



Washtenaw County Board of Health

Minutes

May 23, 2025, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Washtenaw County Health Department
555 Towner St, Ypsilanti, MI 48198
Room 2102B

Present: Shadin Atiyeh, Gina Dahlem, Chris Frank, Justin Hodge, Joan Kellenberg, Carla Pretto, Katie Scott, Dan Yordanich
Absent: Guadalupe Cervantes, Sade Mulkey, Shekinah Singletery
Staff: Jimena Loveluck, Nifiah Reid, Ruth Kraut, Jackie Bates, Kristen Schweighoefer, Jennifer Conn, Chris Zilke, Russell O'Brien
Guests: Najaa Treadwell

1. Call to Order

Chris Frank called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Board Member Response to Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Agenda (Action)

*Motion by G. Dahlem, seconded by J. Hodge, to approve the agenda.
Motion approved unanimously.*

5. Approval of March 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes (Action)

*Motion by J. Hodge, seconded by S. Atiyeh, to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2025 meeting.
Motion approved unanimously.*

6. Executive Committee Minutes from March 20 and April 17, 2025

Board members received the Executive Committee minutes.

7. Community Voices (CV) Report

Najaa Treadwell gave an update on CV. She said all communities are beginning to have summer community events. They have a new member representing the southside of Ypsilanti and they are welcoming new ideas from their diverse group. CV is discussing how to work with communities for evaluation on the work they have been doing. Jimena Loveluck attending the last meeting to share data and give an update on federal changes that have been happening.

Justin Hodge asked what events are upcoming for Sugarbrook. Najaa said they are planning Lovebombing the Brook, which will be a distribution of essential household products. More details to come. Gina Dahlem asked how the donations are collected. Najaa said there will be a drive-thru donation drop. This year, families will register to make the process easier and more targeted to each household.



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8. Water Regulation and Contamination in Washtenaw County – Kristen Schweighoefer, Environmental Health Director, Jackie Bates, Environmental Health Program Administrator, and Jenni Conn, Public Health Engineer

Kristen Schweighoefer presented to the board on the Health Department's (HD) role in protecting water & public health, regulation of drinking water in Washtenaw County (WC), challenges & threats related to water contamination, working with the state to address concerns & contamination, Arsenic/1,4-dioxane/PFAS, and other activities.

Kristen went over the HD's role in permitting drinking water wells, geothermal wells, monitoring wells, and irrigation wells. WCHD responds as the lead or in partnership with the state/federal governments to water contaminations, complaints, and concerns. The Michigan Public Health Code was discussed. Jackie Bates talked about residential drinking water wells in WC and said 375 new/replacement well permits are issued annually. Well first areas, Type II water supplies, and Type III drinking water wells were covered. Water treatment options were discussed. The WC Time of Sale Regulation went into effect 1/1/2000 and includes a review of well water supplies at residential homes.

Municipal water supplies must review water service lines and sample customers' taps for lead through the Lead and Copper Rule. If samples exceed 12ppb, an action level exceedance (ALE) is reached, and WC must provide community education, blood lead testing, and support filter distribution. Jenni Conn went over Michigan's PFAS Action and Response Team (MPART) that has detailed information on every PFAS investigation in Michigan. There are currently 11 PFAS sites plus the Huron River in WC. Jenni discussed 1,4-dioxane and said there is no update on WC's complaint or EPA superfund. WC is planning on sampling 127 homes in early June as part of the long-term monitoring program. Laboratory methods have been updated for lower detections. Kristen finished the presentation with a list of recent water contaminations and response activities by location and year. Dan Yordanich asked what the minimum program requirements require the county to do for issuing a well permit. Jackie said there is a pre-drill checklist that includes reviewing records/well logs for water quality and to help insure there won't be any contamination.

9. BOC Liaison Report

Katie Scott said the Board of Commissioners (BOC) is working on the framework for the Senior Millage. There have been conversations with Jimena Loveluck and Jeremy Lapedis, Washtenaw Health Project (WHP), about how the HD and WHP are serving seniors and could fit into the millage. WC received a grant from the state for \$2.5 million to fix the Beyer Dam. The next BOC meeting in June will be held in Manchester and they are working on another off-site meeting in Superior Township.

10. Old Business

- **Federal Landscape and Funding Updates**

Jimena said the HD is feeling impacts from grants that have been impacted at the federal level. These include 3 COVID-19 related funding grants. The state was able to identify general fund dollars to maintain the same level of funding for the COVID-19 immunizations grant through September 30, 2025.

There was a favorable ruling for the lawsuit that the state is part of about the clawback of funds. More details to come.

There are concerns about Medicaid in the federal budget. Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH) joined the Protect MI Care coalition.



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- **State Accreditation Recognition**

WCHD was recognized at the May 7th BOC meeting for achieving and maintaining state accreditation. HD and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) staff were in attendance.

Discussion about 3-year vs 5-year schedule for accreditation. Jimena said that the longer timeframe would be supported but there is benefit to a shorter cycle because of changes that occur.

- **Annual Report**

WCHD is back on schedule with the 2024 Annual Report. It is shared widely and available on the website. washtenaw.org/health

11. New Business

- **Michigan Health Endowment Fund Grant**

Jimena shared the HD received a 2-year \$200,000 grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund for capacity building. It will be used to strengthen and refocus work related to community engagement and health equity. It has a June 1st start date.

- **Hybrid Vaccine Waivers**

WCHD implemented a new hybrid model for vaccine waivers that is supported by the state. Clients now view a presentation online that covers the same information a nurse would at an in-person meeting. Once completed, they receive a form that must be brought to the HD for a signature. The presentation highlights the benefit of vaccination and risk of not being vaccinated.

Joan Kellenberg asked about vaccine education outreach for seniors. She said waning vaccine immunity isn't understood by the public. Nifiah Reid said there was a senior outreach event this week where vaccine information was shared with the focus on measles.

- **Recognition Resolution**

A Resolution Recognizing Washtenaw County Public Health Engineer Jenni Conn for Receiving the Michigan Environmental Health Association Distinguished Service Award.

Motion by J. Hodge, seconded by K. Scott, to approve the resolution.

Motion approved unanimously.

- **Joan Kellenberg**

Joan gave an update from the February Board of Health (BOH) meeting on avian influenza. She worked with Kim Collom to connect her with the birding community for new community advocates.

12. Adjournment

Motion by K. Scott, seconded by G. Dahlem, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:53 AM.

Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien