as soon as possible, preferably before the next Board meeting. Sarah noted that the feedback is important for supporting continuous program improvement and evaluating program leadership capabilities. Sarah will follow up with Board members who have not completed the evaluation.

The September Board meeting will need to be rescheduled because Tiffany Hardin and Tina Register will be attending the GRHA Conference. Sarah Cook requested that the Board determine a new meeting date. Tiffany Hardin confirmed that a new date had not yet been established and indicated that identifying a date as soon as possible would allow the meeting to be placed on the calendar. If a date cannot be finalized during the current meeting, a scheduling poll may be used to identify an appropriate date. ***A motion was made by Courtney Griffin to move the September meeting to September 24, 2026 from 10:00 – 12:00 via Teams, Jodie Guest provided the second, none were opposed; none abstained. September board meeting was unanimously moved to the 24th.***

QI Committee Update: Felipe Pacheco provided an update on the recent Quality Improvement Committee meeting. The committee conducted an in-depth review of several key quality measures, including; Hypertension control, Diabetes, Cancer screening, and HIV screening. Several areas demonstrated strong performance across the program, including; Tobacco screening, BMI with counseling, and Depression screening. The committee also identified several measures with lower performance, particularly **diabetes, cancer screening, and HIV screening**. Clinics participating in the discussion shared **best practices, resources, and strategies** that have helped improve performance on these measures. The collaborative discussion allowed clinics to learn from one another and identify approaches that could potentially be implemented to improve their own results. Felipe emphasized that the QI Committee will continue to monitor the measures and share successful practices across the Georgia Farmworker Health Program. Felipe noted that the QI meetings provide a detailed review of the program's quality data, including measure notes, unique patient counts, and other supporting information. Recent meetings have lasted approximately 45–50 minutes and provide an opportunity for participants to examine the measures in greater depth. Felipe

encouraged Board members and others who are interested in the program's quality improvement efforts to attend future QI Committee meetings.

Finance Committee Update: Patrick Gallagher provided an update to the revised cost report and reported that the Finance Committee has made significant progress over the past several weeks. The Finance Committee met with several clinics to review the revised cost report and received helpful feedback. A few minor adjustments remain to be addressed based on the clinic feedback. Patrick and the Finance Committee will complete the remaining revisions, review and approve the final version internally, and prepare it for presentation to the Board. The revised cost report is expected to be ready for presentation at the upcoming meeting on the 17th and for a formal Board vote on the 24th. The Finance Committee will determine the implementation date following the Board's vote. The current goal is to implement the revised cost report beginning October 1, although some adjustments or "growing pains" may occur during the transition. Patrick stated that the revised spreadsheet represents significant progress and that the committee is pleased with the improvements. Once the remaining minor changes are completed, the cost report will be finalized and ready for implementation.

Clinic Updates:

EGHC: Jennie Wren Denmark provided an update on current clinic operations and outreach activities. Clinic activity has slowed somewhat as the farmworker season changes. Extreme heat has affected the clinic's mobile units, creating operational challenges for both staff and the buses themselves. The high temperatures inside the buses have made it difficult to safely and effectively operate the mobile units during periods of extreme heat. The clinic was awarded a Mercer University grant for flu vaccines. Through the grant, the clinic expects to receive 192 influenza vaccines specifically for farmworkers. The organization's Chief Financial Officer (CFO), who has served for 28 years, is retiring. In preparation for the transition, the organization has begun reallocating responsibilities while working through the process of identifying a successor. The organization has received funding for a new healthcare site in Jeff Davis County, located in Hazlehurst. The organization originally applied for the grant approximately two years ago and recently received confirmation that the application was funded. The organization has 120 days to open the new site. The Notice of Award was dated in July but was not received by the organization until the previous Thursday. Staff are seeking clarification regarding when the 120-day period officially began. Because of the short timeframe, the organization is exploring options to ensure the site opens within the required period. If necessary, the organization may initially provide services through a mobile unit while the permanent site is being established.

South Central: R.B. Tucker provided an update on current clinic and farmworker activity. The farmworker season is beginning to wind down in the area. Some agricultural activity remains, including grape season and tobacco work. The clinic has observed an increase in COVID-19 cases among patients visiting the offices. R.B. Tucker noted that the current COVID-19 activity is not as severe as during the earlier pandemic period. Other than the seasonal changes and increased COVID-19 activity, clinic operations remain normal.

Migrant Farmworker: Christy Jones provided an update on current clinic activity and outreach efforts. Clinic activity has been relatively slow, as most farmworkers have left the area. A small number of farmworkers remain in the area, and clinic staff continue efforts to reach and provide services to those individuals. There are currently no major outreach events scheduled. Christy reported plans to potentially participate in an event associated with the Latino Association and Hispanic Heritage Month during September or October. The specific date has not yet been determined. Although outreach activity is limited due to the smaller farmworker population currently in the area, patients continue to visit the clinic. The area has experienced a heat advisory, and the clinic has seen several heat-related illnesses among the patients who have been seeking care.

Decatur: Shelia Ramer provided update for Decatur. It's kind of slowed down here, our outreach and our clinic have been slower and usually is this time of year and we've got a fall project scheduled for October 23rd through 25th and the farm workers should start coming in at the end of this month.

Phoebe Ellaville: Pamela King reported that they have a contract with a dentist and are waiting to get her credentialed. The clinic hopes the dentist will begin by the end of summer or early September. Patient numbers are down due to farmworkers leaving the area.

Colquitt: Emma Abernathy had problems with microphone so no updates were made.

AHEC: No report.

New Business: None

Hearing no requests for further discussion, Sarah Cook closed the August meeting at 11:00 AM. Minutes transcribed by Tina Register.

The next meeting for the GFHP Governing Board will be held via Teams on Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 10:00am.

John P. McElveen

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Board Secretary, John McElveen

Sarah Cook

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Board Chair, Sarah Cook