



Washtenaw County Board of Health

Minutes

March 27, 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, Chris Frank, Justin Hodge, Joan Kellenberg, Katie Scott, Shekinah Singletery, Dan Yordanich

Absent: Sade Mulkey, Carla Pretto,

Staff: Jimena Loveluck, Ruth Kraut, Nifiah Reid, Russell OBrien

Guests: Jeffrey Belmont

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 K. Scott, seconded by D. Yordanich, to approve the agenda.

Motion approved unanimously.

5. Approval of February 27, 2026 Meeting Minutes (Action)

Motion by S. Singletery, seconded by K. Scott, to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2026 meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

6. Executive Committee Minutes from February 18, 2026

Board members received the Executive Committee minutes.

7. Community Voices (CV) Report

None.

8. Developing Washtenaw Care – Jeremy Lapedis, Executive Director of Washtenaw Health Project

Jeremy Lapedis presented on developing Washtenaw Care, a healthcare access response in Washtenaw County (WC) to coverage threats from the "One Big Beautiful Bill" (OBBA). The plan includes building on Washtenaw Health Project (WHP) to mount a healthcare access response. Marketplace premiums more than doubled for many people in 2026 and WHP enrolled 31.5% fewer people. Katie Scott asked for a breakdown by zip code or area of where the people without insurance are living. Jeremy will provide that information after the meeting.

An estimated 12,000 to 18,000 people could lose coverage in Washtenaw County due to OBBA coverage cuts. Eligibility for Medicaid is limited, bureaucracy & confusion are increased, and ACA Marketplace premiums are



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dramatically inflated. The uninsured rate in WC could go up to 7%, close to the level pre-ACA. We can do something about this!

Jeremy proposed Washtenaw Care, funded through a county millage. He shared the Healthcare Access Millage vision, which includes affordable healthcare coverage in WC for anybody that wants it, residents knowing how to access healthcare & insurance, and help with enrolling in healthcare coverage. The objectives include building upon WHP strengths and modeling after millages in Genesee and Ingham County. The core components of the millage are Medicaid access & community partnerships, marketplace premium support & alternatives, and Washtenaw Health Plan & unfunded medical services. The total proposal is 0.2 mills which would raise \$5.2 million. Through the partnership with the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD), Medicaid match funding would be \$0.9 million for a total annual budget of \$6.1 million. Jeremy suggested an 8-year millage would be an appropriate time period to help respond to this crisis. The Healthcare Access Millage summary was provided. It acknowledges the healthcare access crisis, creates a local response, and figures out a funding response.

There was some discussion about millage fatigue in WC and how the Board of Commissioners (BOC) may vote on this proposal. It was pointed out that healthcare access is a BOC priority. Justin Hodge asked for a percentage breakdown of spending on the 3 priority areas WHP focuses on. There was discussion about money from other millages that could be used to get to the \$5.2 million or if it could be piecemealed from other places. Genesee and Ingham County's millages were discussed. Jeremy said it would be wonderful if the Board of Health (BOH) supports this and communicates that to the BOC. A draft resolution will be drawn up and voted on at the next BOH meeting in April.

9. Measles Response – Dr. Juan Marquez, Medical Director

Dr. Marquez gave an update on measles in WC. There are currently 7 active cases. The index case came from Florida and is not vaccinated. Anyone in the household that wasn't protected developed measles. Initial public sites listed were all from the index case. It is very difficult to track down all places someone has been because the infectious period is 4 days before the rash. So far, nobody has developed a rash from the initial sites. WCHD has limited their services. Clinic is running measles vaccine response. Communicable disease is prioritizing high risk cases. All the current cases are connected. 7 cases may not seem like a lot, but it involves hundreds of contacts and follow-ups. WCHD received additional funding from the state, but that money will be gone by the end of the week. Justin suggested that he hopes the BOC would support fighting measles and would like it on the agenda for the next BOC meeting.

10. BOC Liaison Report

Katie Scott said there will not be a first April meeting for the BOC.

11. Old Business

- **Gelman and EPA Superfund NPL**

Jimena Loveluck shared an update from Kristen Schweighoefer, Environmental Health Director. The Gelman site was added to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Priorities List (NPL) in early March. Kristen and others met with Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for more information and next steps. EPA will do a remedial investigation and feasibility study. Gelman will most likely challenge the listing on the NPL. EPA will present Gelman with an administrative order-on-consent. EGLE will continue the existing consent judgement and all associated activities including residential well sampling. The existing consent judgement will remain active until EPA signs the administrative order-on-



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consent which could be a 3–5-year process. There was a request to have a community meeting to explain the next steps and timeframe to the public.

- **MALPH Day at the Capitol**

Talking points were shared with board members. Nifiah Reid said they talked about policy priorities and budget increases for Essential Local Public Health Services (ELPHS). The event occurred March 18. Nifiah also mentioned the Hometown Heroes award received by the Washtenaw County Medical Examiner's office.

12. New Business

- **Together for Health Campaign**

Jimena wanted to introduce board members to the campaign. They received a slide presentation. Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH) is working with local health departments and the state to encapsulate a vision for public health in Michigan. The campaign is based on feedback from many meetings with various public health partners. It will be launching this summer. Health department staff will receive formal training so that everyone is on the same page.

- **Washtenaw County Bicentennial Kick-Off Event**

The event will be held at the Washtenaw Community College (WCC) Morris Lawrence Building on Monday April 13th. It will be free, fabulous, and fun/food.

- **State of Our Health Event**

WCHD will hold their State of Our Health Event on December 11 in the morning. It will be held at the WCC Morris Lawrence Building.

- **June BOH Meeting**

The June Board of Health meeting will need to be rescheduled. Please respond to the poll that was sent to board members.

13. Adjournment

Motion by K. Scott, seconded by S. Singletery, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:54 AM.

Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien.