



Washtenaw County Board of Health

Minutes

February 6, 2026, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD)
555 Towner St, Ypsilanti, MI 48198
Room 2102B

Present: Shadin Atiyeh, Guadalupe Cervantes, Gina Dahlem, Joan Kellenberg, Sade Mulkey, Dan Yordanich
Absent: Chris Frank, Justin Hodge, Carla Pretto, Katie Scott, , Shekinah Singletery
Staff: Jimena Loveluck, Ruth Kraut, Juan Marquez, Russell O'Brien
Guests:

1. Call to Order

Gina Dahlem called the meeting to order at 9:27 AM.
Snow delayed the start to the meeting.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Board Member Response to Public Comment

None

4. Approval of Agenda (Action)

Motion by G. Cervantes, seconded by J. Kellenberg, to approve the agenda.
Motion approved unanimously.

5. Approval of October 24 & December 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes (Action)

Motion by J. Kellenberg, seconded by D. Yordanich, to approve the minutes of the October 24 & December 12, 2025 meetings.
Motion approved unanimously.

6. Executive Committee Minutes from November 20, 2025

Board members received the Executive Committee minutes.

7. Election of Board Officials and Appeals Subcommittee (Action)

Officers

Chris Frank – Chair
Carla Pretto – 1st Vice Chair
Shekinah Singletery – 2nd Vice Chair

Appeals Subcommittee

Dan Yordanich – Chair
Lupe Cervantes
Carla Pretto
Joan Kellenberg – Alternate

Motion by J. Kellenberg, seconded by S. Mulkey, to approve the Board of Health Officers and Appeals Subcommittee as presented.
Motion approved unanimously.





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8. Approval of 2026 Meeting Schedule (Action)

Jimena shared the draft 2026 Board of Health Meeting Calendar. One change was suggested because December meetings often failed to reach quorum. The meetings will be the 4th Friday each month except November, which will be the 3rd Friday. No meetings in August or December.

Motion by G. Cervantes, seconded by S. Mulkey, to approve the 2026 BOH Meeting Calendar.

Motion approved unanimously.

9. Childhood Vaccine Schedule Changes – Dr. Juan Marquez, Medical Director

Dr. Marquez discussed recent childhood vaccine schedule changes. Changes to the vaccine schedule were announced on January 5, 2026. These changes were made without evidence and were presented as being more in alignment with other high-income countries, specifically Denmark. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends a decrease in the number of vaccines from 17 to 11. Many vaccines are still recommended for all children but there were 6 that are no longer universally recommended. Dr. Marquez went over the problems with the change including changes took place outside of the usual process, the changes weren't based on new evidence or safety data, and there was no disease modeling, impact assessment or expert input or consultation. Implications include confusion & false claims, increase in vaccine preventable diseases, supply chain risks. The Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) stance is that they will continue to follow the CDC's earlier recommendations, which align with guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians. Action steps include advocating for REAL public health by naming the process failure, focusing on health outcomes, contextualizing other nations carefully, using appropriate public health metrics with a lens on optimization, and explaining potential impacts and assert what can be done.

10. Old Business

- **Tobacco Legislation**

Jimena Loveluck shared an article about legislation that was passed that removes penalties for minors and imposes more aggressive fines and penalties for retailers that sell to minors.

11. New Business

- **MALPH 2026 Legislative Priorities**

Jimena shared a draft of the Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH) funding priorities for 2026. She highlighted the advocacy around increased funding for Children Special Health Care Services (CSHCS), increased funding to support lead screening, and the statewide septic code legislation that was just introduced. Jimena will share the final version once it is approved.

- **Washtenaw County Office of Aging Services**

Washtenaw County has a new Office of Aging Services that was created after the Older Persons Millage passed. The new director is Shannon Effler, and she will be coming to WCHD next week for a meeting.

- **Evenings with OLLI**

Jimena will be presenting at an event put on by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Michigan called Evenings with OLLI. They want to hear about the biggest public health challenges in Washtenaw County.



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12. Adjournment

Motion by D. Yordanich, seconded by G. Cervantes, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:01 AM.

Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien