

**QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE
ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
January 26, 2012**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Paul K. Halverson, DrPH
Susan Jones, M.D., President
George Harper, President Elect
Miranda Childs-Bebee, DDS
Lawrence Braden, M.D.
Glen "Eddie" Bryant, M.D.
Clark Fincher, M.D.
Larry Fritchman, D.V.M.
Anthony N. Hui, M.D.
Thomas Jones, R.S.
Jim Lambert (via phone)
Lynda M. Lehing
John R. Page, P.D.
Alexander Rejistre, Sr., D.C.
Mary Beth Ringgold
Joe Thompson, M.D., MPH
Rev. Dwight Townsend
Peggy Walker, RN-BC, MSN, CADC
Anika Whitfield, D.P.M. (via phone)
Dr. Terry Yamauchi
James Zini, D.O. (via phone)

GUESTS PRESENT

Ann Purvis, Deputy Director for Administration
Dr. Joe Bates, Deputy State Public Health Officer
Dr. Glen Baker, Director, Public Health Lab.
Donnie Smith, Center for Health Protection
Dr. James Phillips, Infectious Disease Branch
Xavier Heard, Human Resources Director
Renee Mallory, Branch Chief, Health System
Licensing & Regulation
Terry Paul, Environmental Health Branch Chief
Stephanie Williams, Director, Center for
Health Advancement
Dr. Nate Smith, Deputy Director for Public
Health Programs
Katheryn Hargis, Governmental Affairs Policy
Director
Jane Gaskill, JD, ADH
James Myatt, PD, Drug Control Investigator
Ann Russell, ADH
Carolyn Dresler, M.D., Tobacco Prevention
Connie Melton, Health Facility Services
Bernie Beville, ADH
Jared Thompson, ADH
Angela Minden, ADH
Angie Hill, ADH
Lance Jones, ADH
Glenn Greenway, ADH
Connie Johnson, ADH Director's Office
Mike Wilson, ADH
Rick D. Hogan, JD, MPH, General Counsel
Reginald Rogers, JD, Deputy General Counsel
Robert Brech, JD, Deputy General Counsel
Nancy Cox, Legal Services
Jimmy Parks, UAMS
Charles Johnson, Perfusion Advisory Com.

MEMBERS ABSENT (excused)

Alan Fortenberry, P.E.
Patricia Westfall-Elsberry, O.D.
Marvin Leibovich, M.D.

QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

The January Quarterly Meeting of the Arkansas State Board of Health was held Thursday, January 26, 2012 in the Charles Hughes Board Room at the Freeway Medical Building in Little Rock, Arkansas. President Susan Jones called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and passed the gavel to President-Elect George Harper. Dr. Jones stated she enjoyed being President for the past year and appreciated the Board putting their trust in her.

President Harper thanked Dr. Jones for her leadership and commitment during her time as President of the Board and presented her with a plaque on behalf of the Department and the Board. President Harper mentioned that 2011 was a very good year for public health in Arkansas. There were some very important laws that were passed, especially the law requiring fluoridation of our public water systems.

Dr. Halverson recognized Dr. James Zini, Mr. Jim Lambert and Dr. Anika Whitfield as conferencing in via telephone.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Harper entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the November 3rd, 2011 quarterly meeting. Dr. Zini made a motion to approve the minutes, Dr. Hui seconded, and the minutes were approved as presented.

President Harper asked Dr. Bryant to present the Nominating Committee report.

Nominating Committee Report

Dr. Bryant reported that the Nominating Committee communicated by telephone and email and nominated Dr. Clark Fincher as President-Elect of the Board. President Harper asked if there were any other nominations for President-Elect, and it was stated there were none. Dr. Hui made a motion to accept the nomination of the committee. Dr. Zini seconded the motion and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Rules and Regulations of the Hospital Discharge Data System

Ms. Lynda Lehing, Section Chief, Hospital Discharge Data System, stated she was before the Board today with the amended Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Hospital Discharge Data System. The regulations were amended to allow the collection of emergency department data and to add a data submittal guide. All steps in the administrative process have been completed for their adoption and we are requesting final approval of the Board of these proposed rules and regulations as amended. Dr. Susan Jones made a motion to approve the final adoption. Dr. Page seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Proposed Revisions of Rules and Regulations Pertaining to
Immunization Reporting

Dr. James Phillips, Infectious Disease Branch Chief, stated that the Revisions of the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Immunization Reporting were pursuant to Act 179 of 2011 which expands the immunization registry to better protect the citizens of Arkansas. The act allows providers to report the administration of adult immunizations to the Department after receiving consent from the adult. Dr. Page made a motion to approve the revisions. Dr. Fincher seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Proposed Revisions to the Rules and Regulations for Perfusionists
in Arkansas

Ms. Connie Melton, Section Chief, Health Facility Services, stated her purpose before the Board today was for the revisions to the Rules and Regulations for Perfusionists in Arkansas. We were before you in July of last year and received approval to proceed with revisions. We completed the 30 day public comment period and upon reviewing those comments we found two that we felt were valuable and substantive. Those two comments were that we detail more clearly the continuing education requirements and that we articulate that bypass, first assistant be recognized as a clinical activity. These are enhancements to the revisions that have previously been reviewed and because these are enhancements we want to start the process over again. The other revisions that you reviewed have not been changed; we just added these two additional clarifications. Everything has been reviewed and approved by the Governor appointed advisory committee and at this time we are asking again for authorization to proceed with revisions to the rules and regulations for perfusionists. Dr. Fritchman made a motion to proceed with another hearing. Dr. Hui seconded and the motion carried.

Adoption of Rules Pertaining to the Controlled Substance List

Mr. Robert Brech, Deputy General Counsel, presented the final adoption of the Controlled Substance List which is consistent with the DEA's list, along with incorporating K-2, the bath salts type drugs that were passed in the last legislative session. Dr. Fritchman made a motion to adopt the rules. Dr. Fincher seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Revisions to July 2011 Draft of the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to
Onsite Wastewater Systems

Mr. J. Terry Paul, R.S., Environmental Health Branch Chief, stated that last year this rule was pulled down and the rule has now been redone. We are asking today for permission to proceed again to public hearing to finalize these rules. Mr. Tom Jones made a motion to approve the reauthorization. Dr. Childs-Bebee seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Recreational Lots

Mr. Paul stated that these rules and regulations have been through the public hearing process. All steps in the administrative process have been completed and we are asking the Board to repeal the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Recreational Lots. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the repeal of the rules and regulations. Dr. Whitfield seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Repeal of the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Public, Private and Parochial Schools

Mr. Paul stated that this rule has been replaced by many other rules and regulations. It has gone through the hearing process and today we are asking the Board to repeal the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Public, Private and Parochial Schools. Mr. Tom Jones made a motion to approve the repeal of the rules and regulations. Dr. Yamauchi seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Adoption of 2011-2014 Updated Strategic Plan – Smart Objectives

Dr. Carolyn Dresler, Director, Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program, presented this plan for the Board's approval. It is basically broken down into four goal areas; one is preventing initiation of tobacco use, promoting cessation, eliminating disparities and working on smoke free. And there are two overarching objectives. Dr. Zini made a motion to adopt the updated strategic plan. Dr. Childs-Bebee seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Adoption of Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Public Water Systems

Mr. Brech stated that Act 197 of 2011 required that the Board adopt rules to set the optimal levels of fluoridation in water systems supplying 5,000 persons or more at 0.7 parts per million. That is what these changes in the rules are. The process has been completed and we are now before you for final adoption. Mr. Fortenberry is in agreement with the rule. Dr. Fincher moved that we adopt the final rules and regulations. Dr. Jones seconded the motion. President Harper asked if some of the systems have begun to fluoridate or are they in the process. Mr. Brech reported that he didn't think any of the new systems have begun fluoridating that weren't on line already, but there are many, many water systems that were already fluoridating.

Ms. Ringgold asked if there wasn't some discussion about Delta Dental not having enough money to complete the project, it was going to be more expensive than they had originally planned. Dr. Childs-Bebee reported that she had not heard anything about that, but it would not be surprising that it would take a little longer to implement than they had originally thought.

Mr. Brech added that initially when the Act was being discussed, Delta Dental pledged \$500,000. It came up in the public health committee that that would not be sufficient to do all the systems and Delta Dental said they would pay whatever it cost and they are continuing to fund systems that are under 5,000 people.

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President Harper stated that a motion was made and seconded, and asked for a vote of the Board. All members were in favor of adopting the rules and regulations pertaining to public water systems.

Dr. Halverson commented that Delta Dental has demonstrated their ability to go above and beyond what might be expected of an organization of their size and nature. I think it would be very fitting for this Board to send a letter thanking them and recognizing their contribution. This is a huge turning point for Arkansas and certainly something in the interest of all Arkansans. If it is appropriate, I move that this Board send acknowledgement and thanks for Delta Dental's contribution.

Mr. Brech added that the Act would not have passed had it not been for their support.

President Harper asked for a second to Dr. Halverson's motion, Dr. Childs-Bebee seconded and the motion carried.

President Harper informed Dr. Halverson that if he would prepare the letter he would be happy to sign it for the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Revisions to the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Controlled Substances

Dr. Myatt, Drug Control Investigator, stated that he would like to update these regulations based on Act 588 that was passed last year, and that regards how pseudoephedrine is sold. Also, based on CFR there are a couple of verbiage changes regarding "liability" being changed to "responsibility". This is basically the same language that the Pharmacy Board is using.

President Harper asked Dr. Myatt to explain briefly if someone wanted to go in for Sudafed, what is the change? Dr. Myatt stated that if you want to purchase Sudafed, the pharmacist has to make a determination that you need it before he can sell it to you. He cannot just arbitrarily sell it to you because you want it.

Dr. Page made a motion to approve the revisions to the rules and regulations pertaining to controlled substances. Dr. Fritchman seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Revisions to the Rules and Regulations for Cosmetology in Arkansas

Ms. Renee Mallory, Branch Chief, Health System Licensing and Regulation, stated that in the 2009 legislative session the Board of Cosmetology was abolished and cosmetology licensing was placed under the Health Department. Prior to the session, the Board passed a fee increase for all cosmetologist licensees. Since that time, the fund balance for Cosmetology has tripled. We are proposing today a revision to the fees, to go back to what they were before the fee increase occurred in 2008. The fees were increased from \$25.00 a year to \$50.00 a year but they had to pay every two years. We are asking that that be revised to \$50.00 every two years. So, we are

asking to go forward with the administrative procedure process for a fee decrease for cosmetology licenses. Dr. Fritchman made a motion to begin the administrative process. Dr. Hui seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Revisions to the Rules and Regulations for Control of Sources of
Ionizing Radiation

Ms. Mallory stated that this program operates as an agreement state with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. We have certain requirements we have to meet, the Commission comes in and looks at our program, and they train our inspectors. We have to make our regulations compatible with theirs. The memo before you gives the costs to us to operate the program, what we have coming in right now and what it would cost our licensees if the Nuclear Regulatory Commission came in to provide the inspections. Our 2011 revisions included the Board being able to raise those fees instead of the legislature. The Hospital Association recommended that as did the Board of Higher Education and the Medical Society. They are all basically in support of this fee increase. In the legislation it said that the Board would be restricted to 25% of what the current NRC fees were; we are asking for 15% of that and we projected the numbers to go out to fiscal year 2020. We are asking to take the proposed revisions through the administrative procedure process.

Dr. Whitfield made a motion to begin the administrative process. Dr. Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Dr. Halverson asked to comment relative to the cosmetology and radiation programs. He thanked Renee Mallory and her group for their diligent work. Of all the folks in the Health Department, Renee's shop is extremely busy and this was a new task that they took on, and I want to thank her in particular for doing that. Being able to do a fee decrease is not something common. So, thank you for that leadership.

On the flip side, in the midst of one of the worst recessions and economic conditions in the legislative history that I'm aware of, we were able to have one of the only fee increases and again, I want to thank Donnie and Renee. What they were able to do is to work with the regulating community. We were facing the real prospect of having to turn this back to the federal government because our fees would not come close to supporting the amount of money it took to operate this program. Normally the regulated community is the one that comes to oppose a fee increase, and they were the ones that came to support it. That goes to the way in which we work with the licensees. Jared and his group, as well as Renee, Donnie and everyone, did a really good job in communicating and working with that community. I just wanted to publicly thank them for their leadership.

Revisions to Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Swimming Pools

Mr. Paul informed the Board that it had been several years since these rules and regulations were updated. We have updated the definitions, we cleared up some language and we have added a few new safety issues that have become the national norm. For instance, changing the color of the steps in a pool, when you step into a pool you can see where the edges are and such. Other

than that, there is not anything onerous in here from the Department of Health. We are asking to begin the administrative process.

Ms. Walker asked about the fecal accident law in Appendix D, is it going to be removed. Mr. Paul stated that Appendix D revises the fecal accident response procedure based on CDC guidelines. A fecal accident will still be reported, it's a new name to the same form.

Dr. Yamauchi asked if there were any standards for using salt water that we should be aware of. Mr. Paul responded that salt water generators are allowed, but they are only allowed as an addendum to regular chlorination for a pool. You have to have back-up chlorine generation from a regular type of feeder. Mr. Paul stated that it does cause problems with corrosion in the pipes. When you get down to it, the thing you are trying to protect in a pool is your plumbing, and it just seems to be easier to do it with regular chlorine than when you add salts and a lot of other things. A lot of these changes came from the wording from the National Pool and Spa Institute's model code.

Mr. Jones made a motion to proceed to the administrative procedure process. Dr. Page seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Appointment of Jeff Stone to the Arkansas Drinking Water
Advisory and Operators Licensing Committee

Mr. Paul stated that it was customary that the Director of Engineering of the Department of Health be appointed to this committee. Today we are asking for approval to appoint Mr. Stone, our new Director of Engineering, to the Arkansas Drinking Water Advisory and Operators Licensing Committee. Dr. Zini made a motion to appoint Mr. Stone to the committee. Dr. Bryant seconded the motion and the motion carried.

County Health Officer Recommendation

Mr. Rick Hogan, General Counsel, stated that there was one nomination for the Union County Health officer, and that was Dr. James Sheppard. He meets all the qualifications for county health officer. The requisite approval letters from the county judge and the Union County Health Unit Administrator have been received. Today I'm asking for approval for Dr. James Sheppard to become the Union County health officer. Dr. Zini made a motion to appoint Dr. Sheppard as the new county health officer. Dr. Bryant seconded the motion and the motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Approval of Per Diem of Board Members

Mr. Hogan stated that this is the annual approval of Board of Health members to receive payment of the per diem and travel reimbursement expenses.

Dr. Yamauchi made the motion that the Arkansas State Board of Health authorize expense reimbursement for the performance of official Board duties to the allowable amount authorized

by law in accordance with Arkansas Code § 25-16-902(a) for the calendar year 2012. Dr. Hui seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Vote on Changing Quarterly Meeting/retreat in October
2012 from 4th Thursday to November 8, 2012

Dr. Halverson stated this is something procedural at the beginning of every year and posed it in the form of a motion. A tentative reservation has been made, pending your approval, to change our Board meeting to November 8 and 9th, and return to the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute at Petit Jean Mountain. Dr. Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Dr. Fincher suggested that the Board recognize Delta Dental in the form of a letter, but asked if there is any sentiment to a stronger commendation of Delta Dental. This is an unusual act of selflessness. The amount of money they are spending, the benefit to public health and the fact that it would seem to hurt their business to do it. I think it is extraordinary. Mr. Hogan stated that a resolution could be drafted for the Board to adopt at its April meeting to honor their contribution. It will forever be in the minutes that there will be a resolution for that purpose. Dr. Fincher stated he would make a motion to draft the resolution. Dr. Childs-Bebee seconded the motion and stated that Delta Dental was pledging 2 million and it is from the Delta Dental Foundation, which is their giving arm, but the quote now has gone from 2 million to 6 million and that is going to stretch their foundation to the absolute limit to do that, but they are still going to do it.

Dr. Yamauchi stated that he believed strongly in preventive care, but Delta Dental has the contract, does it not, with the state for dental care? I would not like it to look like pay back, is there any possibility of that coming up? Dr. Fincher stated that there isn't, there is no money changing hands and this is costing them not only money that they are providing for the benefit of public health, but by preventing dental problems hurts their business.

Dr. Halverson stated that there is really no relationship between the Board of Health and Delta Dental, and I do think it is very appropriate.

Dr. Thompson informed the Board that at the retreat some time was spent on food safety and the outbreak of e-coli in the processing plant in Northwest Arkansas. The U.S. Department of Agriculture in their cost cutting effort is deciding to remove their inspectors from food processing plants and rely on industry oversight. I think it might at least be in the Board's interest to have an update on that, if not explicit strategy for how we can protect the health.

Dr. Fincher stated that a vote had not been taken on the resolution. President Harper reiterated the motion that General Counsel and the Department prepare a resolution honoring Delta Dental for the Board's consideration at the April meeting. A vote was taken and all members were in favor of the resolution.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Harper stated that he had some observations and comments and thanked everyone for the honor of being able to serve as president of the Board. I've been coming to Board of Health meetings for over 45 years and this is a great honor for me. If you would, look over the assignments of the 2012 Committees Roster and if there is a committee you had rather serve on, or if there is a committee you are on that you don't particularly want to be on, let us know. I am very flexible about that. These committees are important and I want to thank Larry Fritchman; he serves as chair of the Local Grant Trust Committee as well as the Administrative Appeals Committee and does outstanding work without much commendation and thanks. Also, P.J. Walker comes to mind for the work she has done on the flu shot issue for health care workers, and I thank you all for that. The Legislative Committee this year may have some extra work to do.

When the Health Department was merged with DHS in '05 and demerged in '07, early on there had been a requirement in the law designating the qualifications for the health director. There was also a provision that the Board of Health would be called on to have a role in the selection of the director of the Health Department and both of those provisions were eliminated when the merger/demerger happened. I would like to ask your permission to start working with the Governor's office, with the legislature and then through this committee to change those matters so that the Board has input about the selection of a director for the Department. Also, that we reconsider having a provision in the statute that calls for the qualifications for the agency director. Ms. Ringgold asked who currently would hire the director and President Harper responded that he is appointed by the governor. In 1970 the director was nominated by the Board and then served at the pleasure of the governor. Since the merger/demerger, the person serves completely at the discretion of the governor, and there are no requirements in the statute about qualifications for a director. Without objection, I will continue working with the Legislative Committee to look into having those change.

Dr. Thompson stated that he would add one condition and that is to make sure we don't lose the autonomy the Board has gained under this administration. Prior to this administration, our actions were subject to signator of the governor and we are now independent. So, I support getting the description and the input back, I wouldn't want us to lose anything in that process.

President Harper pointed out that Dr. Childs-Beebe has been named president elect of the Arkansas Dental Association, and we are very proud of that. The Department this year was chosen as the organization of the year by the College of Professional Studies at UALR. This is a high honor from the university. Dr. Halverson received an award from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers. It is the very prestigious McCormack Award that is given to health officers each year around the country who make an outstanding contribution to the field of public health. This is a real honor for his contribution and his service.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Halverson thanked members of the Board for their acknowledgement of his receiving the McCormack Award. He also thanked all the ADH staff present today. The Department's budget

was presented last week for this next fiscal year, and I want to thank Deputy Director Ann Purvis for her help.

There are a couple things I think are important for you to know. First, my recommendation for the budget, which is in support of the Governor's recommendation for our budget, is a flat budget. We appreciate the Governor's and the legislature's support in continuing our budget at the current level. While we are not seeing new programs or a new budget, we are not seeing the drastic reductions that we have seen across the country.

I reminded the legislature of the importance of maintaining our diligence in control of tobacco. Tobacco continues to be the leading cause of death in our state by a long shot and the initiated act that supported the funding of our tobacco prevention and cessation program is important to maintain and even at the current level of funding, which comes from the Master Settlement Agreement and is subject to initiated Act 1 of the legislature, sets aside specific funding for these activities. We have made enormous strides in our tobacco prevention and cessation efforts but we have a long way to go and we still have much to work on. As we looked at admissions for the years 2000 to 2009, we saw over a 30% decrease in admissions to the hospital for acute MI, and we have seen reductions in admissions to the hospital for stroke. While we can't say they are directly related to tobacco, we do know that tobacco is the leading risk factor and has been a major factor in the reason for people's admission for those conditions.

I'm very proud of the work that we are doing with the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff in minority set aside as well as a number of other programs that go to reducing the disparities in health in our state, particularly related to tobacco.

I just wanted you to know that I have been steadfast in the support of the work that we need to continue to do and bring that to your attention. I do so because it seems every year I've been here there has been an attempt to take the funding and use it for other purposes. It is one of the most important things we can do.

I would also mention that we had a question about the Department's position on requiring mandatory flu shots for our employees. The question was "What is the Board of Health's role and is there some interest in expanding that." I did respond that the Board of Health was actively considering a proposal to expand this to include hospital workers; I did not indicate that you had made a decision but rather that you were considering a proposal. They asked if we were considering any other occupation at this time and I indicated that we were not.

It has been my privilege to serve on the Board's behalf as the president of ASTHO, and one of the things we rely heavily on, and I brought this up at the legislative hearing as well, is federal funding of this department. Much of what we do in the Department of Health is reliance on federal funding as well as fees, but the vast majority comes from federal funding. One of those funds was the preventative services block grant, and everybody in Washington and even the advocacy organizations had given up for dead the preventative services block grant and that is an important source of funding for the Health Department. It's almost two million dollars and has declined over the years. We use that funding to pay for our work in tuberculosis screening and treatment, we also use it to help support our vaccine program and a number of other vital

programs at the Health Department. It was going to go away and through the education efforts of ASTHO we were able to get the legislature to put it back in the budget, not for the full amount but it is still there. I want to point to the vulnerability that we have as an agency for some of what I would consider to be mandatory programs that we fund with federal funding. This grant program is still vulnerable but it is one that has been very important to us. I wanted to put in your mind the thought that over time we do need to be thinking about how we make sure that we don't have high priority programs that create this kind of vulnerability under federal funding sources. We need to be thinking now about how we migrate some of these programs to different funding sources, and I know you rely on me to do that and I am doing it diligently but I will need your help at some point in terms of that. The Governor has been very supportive, and he has been one of our chief sponsors and supporters in the need to do all that we can and we also want to try to maximize our federal funding.

I am pleased to remind you that Arkansas was the recipient of two different grants to help support a new program for home visiting, particularly in vulnerable populations. We are excited about the fact that we have new funding to begin a program of home visiting. We are working closely with Children's Hospital and other home health visitors and child advocacy organizations to pull that together. This is home visiting for new parents, and we are looking particularly at those new families that are vulnerable. Although we have been making cuts in some areas, we are expanding in others, and this is an important area where we can, by providing appropriate support, get additional resources to protect some of our most vulnerable populations and we are working in that regard.

One other thing, as it relates to home visiting, the Arkansas Department of Health has the largest home health program in the state. We do everything from hospice care to skilled nursing visits to home health aide programs. You may know that the reimbursement for home health has been declining, particularly in the Medicare payer sources and unfortunately we have not seen a decrease in expenses. With revenues decreasing and expenses increasing, or staying the same in some cases, it has created a real dilemma for us in terms of our ability to effectively operate this program. The Health Department's home visiting program is the oldest in the state, and it was borne out of the fact that there were vulnerable populations that but for the Health Department's actions there would be no one to visit. Our no source of payment has dramatically increased over the last year. As people have hit hard times, the Health Department has been the source of care. We have reached the point where we just can't continue to do it at the same level that we've done it with the expenses that we have. We have had to make some really tough choices, and I want to commend our home health staff because they came up with a number of recommendations which we are implementing. Some of those steps include laying off some of our LPNs; it required reduction in number of hours in those areas where they are not at full capacity or utilization. It also includes a very limited but necessary furlough of staff in our central office in the home care program. We have with great pains decided to make a reduction in the mileage reimbursement for certain caregivers. We are having a difficult time keeping this program going. We hope that by 2014, when coverage expands and people will have health insurance and will include some home health programs, we won't have the level of no source care that we have today, and we will be able to have some flexibility to be able to operate this program. This is a program operated by the Department, but I wanted the Board to be aware of the fact that this is going on. I have a lot of admiration for our home health staff.

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Dr. Halverson mentioned that he was notified yesterday that Dr. Lynn Mouden, Director of our Public Health Dentistry, had submitted his resignation. He will become the new Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services Dental Director and will be moving to Washington and taking on that role on a national basis.

President Harper asked if there was any other business to come before the Board. There being none, Dr. Zini made a motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul K. Halverson, DrPH, FACHE
Director and State Health Officer