



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-1512, **Agenda Item #:** 53.

3/25/2021

Posting Language

Approve the extension of the appointment of Mark Escott, M.D., as Interim Health Authority and the designation of Jason R. Pickett, M.D., Ming Tang, M.D., and Jonathan MacClements, M.D., each individually as an Alternate Health Authority, through June 30, 2021.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

December 7, 2017- Council previously approved the appointment of Dr. Philip Huang as the Health Authority with two alternate Health Authorities.

February 7, 2019 - Council previously approved the appointment of Dr. Mary Ann Rodriguez as the Interim Health Authority with two alternate Health Authorities.

October 3, 2019 - Council previously approved the appointment of Dr. Mark Escott as the Interim Health Authority with one alternate Health Authority.

March 12, 2020 - Council previously approved the appointment of Dr. Mark Escott as the Interim Health Authority with three alternate Health Authorities.

September 17, 2020 - Council previously approved the appointment of Dr. Mark Escott as the Interim Health Authority with three alternate Health Authorities.

For More Information:

Stephanie Hayden, Director, 512-972-5010; Kymberley Maddox, Assistant Director; Lucy Thompson, Agenda Coordinator, 512-972-5045.

Additional Backup Information:

This RCA requests Council's approval to extend the appointment of Dr. Mark Escott as Interim Health Authority through June 30, 2021. Throughout the past year, APH has continued to work closely with the City's Human Resources Department to identify a permanent Health Authority. However, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has caused a delay in our recruitment efforts. Approval of this request will ensure both the stability and continuity of the Health Authority. Staff will continue to work to fill this position.

Dr. Escott has been serving in this role since October 3, 2019 and extending his term will ensure consistency within the Austin Public Health Department (APH) while the recruitment process is being finalized.

Dr. Escott has designated Dr. Jason R. Pickett, Dr. Ming Tang, and Dr. Jonathan MacClements, each individually as an Alternate Health Authority.

Under state law (Texas Health and Safety Code Section 121.029), the Health Authority may delegate any power or duty imposed on the health authority to a properly qualified physician to act while the health authority is absent or incapacitated. The physician designated by the health authority must:

- Meet license and residence requirements;
- Be appointed as a designee in the same manner as the Health Authority; and
- Take, subscribe, and file the Oath of Office, executed by a duly appointed Notary Public, with the Texas Department of State Health Services.

The delegation is effective during the term of the Health Authority making the delegation. The Health Authority is responsible for the acts of the physician to whom the powers have been delegated, and the entity that appoints the Health Authority must have procedures in place to prevent duplication of authority and provide notice to the APH Director when authority is transferred. APH has had a “Delegation of Back-Up Health Authority” in effect since July 1, 2000.

Dr. Mark Escott received his medical degree from Flinders University School of Medicine in South Australia and a Master’s in Public Health from the University of Texas at Houston School of Public Health. He has a license to practice in the State of Texas and is subspecialty certified in EMS with the American Board of Emergency Medicine. His medical education includes an internship at the University of Adelaide-Modbury Public Hospital and a residency in emergency medicine at Pennsylvania State University-MS Hershey Medical Center, including serving as Chief Resident in Emergency Medicine. Dr. Escott currently serves as EMS System Medical Director for the City and Travis County. He previously served as Director of the Division of EMS and Disaster Medicine at the Baylor College of Medicine, and as Health Authority for the Montgomery County Public Health District. Dr. Escott meets all the requirements of the Texas Health and Safety Code to be designated as a Health Authority.

Alternate Health Authority

Dr. Jason R. Pickett received his medical degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School and has been in practice between 11-20 years. He serves as the EMS System Deputy Medical Director for the City of Austin and Travis County, and is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Wright State University. Dr. Pickett is the Tactical EMS Co-Chair for the Special Operations Medicine Scientific Assembly and is a member of the Guidelines and Practice Committee for the National Association of EMS Physicians. He is also a member of the Guidelines Committee for the Committee on Tactical Emergency Casualty Care. Dr. Pickett is Board Certified in Emergency Medicine and Subspecialty Board Certified in Emergency Medical Services. Prior to his work with the City, Dr. Pickett served as the Director of the Center for Prehospital and Operational Medicine at Wright State University. He has served as Medical Director for several fire departments and police SWAT teams. He is currently a Lieutenant Colonel in the West Virginia Army National Guard as a Battalion Surgeon in a special operations unit. Dr. Pickett’s current responsibilities include education, clinical guidelines, community health, rescue, and tactical medicine.

Dr. Ming Tang received his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and a Masters in Healthcare Management from the University of Texas at Dallas. He has a license to practice in the State of Texas and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Family Medicine. He is also a Registered Pharmacist in Texas. His medical education included an internship and residency in Family Medicine at Brackenridge Hospital. Dr. Tang currently serves as the physician in the Refugee Program at APH. Dr. Tang previously served as a family medicine physician with the City and CommUnity Care.

Dr. Jonathan MacClements received his medical degree, MBBCh, at the University of Witwatersrand

in Johannesburg, South Africa. He is a family medicine physician seeing patients in the UT Health Austin Primary Care Clinic. He received additional training in General and Ear Nose and Throat (also known as ENT) surgery at the University of Pretoria, and he graduated from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler, Family Medicine Program, where he was a chief resident. He has completed the McLennan Faculty Development Fellowship, the National Institute of Program Directors Fellowship, and an America's Essential Hospitals Fellowship. He is also board-certified by the American Board of Family Medicine and a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. He has served as both the Program Director and the Chairman of Family Medicine at UT Health Northeast, as well as the Public Health Authority for Smith County. Dr. MacClements is a Joint Aviation Authority Medical Examiner, Senior Federal Aviation Medical Examiner, is certified in Tropical Medicine and Traveler's Health by the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and has a Certificate of Added Qualification in Adolescent Medicine and Hospice and Palliative Medicine. He is also a past president of the UT Academy of Health Science Education. In recognition of his outstanding teaching and implementation of innovative teaching models, he received both the Exemplary Teaching Award from the Texas Academy of Family Physicians and the University of Texas Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award. Dr. Jonathan MacClements is Assistant Dean of Graduate Medical Education at the Dell Medical School at the University of Texas at Austin.

Dr.'s Pickett, Tang, and MacClements meet all the requirements of the Texas Health and Safety Code to be designated as an Alternate Health Authority.

The current curriculum vitae is attached for the Health Authority and each Alternate Health Authority, as well as a copy of the required appointing documents required by the Texas State Department of Health Services.

PERFORMANCE

Related Department Goal: Promote a healthy community by preventing chronic and communicable diseases, and promoting improvements in social/economic/environmental factors that will result in an improved overall health status and a reduction of health disparities.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment.