



# Washtenaw County Board of Health

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## Minutes

October 25, 2024, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM  
Washtenaw County Health Department  
555 Towner St, Ypsilanti, MI 48198  
Room 2102B

**Present:** Guadalupe Cervantes, Gina Dahlem, Chris Frank, Justin Hodge, Joan Kellenberg, Sade Mulkey, Carla Pretto, Katie Scott, Shekinah Singletery

**Absent:** Shadin Atiyeh, Dan Yordanich

**Staff:** Jimena Loveluck, Kristen Schweighoefer, Charlyn VanDeventer, Russell O'Brien

**Guests:**

### 1. Call to Order

Gina Dahlem called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

### 2. Public Comment

None.

### 3. Board Member Response to Public Comment

None.

### 4. Approval of Agenda (Action)

*Motion by C. Pretto, seconded by S. Singletery, to approve the agenda.*

*Motion approved unanimously.*

### 5. Approval of September 27, 2024 Meeting Minutes (Action)

*Motion by K. Scott, seconded by S. Mulkey, to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2024 meeting.*

*Motion approved unanimously.*

### 6. Executive Committee Minutes from September 13, 2024

Board members received the Executive Committee minutes.

Gina Dahlem said they discussed the Board of Commissioners (BOC) budget advocacy next steps, space planning, leadership transition, and grant updates.

### 7. Community Voices Report

None

### 8. Environmental Health Presentation – Kristen Schweighoefer, Environmental Health Director

Kristen Schweighoefer gave an in-depth overview of the Environmental Health (EH) division of the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD). She said she considers it the regulatory branch of Public Health. They enforce local, state, and federal laws and are involved in prevention, protection, and assurance activities. Kristen discussed staff size and the different teams they work on. Core programs, additional programs/activities, and the partnership with University of Michigan were covered.



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Kristen went into more detail on the hot topics of 2024. These include the new EnerGov software, Pollution Prevention Regulation update/implementation, proposed Statewide Sewage Code Bills, Geothermal Wells, New Food Code in 2025, PFAS, Vapor Intrusion, and Body Art Rule Promulgation.

Currently, each county or district health department in Michigan has their own sewage code. Senate Bills 29 & 30, House Bills 4479 & 4480 were introduced in April 2023 to develop a statewide sewage code. Kristen discussed core principles for a statewide code and said the bills are on their 8<sup>th</sup> revision. The statewide code would eliminate the Washtenaw County (WC) Time of Sale Regulation in 10 years. The proposed septic system inspection frequency requires all septic systems to be inspected on various priorities, ending with all septic systems inspected once every 10 years. There are approximately 35,000 septic systems in WC, so that would be 3,500 inspections per year. Staff would have to increase to meet the demand for inspections. There was discussion about funding availability for homeowners that can't afford to replace their septic system. The Septic Code Technical Advisory Committee will consist of 19 members, 6 of which will be Local Health Department (LHD) representatives and 3 Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) representatives.

Michigan is looking to update to the 2017 Food and Drug Administration (FDA) food code. This requires restaurants to have a certified manager present during all hours of operation and adds all strains of Salmonella to the reasons a food worker can be excluded while ill. Kristen talked about vapor intrusion and the role of the HD. Vapor intrusion sites in Washtenaw County were listed.

Kristen went into detail about the Resilient Washtenaw Plan. The plan includes 7 areas in the Health Focus. WCHD's role in Resilient Washtenaw was discussed, which includes expanding education/outreach programs and preparing the public health system for climate emergencies.

Hot topics for the Food Team, Rural Team, and Customer Service Team were covered. Kristen also discussed what EH is not doing due to staffing limitations. This includes climate change work, air quality, more comprehensive follow-up with general housing complaints, and more advocacy/partnerships in water quality concerns.

### 9. BOC Liaison Report

Katie Scott said the BOC is in budget season. Justin Hodge mentioned there is no meeting this week or next because of the odd number of weeks in October.

### 10. New Business

- **Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment**

Jimena Loveluck provided board members with a FAQ sheet for the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment. Legislation was passed in Michigan that requires all children enrolling in their first year of school to receive an oral health assessment prior to starting school. There was an increase in funding under the most recent budget and by 2025, all LHDs will be offering these services. The program is similar to the Hearing and Vision Program and WCHD is working on a contract with MDHHS that will start in January 2025. The anticipation is to work with My Community Dental Centers (MCDC) to provide the screenings onsite at schools or there will be a request for proposal (RFP) to contract with a dental provider. Children can get this done through their dental provider as well. Communication about this new requirement with schools, families, dental providers, and medical providers will be crucial.



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- **WCHD Leadership Transitions**

Jimena discussed the leadership transitions occurring at WCHD. Charles Wilson, Health Promotions Supervisor with 28 years at the county, retired last week. Laura Bauman, Epidemiologist, will be retiring in November. Jane Nickert, Director of Nursing, will be retiring in January. Jimena asked board members to share the job postings with people who might be interested. An internal transition team continues to meet and discuss coverage, recruitment, and planning for candidate interviews.

### 11. Old Business

- **State of Our Health Event (October 28<sup>th</sup> 8:30am-12pm)**

The event is this coming Monday at Washtenaw Community College and currently has 175 people registered. There will be updates on the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and breakout sessions focused on each of the 3 priorities, Access to Health Care, Mental Health, and Access to Healthy Food. There will be time and opportunity to network, meet new people, and have conversations.

- **Opioid Settlement Fund Planning**

The steering committee continues to work diligently to complete assignments. The needs assessment is anticipated to be completed by the end of the year. A report will be prepared and there will be a request for action from the BOC to approve the recommendations around funding priorities, funding mechanism, and ongoing oversight & monitoring. Will be presenting to a Working Session Meeting in January and then bringing a resolution to the BOC in February.

- **BOC Budget Advocacy**

A \$600,000 increase from the county general fund towards the HD Maintenance of Effort (MOE) was approved at the October 16<sup>th</sup> BOC Meeting. It was not as much as advocated for, but the HD is grateful for the increase. There will be a budget adjustment for the fiscal year 2025 budget.

### 12. Adjournment

*Motion by K. Scott, seconded by C. Pretto, to adjourn the meeting.*

*Motion approved unanimously.*

Meeting adjourned at 10:56 AM.

Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien