Georgia Farmworker Health Program (GFHP) Governance Board Meeting Minutes
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, September 24, 2026

Participants Present:
Alma Young*
Olga Contreras-Martinez*
Sarah Cook*
Jodie Guest *
Brian Annino*
Courtney Griffin*
Jessica Kirk*
Erin Lepp*
Jennifer Dunn*
Gabby Munoz*
Jessica Patrick*
Laura Calhoun
Martha Espinoza
Jaren Veal
Pam Tillman
Pam King
Tonya Cox
Remy Hutchins
Tabitha Johns
Shelia Ramer
Emma Abernathy
Peyton Frye

Absent:
Dora Garcia*
Charles Ruis
Jessica Padron*
Carla Calderon-Bonilla* (Resigned)
Patrick Gallagher*
Felipe Pacheco*
Gwen Love*
John McElveen*
Ivelisse Howell*
Jennie Wren Denmark
R.B. Tucker
Christy Jones
Johanna Gay
Chris Haught

Staff (present)
Tiffany Hardin
Tina Register

***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 10:11 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 August minutes.***
- ***Jennifer Dunn provided the second.***
- ***All in favor; none opposed; none abstained.***
- ***Board Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.***

Agenda Items: The Board discussed a request to remove the Grady County Health Department as a service site for the Decatur Farmworker Clinic. Sheila Ramer explained that the program currently rents space at the health department for a Tuesday evening clinic at a cost of $750 per month. The site requires staffing by a nurse practitioner, nurse, and interpreter, but utilization has been very low, with typically zero to four farmworkers attending.

Additional concerns included the cost of maintaining equipment and supplies at the site, the inability to store 340B medications there under current requirements, and the inconvenience of the Tuesday evening schedule for many patients. Many farmworkers are already traveling to the Bainbridge location for services and medications. Sheila clarified that removing the service site would not mean ending services in Grady County. The program will continue outreach, mobile clinics, and project sites in the area. The proposal is to shift the clinic hours to Decatur County and potentially add a second evening clinic there.

Tiffany Hardin stated that a formal Board vote was required so that an official HRSA request could be submitted to remove the location from the program's Form 5B as an active/secondary service site.

- ***Courtney Griffin moved to remove the Grady County Health Department as a service site for the Decatur Farmworker Clinic***
- ***Olga Contreras provided the second***
- ***All in favor; none opposed; none abstained***
- ***Motion unanimously approved***

The Board discussed updating the 340B policy and procedures to reflect Decatur County Farmworker Health Program's relocation to **310 S. Scott Street**. Tiffany Hardin explained that the address needed to be corrected in the 340B policy, while a more comprehensive revision of the policy would be completed at a later date.

- ***Jennifer Dunn made motion to approve updating the address***
- ***Erin Lepp provided the second***
- ***All in favor; none opposed; none abstained***
- ***Updating address for Decatur 340B program was unanimously approved***

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.

QI Committee Update: Tiffany Hardin provided a brief update on the QI Committee meeting. Representatives from most sites reviewed clinical measures and discussed the importance of monthly data review and maintaining accurate patient information to prevent discrepancies and corrections at the end of the year. Tiffany noted that several sites are currently experiencing lower patient volumes, with activity expected to increase in the fall. She also reported concerns from several sites regarding ICE presence in the area, which may be affecting farmworkers' comfort with accessing clinic services. Overall, Tiffany reported that the clinics are continuing to keep their data current and that the QI process is progressing well. Felipe Pacheco is expected to return for the next

QI Committee meeting. Sarah Cook invited Board members to participate in the QI Committee if interested.

Finance Committee Update: Olga Contreras provided an update on the Finance Committee's work to revise the monthly expense reporting form. She explained that Patrick has been updating the Excel-based form based on feedback received from the clinics. The revised form is intended to provide a clear monthly overview of revenue and expenses, allowing clinics to monitor progress toward budget goals and identify when a budget reallocation or amendment may be needed. Olga noted that the form is still being refined. Once finalized, training will be provided to ensure everyone understands how to enter and track the required information. Sarah Cook added that the revised form will be beta tested over the next month or two. Clinics will initially use the new form alongside the existing reporting process to identify and resolve any issues. The goal is to have the updated reporting process fully implemented at the beginning of the calendar year with the new grant year. Sarah thanked Olga and the Finance Committee for their work and opened the floor for questions.

Clinic Updates:

EGHC: Peyton Frye gave report for East Ga. Preparations are underway for the upcoming sweet onion planting season, which typically begins from late October through early December, depending on weather and worker arrival. The team has been stocking outreach supplies and materials for approximately the past 30 days. Large orders have been received, and outreach staff have been organizing and preparing supplies. Approximately half of the planned outreach events have been scheduled. Housing and staffing agencies, as well as farmers, have confirmed that the program can return to their locations for outreach activities. An additional dedicated outreach representative, Tabatha, has joined Johanna's outreach team. Tabatha previously worked in billing and has developed an interest in outreach through her work with Johanna during evening outreach activities. A significant expansion of dental care capacity at the clinic, which provides both medical and dental services. The clinic has added a second full-time dentist, increasing the dental staff from approximately 1.5 dentists to two full-time dentists. Depending on the month, farmworkers and agricultural workers account for approximately 20–30% of the patients seen at the facility. An additional bilingual staff member is also transitioning to the dental department to provide translation support for patients. The increased dental capacity and bilingual support were described as a significant step forward for one of the program's three farmworker counties.

South Central: No report.

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: Sheila Ramer reported that clinic and outreach activity are currently slow, with farmworkers expected to return toward the end of September or around October 1. Planning is underway for the fall project, including a recent planning meeting. Upcoming outreach activities include an event at the clinic on October 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and participation in a community-wide health fair at the YMCA with Memorial Hospital on November 6 from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Sheila noted that approximately 35 farmworkers were registered and screened at last year's health fair. The clinic has also begun administering flu vaccines.

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 reported that clinic activity has been somewhat slow but steady. The outreach team continues to visit different farms twice a week and is identifying new farms with H-2A workers. She reported several cases of strep and flu, with no COVID cases during the last quarter. The summer program is being wrapped up, with approximately 800 adults and children served, although final data is still being compiled. Emma also reported that a new medical assistant started August 1, and the clinic is currently interviewing for LPN positions.

AHEC: Laura Calhoun gave update for AHEC. She said there is really nothing going on at this time. They are helping with the Decatur fall project with interpreters but no other activity at this time.

New Business: None

Hearing no requests for further discussion, Sarah Cook closed the August meeting at 10:47 AM. Minutes transcribed by Tina Register.

The next meeting for the GFHP Governing Board will be held via Teams on Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 10:00am.

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Board Secretary, John McElveen

Sarah Cook

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Board Chair, Sarah Cook