I. Call to Order

Ronald Osterhout called the virtual meeting to order on Wednesday, March 31, 2021, at 1:19 p.m.

II. Roll Call and Confirmation of a Quorum

Board members present via videoconference: Charles Grim; R. Murali Krishna; Ronald Osterhout; Bruce Storms (absent at roll call); Kinion Whittington; and Travis Wolff.

Board members absent: Jenny Alexopulos; Tim Starkey

Central staff present via videoconference: Lance Frye, Commissioner of Health; Travis Kirkpatrick, Deputy Commissioner, Health Innovation; Jennifer Lepard, Chief Operating Officer; Nicole Nash, Chief Legal Counsel; Keith Reed, Deputy Commissioner, Community Health Services; Jackie Shawnee, Chief of Staff; Sommer Skinner, Chief Innovation Officer; and Kathie Darr who served as recording secretary.

III. Review, Discussion and Approval of Minutes for the October 6, 2020, Regular Meeting

Grim moved board approval of the October 6 minutes as presented. Krishna provided a second. Motion carried.

Aye: Grim, Krishna, Osterhout, Whittington, Wolff
Absent: Alexopulos, Starkey, Storms

IV. Discussion About Future Vision for Public Health

Frye was recognized and affirmed the need for modernization within the state’s public health system. He discussed an opportunity to envision a framework that highlights Oklahoma as a premier state with regard to public health standards and practices.

Shawnee gave an update on a rural health pilot project currently developing in McCurtain County and noted initiatives for enhancements to various public health components as they relate to communications infrastructure, innovative models in healthcare settings, and heightened reach and capacity with regard to resources. She noted a needs assessment and upcoming evaluation within the pilot area that would help facilitate transition of the project model into a new community.

Reed briefed the board on the mobile concept noting efforts to reach people in their communities and better understand the particular needs of each region in the state. Mobile vans, he stated, had been delivered to almost all nine health regions and would be instrumental in continued execution of the COVID vaccine program. He requested from board members assistance in identifying clear assessments of local resources and development of local
improvement plans as well as input for an updated version of the Oklahoma Health Improvement Plan which sunset in 2020.

Storms entered the meeting at 1:36 p.m.

V. Discussion About the Role of the Board of Health
Osterhout led board members in a dialogue about authority of the Board of Health and a formal structure for information exchange with the department. Discussions related to meeting frequency, board structure and clarity with regard to roles and overall alignment.

VI. Appoint Members to the Nominating Committee for 2021 Officers
Osterhout stated that board president Starkey in his absence had requested appointment of Osterhout and Alexopulos to the nominating committee to present a slate of officers for approval at the May meeting.

VII. New Business
No new business.

VIII. Adjournment
Grim moved board approval to adjourn. Krishna provided a second. Motion carried.

Aye: Grim, Krishna, Osterhout, Storms, Wolff
Absent: Alexopulos, Starkey, Whittington

The meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.