

AGENDA

Liberty County Board of Health

**Location: Liberty County Health Department
1113 E. Oglethorpe Hwy.
Hinesville, GA 31313**

**December 12, 2024
8:30 a.m.**

Welcome, Call to Order, Invocation	Connie Thrift
Oath of Office Dr. Anna Spelts	Connie Thrift
Quorum Declaration	Connie Thrift
Approval of Minutes of September 12, 2024	Connie Thrift
District Health Director's Report	Dr. Bonzo Reddick
Financial Update FY '24 Audit Report	Evangeline McCarty
Clinical Services Report	Jennifer Mele
Environmental Health Update	Yvette Steele
New Business	
Executive Session (if necessary)	
Adjournment	
Next meeting dates for 2025: March 13, 2025 June 12, 2025 September 11, 2025 December 11, 2025	

Liberty County Board of Health – Minutes
September 12, 2024

Members Present:

Connie Thrift
Belinda Sharp
José Ortiz
Donna Cochran
Dr. Franklin Perry

Local Staff:

Jennifer Mele
Lissabelle Martinez
Yvette Steele

Members Excused:

Martha Kitchings
Dr. Anna Spelts

District Staff:

Brant Phelps
Evangeline McCarty
Dr. Bonzo Reddick
Dr. Saroyi Morris

The Liberty County Board of Health (hereafter referred to as (“the board”) meeting was opened and called to order at 8:33 am by Chairman Connie Thrift. The invocation was given by Chairman Thrift after a quorum was declared.

Approval of Minutes:

Dr. Franklin Perry moved to approve the minutes for the June 13, 2024, meeting. Mrs. Sharp seconded. The minutes were approved as presented with all board members in favor.

District Health Director’s Report:

Dr. Reddick shared that influenza (flu) season has started with flu levels still low, but starting to gradually increase. Everyone is encouraged to get their flu shots between September and October. COVID numbers are a little higher, but there is a low number of associated deaths and hospitalizations. Both the flu and COVID vaccines can be administered at the same time if preferred.

Dr. Reddick discussed a measles case in Georgia involving an unvaccinated individual. The case was initially misdiagnosed as Malaria and there were approximately 70 close contacts associated with the case.

The Right from Start Medicaid program (same-day Medicaid enrollment for pregnant patients) in Liberty County and has been a success so far, but the contractual agreement between the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) and the Department of Public Health (DPH) has ended. This program has been very helpful with pregnant women being able to see a doctor early in their pregnancy. Efforts are underway to establish a new memorandum of agreement (MOA) between the Coastal Health District and the State DFCS office so that we can continue the program with minimal interruption.

Financial Update:

Evangeline McCarty, District Administrator, presented the results of operations for fiscal year (FY) 2024, revisions made to the fiscal year 2025 budget approved at the last meeting, and results of operations for the one-month period ending July 31, 2024. The results of operations for fiscal year 2024 reported revenues of \$2,894,600 and expenditures of \$2,194,400. The detailed audit report will be presented at the next Board of Health meeting in December. The approved fiscal year 2025 budget of \$2,892,000 has been revised to reflect a decrease of \$108,300. This is due to adjustment of estimates to actual for Grant-In Aid (GIA), Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and prior year program income. The current revised operating budget for fiscal year 2025 is now \$2,783,700. For the one-month operations ending July 31st revenues were \$215,400 and expenditures were \$179,600. These amounts are comparable to the same period in fiscal year 2024.

Clinical Services Report:

Jennifer Mele, Nurse Manager, shared that the clinic is actively recruiting for one registered nurse position. On June 25th, all Registered Nurses (RN) in the clinic completed the Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) hearing screening training. This equipment has allowed the clinic to screen approximately a dozen children with developmental disabilities who previously could not be screened using traditional methods. Additionally, all Registered Nurses have completed Preexposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) training. PrEP is a medicine taken to prevent getting HIV. There are currently four individuals receiving PrEP, with the expectation that this number will increase as awareness grows.

Della Faircloth, RN, completed Nexplanon insertion training on September 4th and is anticipated to perform independent Nexplanon insertions within the next two months, following successful completion of checkoffs with the District Nurse Practitioner. The health department is enthusiastic about expanding clinical services to enhance Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptive (LARC) use and accessibility for our patients.

The Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) and the Department of Public Health/Coastal Health District are currently collaborating on a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to ensure the continuity of Right from the Start (RSM) Medicaid services. Catina Alford, RSM worker, who has been with us for approximately three months, has been instrumental in assisting clients with Medicaid services, particularly for those who have recently become pregnant or experienced lapses in coverage. Her efforts are crucial in working towards reducing infant and maternal mortality rates in Georgia by facilitating early prenatal care.

Currently, there is one inactive/latent TB case and no active cases in Liberty. We have temporarily paused COVID-19 vaccinations until the new Pfizer 2024-2025 formulation becomes available for all age groups. However, we have received our 2024-2025 flu vaccines and are currently offering them; walk-ins are welcome. Our first flu vaccine event is scheduled for September 13, 2024, for Fort Stewart Youth Challenge Academy cadets. We also plan to administer flu vaccines at 20 different offsite locations and schools from September through November.

Environmental Health (EH) Services:

Yvette Steele Environmental Health Manager provided the Board with a handout outlining an overview of EH activities and services.

On June 11, 2024, Yvette Steele, Christopher Gowen, Adrena Stephenson, and James Barrett attended a rabies sampling, shipping and handling training. Also included was foodborne outbreak training and training on how to utilize foodborne illness sampling kits. On June 22-25, 2024, James Barrett attended the new EHS training focused on food service inspections. On June 31, 2024, food safety training was provided to the nutrition staff at Liberty County Head Start in Riceboro. On Saturday, July 6, 2024, eleven (11) temporary food service vendors were inspected as a part of the Southern Blues festival.

On August 27-29, 2024, Christopher Gowen and Yvette Steele attended the Georgia Environmental Health Association Annual Educational Conference in Gwinnett County. On June 13-14 and July 15-16, fifty-one (51) car seats were checked at the WIC Farmer's Market.

The following were announced:

- New Restaurants: Slang N Platez ATL; Str8 Drop Seafood Kitchen Mobile Unit and BOO
- New Owners: Hinesville Sumo Express; Bojangles

Over the last quarter the following activities occurred:

- 52 routine food service inspections; 22 food service complaint investigations; 2 new restaurants permitted;
- 26 new onsite septic permits issued; 6 onsite septic repair permits issued; 33 residential septic installation inspections conducted; 11 existing onsite septic systems evaluated; 10 septic repair inspections; 5 sewage complaint investigations;
- 22 well water permits (19 satisfactory and 3 unsatisfactory);
- 39 routine swimming pool inspections with 0 re-inspections; 1 swimming pool complaint investigated;
- 2 tourist accommodation complaints investigated;
- 8 miscellaneous complaint investigations;
- 61 animal bite investigations (61 animals quarantined and 4 specimens tested);
- 7 convertible car seats distributed; 1 booster seat distributed;
- 0 new body artist permits issued; 0 microblading studios permitted; and
- 0 facility inspections

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 am. Jose Ortiz moved to adjourn, and Dr. Franklin Perry seconded.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2024.

Martha Kitchings, Secretary
Liberty County Board of Health

Date

Submitted by Lissabelle F. Martinez
Liberty County Health Department

Date

Liberty County Health Department
Nursing and Clinical Services Report
FY 07/01/2024 - 06/30/2025

Type of Service	Jul	Aug	Sep	1st Qtr	Oct	Nov	Dec	2nd Qtr	Jan	Feb	Mar	3rd Qtr	Apr	May	Jun	4th Qtr	Annual	
Child Health	158	93	17	268	20	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	288
ASQ Screen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Children 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Immunizations- Clinic	280	203	74	557	184	0	0	184	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	741
Immunizations- School Based	0	0	81	81	244	0	0	244	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	325
Immunizations- Apples for Teachers	0	0	17	17	51	0	0	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	68
Perinatal Case Management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	32	42	24	98	17	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	115
Family Planning	34	51	42	127	29	0	0	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	156
Pregnancy Tests	7	3	2	12	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
BCCP/Cancer	5	6	7	18	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26
Tuberculosis	10	7	8	25	20	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45
PPD testing	22	20	38	80	135	0	0	135	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	215
Adult Health	9	4	2	15	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
WIC	1385	1289	1253	3927	1332	0	0	1332	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5259
Totals	1942	1718	1565	5225	2050	0	0	2050	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7275

Outreach and other activities:

19 locations served for school flu September-November:
428 students vaccinated and 104 teachers/staff vaccinated for flu

1/23/25 School Flu for FSYCA new cadets

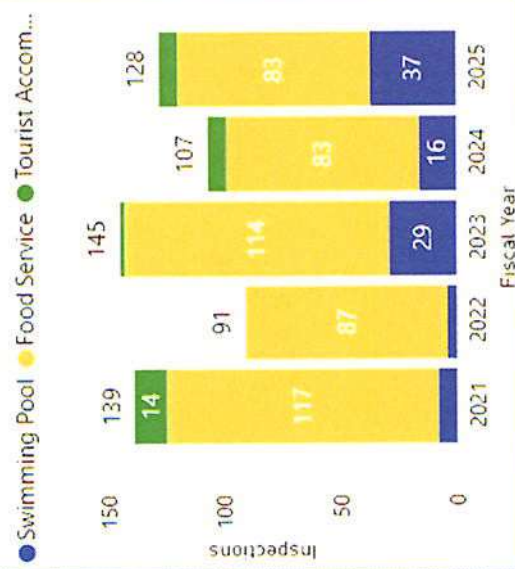
11/23/24 Community Outreach with City of Hinesville--
Homeless Prevention

Liberty

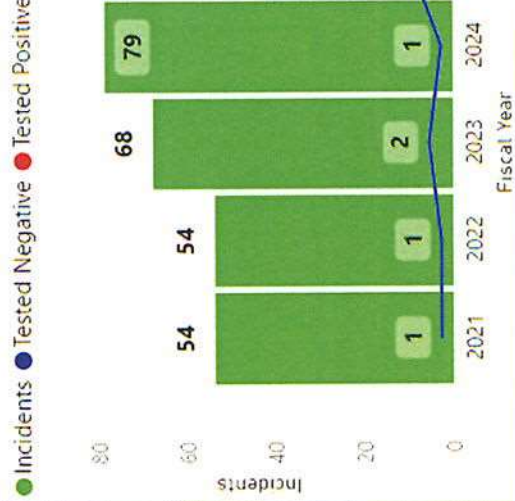
County Environmental Health Report

July - October Data Fiscal Year 2021 - 2025

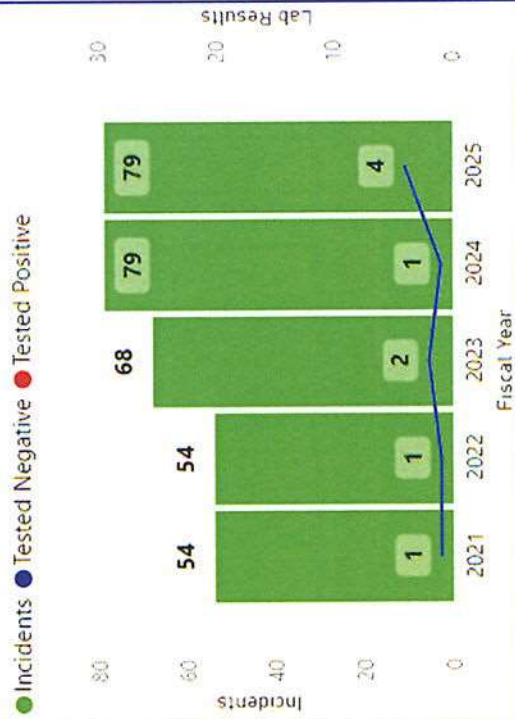
Facility Inspections per Fiscal Year by Facility Type



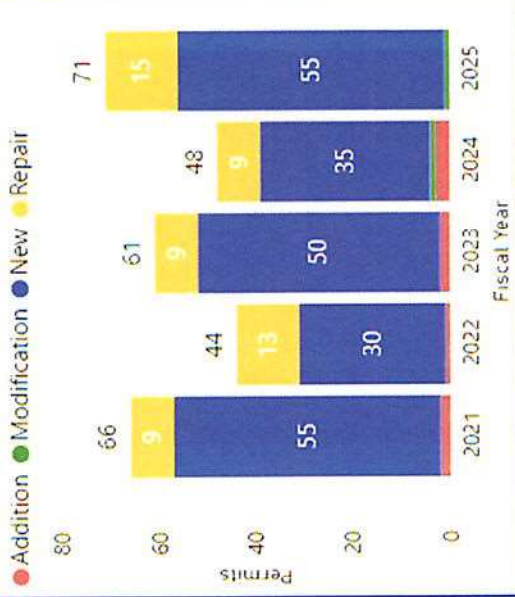
Rabies Incidents Investigated per Fiscal Year



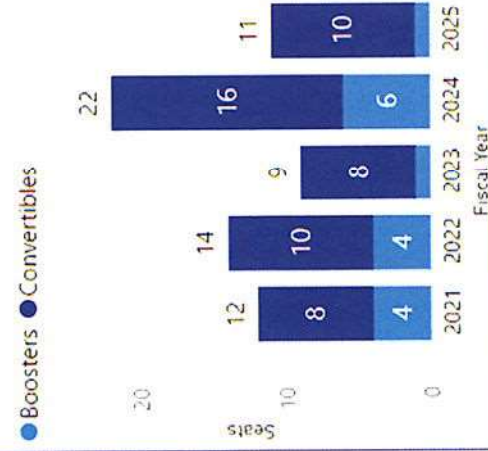
Well Evaluations per Fiscal Year by Results



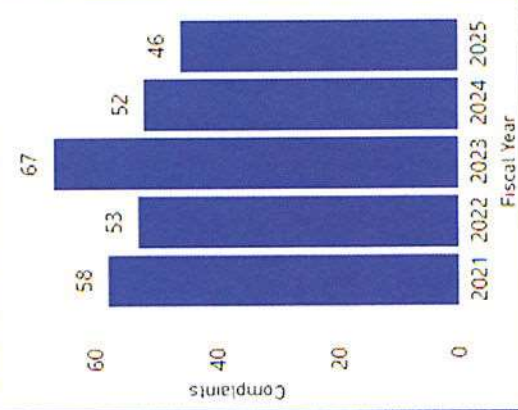
Septic Permits Issued per Fiscal Year by System Type



Car Seats Distributed per Fiscal Year by Seat Type



Complaints Received per Fiscal Year



Septic Inspections per Fiscal Year by System Type

