



Washtenaw County Board of Health

Minutes

April 24, 2026, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD)

555 Towner St, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Room 2102B

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

Absent: Shadin Atiyeh, Gina Dahlem, Sade Mulkey

Staff: Jimena Loveluck, Ruth Kraut, Nifiah Reid, Mary Conley, Katie Hensley, Jennifer Brassow, Charlyn VanDeventer, Kristen Schweighoefer, Caroline Hogan, Jeffrey Belmont, Willow Krupin, Russell OBrien

Guests: Anand Parekh, Allecia Wilson, Lisbeth Harcourt

1. Call to Order

Chris Frank called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

2. Public Comment

Dr. Anand Parekh, Chief Health Policy Officer, University of Michigan School of Public Health, said his role is designed to help translate the care, practice, and research happening for policy makers to drive health impact. He also has an advisory role at the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation. Dr. Parekh values the academic health department partnership with Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD). He is also an advisor to a commission on local public health leadership. They are trying to build and improve relationships between local elected officials and local health officials. The toolkit will be shared this summer.

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 March 27, 2026 Meeting Minutes (Action)

Motion by C. Pretto, seconded by G. Cervantes, to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2026 meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

6. Executive Committee Minutes from March 20, 2026

Board members received the Executive Committee minutes.

7. Community Voices (CV) Report

Charlyn VanDeventer shared an update. CV met on April 6th and discussed social determinants of health and how to collaborate with other groups doing work in Washtenaw County (WC). They also discussed projects for the summer and what they want to work on. They want to update their community profile and look at ways to measure how they are making an impact within their community. An epidemiologist from WCHD will attend the next meeting to help figure out what to report on.



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8. Issues in Environmental Health – Kristen Schweighoefer, Environmental Health Director

Kristen Schweighoefer presented on current environmental issues in WC. The hot topics for 2026 include: Statewide septic code bill 771, Gelman site listed on the EPA's National Priorities List, Advocate for new food code, Advocate for changes to food truck inspection, PFAS Self-Test Kit partnership with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Mid-Michigan Materials Gravel Pit, and other seasonal Environmental Health (EH) items.

Currently each county or district health department in Michigan has their own sewage code that governs on-site sewage disposal systems. There has been a lot of interest in having a statewide code for uniformity and to introduce an operational inspection for septic systems. Kristen discussed the core principles for a statewide sewage code that were developed by MALPH and MALEHA. They want to make sure there is funding to handle the dramatic change to how business is done. WC has a Time of Sale Program and wants to make sure the statewide code doesn't pre-empt local ordinances. Under the new code, 35,000 septic systems in WC would need to be inspected every 10 years. WC currently reviews up to 1,000 Time of Sale reports per year. Staff levels would need to be tripled, and significant time would be spent on enforcement.

On March 12, 2026, EPA listed the Gelman 1,4-dioxane contamination site on their National Priorities Listing, designating it as a Superfund site. This moves the site from the Assessment phase to the Characterization phase. Kristen went over the timeline of events to get to this point. Next steps include the EPA continuing the enforcement process, EPA beginning community involvement activities ensuring the community is kept informed, site investigation/remedial investigation beginning, early actions may be done via a time-critical removal action, and the EPA will work closely with EGLE throughout the life of the site. WCHD will continue to work closely with EGLE on any concerns of water quality and human health issues and will continue to review residential water sampling and make recommendations to EGLE.

Michigan is currently under the 2009 FDA food code, adopted in 2012, and is looking to update to the 2022 FDA food code. Some changes include requiring restaurants to have a certified manager present during all hours of operation and adding all strains of Salmonella to the reasons a food worker can be excluded while ill. Additional law changes are needed to address food truck licensing and inspection. In Washtenaw County, there are 84 licensed Transitory Food Trucks. As of March 4, only 17 (20%) had two inspections completed, and 40 (48%) had no inspections completed. As of April 13, only 26 (31%) had their two required inspections completed.

Washtenaw County is participating in a program with the MDHHS to review areas of possible PFAS contamination and offer free PFAS water test kits to residents on well water. There are 11 sites being discussed. WCHD will compile sites/addresses and MDHHS will send the kit and information for residents to test their water, return to the state lab, and get results.

The Mid Michigan Materials gravel pit in Ann Arbor Township had an ownership change and a significant increase in activity. The gravel pit was dewatering up to 2 million gallons a day and discharging to the nearby wetland. After this, WCHD received complaints of nearby residential wells running dry. EGLE then required them to discharge the water on site. WCHD has now heard from residents that there are water quality concerns with turbidity, iron, and manganese and is now partnering with MDHHS to have them review sites and sample residential wells for quality and safety parameters the week of April 27. Seasonal work including an increased number of temporary food licenses, vector surveillance, and recreational water sampling has started.



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9. Health Department Revenue Presentation – Jennifer Brassow, Finance Administrator; Katie Hensley, Fiscal Coordinator; and Mary Conley, Fiscal Coordinator

Jennifer Brassow presented a snapshot of the current fiscal year (FY26) and provided a deeper dive into a couple different revenue streams in preparation for the budget discussion in June. The gross budget revenue for FY26 is around \$21 million with 75% being operating and 25% being passthrough.

Insurance billing makes up 2% of revenue. WCHD bills Medicaid, Medicaid Health Plans, Medicare, and Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS). Jennifer went over which programs are billing insurance and Katie Hensley listed what services they are billing for. The lifecycle of a claim was discussed along with common billing issues. Carla Pretto asked if there was any place to advocate for reimbursement rate increases. Jennifer said yes, but it takes momentum and WCHD is connected to Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH) for advocacy.

Mary Conley discussed the complicated Medicaid full cost report. It is due May 31st and is for the prior calendar year. It is intended to cover the required amount of Medicaid services WCHD provides minus the match amount the department is required to cover. Mary went over the formula in detail. The 5 groups that fall under the Medicaid full cost report were discussed. Jennifer and Mary will return in June to present the FY27 draft budget.

10. BOC Liaison Report

Katie Scott said the State of the County Address event went great! There was a huge turnout. More events will be held this year for the 200th anniversary of Washtenaw County.

Katie said there does not seem to be enough support at the Board of Commissioners (BOC) for the Washtenaw Care millage. The Board of Health (BOH) will still introduce a resolution.

11. Old Business

- **Measles Outbreak Update**

Ruth Kraut gave a brief update. 21 days have passed since any new cases. For an outbreak to officially be declared over, 42 days must pass. Staff are still monitoring the situation. Emergency preparedness incident command has been deactivated but a small group will still meet to discuss measles. Cases have popped up in neighboring counties. WC is better prepared for cases in the future. Because of the outbreak, about 60 people came to WCHD to be vaccinated.

- **State of Our Health Event (12/11/26 8:30am-12pm)**

Jimena Loveluck said a save the date will be sent out soon. Will be held at Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Building and will highlight local public health. This is the 85th year of the WCHD.

12. New Business

- **WCHD 2025 Annual Report**

A press release will be issued on Tuesday 4/28/26 to share the 2025 WCHD Annual Report.

- **The Road Home Documentary Screenings**

Board members received information about The Road Home documentary series. There are local screenings happening at EMU and the Michigan Theater in April and May.



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- **Access to Healthcare Millage Resolution (Action)**

Board members received a draft of the Access to Healthcare Millage Resolution.

Motion by K. Scott, seconded by C. Pretto, to approve the resolution.

Motion approved unanimously.

- **Hometown Health Hero Resolution (Action)**

Katie Scott read the resolution aloud. A Resolution Recognizing the Washtenaw County Medical Examiner Bereavement Support Program for Receiving the 2026 Hometown Health Hero Award from the Michigan Public Health Week Partnership. Dr. Allecia Wilson and Lisbeth Harcourt were in attendance to receive the approved resolution.

Motion by K. Scott, seconded by C. Pretto, to approve the resolution.

Motion approved unanimously.

13. Adjournment

Motion by C. Pretto, seconded by G. Cervantes, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien.

