

1 and impacts.
2

3 **V. Legislative Update** – Baylee Williams, *Legislative Liaison*

4 Ms. Williams began by providing the Board an update on the ongoing special session. The third
5 special session is still ongoing to address tax cuts, but there is a lot still unknown on what that will
6 look like in upcoming weeks. Legislative Session began Monday of this week. She provided an
7 update on the new Senate Budget process and their focus on transparency with their new process.
8 The Agency has submitted their budget request, which is a flat budget. The Agency is currently
9 tracking 1,932 bills that will directly or indirectly impact the Agency. 735 of those are new bills
10 and the rest are carryover from last session. Agency staff are currently reviewing these bills for
11 their respective areas to provide feedback and education that can be brought to legislators.
12

13 Last session, the Agency had 13 request bills. Of those, there are 4 still pending: SB 538, HB
14 2787, SB 536 and HB1960. The Agency is taking a different approach this session and has only
15 requested one bill in order to focus more heavily on collaboration with Legislators on bills that
16 impact the Agency and public health. The Agency request bill this session is HB 4035.
17 Representative Tammy Townley will be the primary Author and the Senate Author is still to be
18 determined. HB 4035 will reform and modernize the public pool statutes.
19

20 **VI. State Health Improvement Plan Update**, Buffy Heater, *Chief Strategy Officer*

21 Buffy began by informing the Board that in 2022, staff/residents/stakeholders and partners began
22 with state health assessment activities. They began with determining what those focus areas should
23 be. The areas determined were: cardiovascular disease, diabetes, mental health, obesity and
24 substance use/abuse. These areas are not exclusionary and were the areas identified as being
25 highest concern, however, there are a variety of additional areas. Since published last fall, OSDH
26 has pulled together multiple workgroups to meet once a month in a variety of areas of priority
27 focus. Buffy has extended an invitation to the Board members to participate in a workgroup.
28

29 **VII. Subcommittee Reports** - Dr. Bruce Storms, *Vice Chair*

30 Dr. Storms provided an update on the second OB/Maternity desert meeting. The discussion
31 primarily focused around access to care. Not having adequate access to pre-natal care has
32 increased neo-natal admissions. The subcommittee would like to figure out why that is. OSDH is
33 preparing data for the next meeting around length of stays for admissions. The average neonatal
34 stay costs the patient \$35,000. They discussed health clinics that offer prenatal care. They do not
35 have enough data on that yet. Additionally, transportation is a major issue for many expecting
36 mothers. The subcommittee also had discussed how best to educate these expecting mothers about
37 services that are currently available for them, as well as determining which of the drivers
38 contributing to the issue are modifiable, and identifying those determinations will be of further
39 discussion at the following meeting.
40

41 Dr. Wolff provided the update for the LTC Subcommittee. He updated that at their prior meeting,
42 the subcommittee discussed access to care as a priority. They are looking at levels of care before
43 admitted. There are a lot of licensed beds, but the issue appears to be related to staffing and
44 COVID had made many of those inaccessible. A high number of people prefer Assisted Livings
45 largely due to the aesthetics and then, in turn, have frustration when patient isn't receiving Long-
46 Term Care level of need. They are having ongoing discussions around designing education for

1 the LTC facilities for families because there is a large information gap between families/patients
2 and facilities.

3
4 **VIII. New Business**

5 Commissioner Reed provided an update that Dr. Corey Finch was named last night as the new
6 Secretary of Health.

7
8 **IX. Adjournment**

9 Mr. Osterhout moved board approval to adjourn. Dr. Krishna provided a second. Motion carried.

10
11 Aye: Dr. Grellner, Dr. Krishna Mr. McCroskey, Mr. Osterhout, Dr. Storms, Dr. Sudduth, Dr.
12 Whittington, Dr. Wolff

13 Absent: Dr. Lim

14
15 The meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m