



Washtenaw County Board of Health

Minutes

September 26, 2025, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD)
555 Towner St, Ypsilanti, MI 48198
Room 2102B

Present: Shadin Atiyeh, Guadalupe Cervantes, Chris Frank, Justin Hodge, Joan Kellenberg, Carla Pretto, Shekinah Singletery, Dan Yordanich

Absent: Gina Dahlem, Sade Mulkey, Katie Scott

Staff: Ruth Kraut, Juan Marquez, Patty Krause, Russell O'Brien

Guests: Kristianna Ballnik, Wilson Fritz, Samira Mehta

1. Call to Order

Chris Frank called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Board Member Response to Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Agenda (Action)

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

Motion approved unanimously.

5. Approval of July 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes (Action)

Motion by C. Pretto, seconded by D. Yordanich, to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2025 meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

6. Executive Committee Minutes from July 17, 2025

Board members received the Executive Committee minutes.

7. Community Voices (CV) Report

None.

8. 2025-2027 WCHD Strategic Plan – Ruth Kraut, Deputy Health Officer and Kristianna Ballnik, Social Work Intern

Ruth Kraut and Kristianna Ballnik presented an update on the 2025-2027 Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) Strategic Plan. They discussed the process, some immediate outcomes, what employees would like to see by the end of 2027, and vision & guiding principles.

Ruth went over the 4 strategic priorities and goals while Kristianna gave examples of the objectives for each goal. The strategic priorities are:

1. Effectively Deliver Mandated and Priority Services
2. Integrate and Utilize Data
3. Center Equity and Community Engagement





Washtenaw County Board of Health

4. Acknowledge, Strengthen, Support, and Engage the Workforce

Next steps include creating an evaluation plan by November 2025, establishing a follow-up cadence with supervisors of each team, updating in the summer of 2026, and extending into 2028. The 2025-2027 Strategic Plan is available on the website. There will not be a press release because the plan is internally focused.

9. Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey (PH WINS) Results for WCHD – Patty Krause, Community Health Analyst

Patty Krause went over some of the results of the PH WINS survey for WCHD. She discussed the background of the survey. It is the only nationally representative source of data about governmental public health workforce and WCHD had a 63.5% response rate. There are many options to filter the data, and it can be compared to many different regions.

Survey results for many different questions were discussed. Some examples include demographic information, tenure at WCHD, job/organization satisfaction, mental health, flexibility & benefits, and community engagement. Patty discussed some takeaways from the PH WINS survey. They include that WCHD's workforce is younger than in previous surveys, staff report high feelings of belonging, staff satisfaction with their job/benefits/supervisor is high while organizational satisfaction/pay lag, and mental health has improved since the last survey in 2021. Next steps involve incorporating results into the Strategic Plan. There was further discussion by board members on individual question results.

10. Respiratory Season Preparations – Dr. Juan Marquez, Medical Director

Dr. Juan Marquez discussed preparations for the respiratory season and gave an update on the vaccine landscape. There was a chaotic Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) meeting last week that resulted in new recommendations. Dr. Marquez went over some of the changes and highlighted the updates on the COVID-19 Vaccine Information Statement (VIS). Michigan Chief Medical Executive Standing Recommendation #2025-01: COVID-19 Vaccines was discussed. The recommendation expands vaccine eligibility by stating that any resident six months or older who has not yet received a 2025–2026 vaccine can be considered at high risk for severe COVID-19 outcomes and is eligible to receive an age-appropriate dose. The take home message is that anyone who wants a vaccine can receive one at WCHD. Implementation will start next week offering COVID, Flu, and RSV (adults). Justin Hodge will share this information as the liaison at the Board of Commissioners (BOC).

11. BOC Liaison Report

Justin Hodge said the Health Department (HD) and Washtenaw Health Project (WHP) each received \$450,000 in special funding. A year ago, the BOC asked all departments to do a projects-based budgeting model and Justin said only the HD did it the way the board wanted. This year they voted to make every department do it. There was discussion about the data center policy. County government has no authority to support or stop the data center, that zoning authority is up to the city or township. The resolution passed will come up with a toolkit for local governments to help make decisions around zoning for data centers. The BOC allocated \$700,000 to Trinity Health for temporary housing solutions through Alpha House. Interviews for the director of the Office on Aging have been completed and recommendations have been made to the County Administrator.

12. Old Business

- Opioid Settlement Updates



Washtenaw County Board of Health

The advisory committee has been appointed by the BOC. Chris Frank and Gina Dahlem are on the committee.

- **Federal/State Budget**

The State is looking like it will avoid a shutdown. Very recent news, but it looks like there will not be a cut to Emergency Preparedness funds.

13. New Business

- **WIC Breastfeeding Recognition Resolution (Action)**

A resolution recognizing the Washtenaw County WIC for their national breastfeeding award of excellence.

*Motion by C. Pretto, seconded by S. Singletery, to approve the WIC Breastfeeding Recognition Resolution.
Motion approved unanimously.*

- **Health Equity Resolution (Action)**

A resolution affirming a health equity approach to improve health for all residents in Washtenaw County.

*Motion by J. Hodge, seconded by G. Cervantes, to approve the Health Equity Resolution.
Motion approved unanimously.*

14. Adjournment

*Motion by S. Singletery, seconded by C. Pretto, to adjourn the meeting.
Motion approved unanimously.*

Meeting adjourned at 10:54 AM.

Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien