

**AT A WORKSHOP HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MARCH 13, 2025 AT 6:00  
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD,  
VIZ:**

**Present:** Eric F. Hinson, Chair, District 1,  
Ronterious Green, Vice-Chair, District 5  
Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2  
Shawn Wood, District 3  
Brenda A. Holt, District 4  
Roosevelt Morris, Interim County Administrator  
Louis Baptiste, Interim County Attorney, appeared online  
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk  
Leann Jinks, Deputy Clerk

**Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Hinson called the workshop to order at 6 p.m. Pastor Hannah led into invocation and Chair Hinson led into the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minutes Limit)**

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to [CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov](mailto:CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov) until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate on the County's website at [www.gadsdencountyfl.gov](http://www.gadsdencountyfl.gov).

Chair Hinson read aloud the above statement.

**Items for Discussion**

**Health Services**

Commissioner Holt stated they need a Certificate of Need (CON) in order for the federal government to fund a rural hospital. She mentioned the healthcare needs assessment that she passed out; she wants to do an inventory.

*Commissioner Simpkins appeared at 6:06 p.m.*

Dr. Browning appeared before the board. He stated he was chosen by the Town of Havana to take over Dr. Newberry's practice. He stated he has submitted detailed funding to the county to show where the funds will be coming from and he will continue to be transparent. He stated his goal was to prevent people from going to the hospital and to provide quality care for all.

Dr. Browning stated he will be closing a gap of 2,000 patients and will have 24/7 call coverage. Their goal was to achieve financial stability and will be without the lack of government funding, meaning they do not have any grants and will be operating privately.

Dr. Browning stated he has a bachelor's in Health Science, Masters in Public Health, and a John Hopkins fellow. He is a current Family Physician serving this area.

Commissioner Wood stated high blood sugar, high blood pressure, and prenatal care are the ones that continue to come back. He asked about indigent patients. Dr. Browning stated they take an oath to serve everyone regardless of race, status, background, etc.

Commissioner Green asked if Dr. Browning was asking for \$800,000. Dr. Browning stated no, it was \$700,000 over 2 years. Commissioner Green asked if it would be his private practice. Dr. Browning stated yes, he was creating a group of physicians. He stated when he first presented this to them, he called every Commissioner on this board and sent emails. He talked to some of them but he did not hear back from everyone.

Commissioner Green asked if they do go with this, what would be the guaranteed value. He also had concerns about patients with no insurance and cannot afford to be seen. Dr. Browning stated he was willing to see all, has no limitations.

Commissioner Holt stated she asked for this workshop so they could collect information; they have several people here that provide healthcare.

Commissioner Wood stated he was excited Dr. Browning is here. He asked if he would have a problem looking at his plan a different way. He mentioned taking money out of what they would give to Dr. Browning to take care of un-insured patients. Dr. Browning stated yes, he was willing to do that.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she thought it was a lesser amount. Dr. Browning stated the amount was negotiable. Commissioner Simpkins stated he should state he was willing to see a percentage of patients.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned that they have healthcare providers there and wanted them to work together and create partnerships. She asked how he was willing to work with the mobile health unit.

Dr. Browning wanted to clarify that when an individual selects a healthcare provider, they elect to see that healthcare provider. They made that decision. He mentioned that the Health Department was not meant to be a medical home and offer a continuity of services. Dr. Browning stated he was willing to get on the mobile health unit to do home visits.

Commissioner Green stated they have spent 40 minutes on this and they still need to hear everyone else's asks and desires. He felt like putting this as an agenda item for next week's meeting was a bit premature.

Dr. Browning stated the proposal has been submitted to the county.

Nurse Practitioner Brian Ham appeared before the board and stated he was the owner of First Care Clinic in Chattahoochee. He gave a background on his clinic and stated he wanted to form some kind of partnership to continue this clinic. He was close to 2,000 patients right now and gets new patients daily.

Chair Hinson asked if Mr. Ham receives federal funds and Mr. Ham stated no. Chair Hinson thanked them for their service.

*Commissioner Green stepped out at 6:56 p.m.*

*Commissioner Wood stepped out at 6:58 p.m. and returned at 7:00 p.m.*

Commissioner Green appeared online.

Commissioner Wood stated Rob Presnell is a long-time citizen of Chattahoochee and would like for him to come up to speak.

Rob Presnell appeared before the board. He stated to tackle the health issues that they have, it was through preventative medicine as it was quicker and cheaper.

Amy Glass appeared before the board. She stated Mr. Ham is her doctor. They need the help of all of Gadsden County to help the clinic stay open.

John Matthew Thro, Neighborhood Health board member, appeared before the board. Commissioner Simpkins asked if they were back in the building. Mr. Thro stated yes, they are allowed back in the building.

Commissioner Green mentioned indigent funds and stated they need an outline of the budget set for that.

Dr. Tracey Thompson with North Florida Rural Health, appeared online and provided a background on her career. Commissioner Holt asked about their schedule. Ms. Thompson stated they have someone there 5 days a week from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Ms. Thompson is there 2 times a month. Dental and Pharmacy were also there twice a month.

Dr. Thompson stated they get funding through insured patients when they charge their insurance company, and also through donations.

*Commissioner Wood stepped out at 7:46 p.m. and returned at 7:48 p.m.*

Commissioner Green asked Dr. Thompson about the level of communication with city commissioners. Dr. Thompson stated she has spoken at Chattahoochee's City Council before.

Commissioner Wood asked how many patients they have daily. Dr. Thompson stated she sees about 15-20 patients when she visits. Commissioner Wood asked if she could fix any communication or service problems they have. He stated if she is providing good service, he wants her to be there. He drives by the clinic every day and never sees her car. Commissioner Wood asked for her to circle back with city entities and see if they could fix the communication.

Jessie Furlow Medical representative, Lane Lunn, appeared. She suggested to spend on public health announcements to educate people on importance of healthcare. Commissioner Holt asked about funding. Ms. Lunn stated they receive federal funding.

Dr. Adrienne Cooksey appeared before the board. She stated the Health Department was like a safety net for the uninsured patients.

**PAMS (Prescription Assistance Medical Services)**

Pastor Tony Hannah appeared before the board. Jolleen Williams appeared to provide insight on PAMS. She stated they need help because their budget was low. She was making flyers to advertise the program. Pastor Hannah stated they could email the flyers to the commissioners.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about their hours. Ms. Williams stated they are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday.

Pastor Hannah stated when they board voted to cease funding, the Clerk stopped sending the checks. Commissioner Green stated there was a vote about 2 years ago to cease all non-profit funding until there was a workshop on it. Chair Hinson stated that had nothing to do with the board and they need to bring in the Clerk to find out more information on that.

*Commissioner Wood stepped out at 8:54 p.m. and returned at 8:58 p.m.*

**Mobile Health Unit**

Pastor Hannah expanded on the mobile health unit. It was their desire to be in all areas as much as possible. They were fired up and ready to go.

Dr. Cooksey stated one of the things they need to consider is a restroom for the mobile unit. Pastor Hannah stated they could bring the bus again for Tuesday's meeting.

Commissioner Holt asked if there was a place on the bus to lock up medications. She stated that was very important. She also mentioned security. Pastor Hannah stated they have not talked about that before.

Stacey Hannigan, School Board member, appeared before the board.

**Motion to Adjourn**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON  
DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 9:30 PM.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**Eric F. Hinson, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**