



Washtenaw County Board of Health

Minutes

October 24, 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, Gina Dahlem, Chris Frank, Justin Hodge, Joan Kellenberg, Sade Mulkey, Carla Pretto, Katie Scott, Shekinah Singletery

Absent: Dan Yordanich

Staff: Jimena Loveluck, Nifiah Reid, Charlyn VanDeventer, Jeremy Lapedis, Russell O'Brien

Guests: Sunny Fritz

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

Motion approved unanimously.

5. Approval of September 26, 2025 Meeting Minutes (Action)

Motion by G. Cervantes, seconded by G. Dahlem, to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2025 meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

6. Executive Committee Minutes from September 18, 2025

Board members received the Executive Committee minutes. Chris Frank said they discussed budget items, opioid settlement funding, and board member terms that are ending,

7. Community Voices (CV) Report

Charlyn VanDeventer said CV is preparing for an upcoming planning and resetting meeting in November. Over the summer, CV worked within their communities on a variety of projects. These include supporting the food pantry and health education in Whitmore Lake, youth programming in West Willow, and ensuring access to menstrual supplies for teens in Superior Township.

8. Resilient Washtenaw Presentation – Beth Gibbons, Washtenaw County Resiliency Office Director

Beth Gibbons presented to the board on Resilient Washtenaw. She went over the Resilient Washtenaw Plan, specific health aspects to the plan, and some ongoing projects. Beth started with a brief background on the Washtenaw County Resiliency Office. The strategies, principles, and goals were discussed. The 2 main goals are zero net CO2 emissions for Washtenaw County Operations by 2030 and zero net CO2 emissions for all of Washtenaw County by 2035. The plan in total has 46 actions.





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Local climate change was discussed including more precipitation, more severe storms, and more extreme heat events. Beth talked about how climate change relates to the health of Washtenaw County residents. The Resilient Washtenaw Plan is part of a group of plans including the MI Healthy Climate Plan from the State and the Southeast Michigan Healthy Climate Plan from SEMCOG. Many other local governments also have climate action plans.

Beth went into more detail on strategies for the health section of the plan and talked about projects that are underway in 2025. A couple of these include providing guidance for County owned relief centers across the county and providing information & decision support tools on data centers. There is information on their webpage about data centers with updated FAQs and they are working on a toolkit on how to address data centers. The Resiliency Office appreciates the work done and support received from the Health Department. Kristen Schweighoefer briefly discussed the Health Department's role with data centers.

9. Preparing for Medicaid Changes Related to HR1 – Jeremy Lapedis, Executive Director Washtenaw Health Project (WHP)

Jeremy Lapedis presented on “Washtenaw Care” which is a response to the healthcare coverage threats faced in Washtenaw County because of H.R.1. He discussed the healthcare coverage impact of H.R.1 federal mega bill and told a client story about a psych ER visit without insurance.

Jeremy went over the near-term impact to marketplace coverage which involves making it harder to enroll and the loss of coverage for about 3,000 Washtenaw County residents. The medium-term impact to Medicaid was discussed. Refugees and asylees lose Medicaid October 1, 2026 and starting December 31, 2026, twice yearly renewals and work requirements begin. If nothing is done, 10k-15k people could lose coverage. The WHP is the perfect response to the H.R.1 bill and could grow with support and community partnership.

The vision of Washtenaw Care was discussed. Affordable healthcare coverage is available for anybody in Washtenaw County who wants it. The core components include public messaging, expanded WHP enrollment, and access check-ups & community partnerships. Demand for support in Medicaid enrollment, re-enrollment, and work requirements reporting will grow. Jeremy presented an estimate on the annual cost to support Washtenaw Cares. Total cost between \$2.4m - \$3.8m. Ideas for funding are welcome. A small millage was suggested as well as a larger health and human services millage. The Song Foundation was another suggestion.

10. Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Update – Susan Ringler-Cerniglia, Communications & Community Health Promotion Administrator

Susan Ringler-Cerniglia gave an update on the CHIP. She went over the cycle review, workgroup updates, Health Department actions & progress, and challenges & considerations. The Health for All website was highlighted as a place to find local and national data. WCHD is currently in the action stage of the Community Health Improvement process. Three priority areas that were identified are mental health, health care access & navigation, and access to healthy food.

A brief update was shared on each priority area workgroup including the makeup of the workgroup and their goals. Susan discussed ongoing priorities with this work and gave examples of WCHD actions & progress. Examples include a new streamlined referral system and Summer Health Day adding mental health & food access activities. Challenges and considerations were talked about. Susan also presented on Community Health Assessment (CHA)/CHIP activities at other health departments.



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11. BOC Liaison Report

Justin Hodge and Katie Scott gave a quick BOC update. They are in the process of passing the budget. They are addressing plans for the ongoing Federal shutdown including WIC funding and SNAP concerns. There are 3 meetings left in 2025.

12. Old Business

- **Federal/State Budget**

Jimena Loveluck shared the quarterly Health Officer Update with board members because it included information about the state budget. It ended up being much better for public health than expected. The federal shutdown major concerns are around WIC and SNAP. The state is hopeful to receive funding for WIC through the 1st week of November. The state was told by the federal government that SNAP benefits would have to be paused in November.

- **Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee**

The WCHD website has been updated with all of the information about the opioid settlement funds. Contracts for organizations that were funded through the RFP started October 1st. There is a new opioid settlement advisory committee made up of 14 members. Their 1st public meeting is October 31st and they will be monitoring the implementation of funded programs, look at progress, and evaluate impact.

13. New Business

None.

14. Adjournment

Motion by J. Hodge, seconded by C. Pretto, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien

