



Eddie D. Melton
Mayor, City of Gary

Dr. Janet Seabrook, MD, MBA
Health Commissioner

CITY OF GARY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Ellis Dumas III
Chief of Staff

Veronica Collins Ellis, MPA
Executive Director

GARY HEALTH DEPARTMENT BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2025
4:00PM

In attendance

Dr. Linda Gunn, PHD, CHPRM, ACC, President, Board Member
Will Miller- MBA, OWDS, Vice Chairperson Gary Republican Party, Professor/Teacher, Board Member **(On Phone)**
Dr. Janet Seabrook- MD, MBA, Health Commissioner
Veronica Collins-Ellis, MPA, Executive Director
Albert Gay- Managing Partner, Chief of Development, and a Master Trainer for SheRay's & Associates, LLC & TTJ Group, Board Member
Dr. Steve Simpson, M.D.
Dr. Eugene Boone, D.D.S.
Celona Hayes- Assistant City Attorney II

The meeting was called to order by Board President, Dr. Gunn, at 4:06pm.

The meeting began with the reviewing of the minutes from the previous meeting in December. Dr. Gunn called for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Gay made the motion. Dr. Boone 2nd. Motion was carried. There was one revision that needed to be made. Dr. Gunn called for another motion to approve minutes with the revision. Mr. Gay carried the motion. Dr. Simpson 2nd. Motion was carried. The Board went into reading the draft Board By-Laws. This specific By-Law review was to make suggestions, corrections, and revisions. Ms. Hayes gave clarification regarding the "Compensation" section (Article III-Number 2). The Board wouldn't be compensated, but if members were to have a training or had to travel to the training, they could be reimbursed for expenses. Elections of the Board members were discussed, and current members can recommend a potential member to the Mayor. The Mayor will ultimately be the one to approve or disapprove the recommendation.

The section that spoke on “removal from office” everyone agreed to keep that in the document to ensure that proper protocol is in place. The by-laws expounded on how often the Board should be meeting each year. Ideally, it is quarterly but it will be monthly until everything has a flow. Mr. Gay asked if virtual meetings are still in effect. Since there are certain policies that are in place the Board are not able to meet virtually. Next, the Board elaborated on Board Officer terms they will last for two years, and if they would like to continue they can share that when the time comes. Chakara Gunn (Behavioral Program Manager) shared her activity status to the Board. A Mental Health Initiative RFP was posted for those who would be interested in funding to better their community around them. There were two listening sessions that Ms. Gunn and Mrs. Collins-Ellis hosted to give clarity and expectations to those who needed more information regarding the RFP.

There was a total of 18 applicants six total were awarded grant dollars. The foundations that received funding were: City Life, Sojourner Truth House, Butterfly Dream, Gary Harm Reduction, For the Love of Arts, and Edgewater Health. Ms. Gunn is also in contact with the Faith Community Center, a Crisis Center, and Compassionate Community Care. There will also be pop-up visits for those who are utilizing any Opioid or Mental Health funding to ensure that the funds are being used properly. In addition, to working with these various foundations Ms. Gunn also handles the Narcan Vending Machines. Dr. Seabrook announced that the City of Gary has been officially named an AARP friendly city. The proclamation was signed on February 1st, 2025 and those involved will meet monthly. The meeting concluded with the review of the GHD Highlights (draft) the Board gave suggestions and revisions to bring out certain points.

Meeting adjourned @5:55pm

Submitted by:
Karynton Holliday
Recording Secretary