



Washtenaw County Board of Health

Minutes

May 22, 2026, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD)
555 Towner St, Ypsilanti, MI 48198
Room 2102B

Present: Guadalupe Cervantes, Gina Dahlem, Chris Frank, Justin Hodge, Joan Kellenberg, Sade Mulkey, Carla Pretto, Shekinah Singletery, Dan Yordanich

Absent: Shadin Atiyeh, Katie Scott

Staff: Jimena Loveluck, Ruth Kraut, Kim Collom, Amanda Ng, Willow Krupin, Nikita Sanghavi, Dakota Aitson

Guests: Shannon Effler, Jennifer Green

1. Call to Order

Chris Frank called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Board Member Response to Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Agenda (Action)

Motion by G. Cervantes, seconded by C. Pretto, to approve the agenda.

Motion approved unanimously.

5. Approval of April 24, 2026 Meeting Minutes (Action)

Motion by G. Cervantes, seconded by S. Mulkey, to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2026 meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

6. Executive Committee Minutes from April 16, 2026

Board members received the Executive Committee minutes. Chris Frank said the discussion was around the measles response at that time and a few other items.

7. Community Voices (CV) Report

Jennifer Green said CV last met on May 4th and were joined by Emily Wendel, University of Michigan Women's Health and Reproductive Disparities Collaborative (onWHARD), to discuss how their current projects work with the community on the goal to advance reproductive health. They discussed opportunities to partner and share information/resources within their communities. CV has been looking into updating the information on the community engagement website. The group received updated data from the 2017 report and the most updated information for their communities with a goal to document where they are and how they are doing in addressing health equity. CV is also working on community projects including a youth summer program and strengthening sustainability within food pantries.



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8. Overview of Older Persons Millage – Shannon Effler, Washtenaw County Office of Aging Services Director

Shannon Effler, Director of Aging Services, presented to the Board of Health (BOH) on aging in America, aging in Washtenaw County, the Older Persons Millage, Office of Aging Services, and the upcoming tentative RFI & RFP process. America has a growing population of adults 60+ and by 2035 older adults will outnumber children because of increased life expectancy and declining birth rates. Some key challenges include the rising prevalence of chronic illness, housing instability, and mental health concerns. Shannon went over some healthcare considerations including the challenges navigating Medicare/Medicaid and the need for geriatric specialists. She also talked about social and economic impacts. Future national directions entail focus on aging-in-place initiatives, innovation in technology & home supports, and community-based/integrated care models. The effects of ageism were discussed as well as the positive contributions of older adults. Specific Washtenaw County (WC) data was shared including a population overview, key demographics of older adults, economic conditions, health & functional needs, housing needs, transportation needs, and social/behavioral health. A rapidly growing older population requires integrated, accessible, and equitable systems to support healthy aging in WC.

On November 5, 2024, the voters of Washtenaw County approved a ballot question authorizing the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners (BOC) to levy a millage not to exceed .50 mill for a period of eight years. The purpose of the millage is planning, coordinating, evaluating, and providing services to people 60 years of age and older. Shannon went over the Older Persons Millage Model. The framework is publicly available, about 7 or 8 pages, and outlines how to use the resources of \$11-\$12 million per year. The Office of Aging Services is a funder, the quality control of that funding and programs & services provided, and they are providing leadership in aging to WC. Shannon went over a wish list that is outside of what is in the framework. Some ideas include an aging dashboard, Office of Aging Services Summit, and a Washtenaw County Aging ECHO or webinar-based model that provides education.

The tentative Older Persons Millage Request for Information (RFI) and Request for Proposal (RFP) process was shared. The goal is to release an RFI in June 2026 that will allow for an analysis of interest in needs. The submission of proposals for funding would go out in August 2026. The key takeaways include the availability of resources like free transportation, senior centers, the Senior Nutrition Program, and the Aging Resource Center. Next steps include the upcoming RFI & RFP process. Shannon said there have been meetings with the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) about expanding the Community Health Workers (CHW) and raising disease awareness. She asked that older adults be considered in every decision being made by the BOH and WCHD.

Justin Hodge said he thought Shannon's presentation to the BOC was excellent, should not have been the challenge that it was to get the resolutions passed, the comments from some commissioners were inappropriate, and he is sorry she had to deal with what she had to deal with. Lupe Cervantes asked what the timeframe and amount they are looking at for the rapid response grants. Shannon replied that it is all on the table right now, they are working on a strategy, and she would love to hear preferences. Carla Pretto suggested convening a coalition to help bring entities together and it would tie into having a summit. Joan Kellenberg proposed a communication push about fall prevention as the Office of Aging Services partners with WCHD. Chris Frank mentioned the duplication of resource center type places and asked if there was a plan to integrate in some way. Shannon said they are still figuring out how to balance the services and not duplicate. Jimena Loveluck said it has been wonderful having Shannon join WC in her position and there have already been many conversations about how to collaborate.



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9. Emergency Preparedness and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Exercise – Kim Collom, Emergency Preparedness Manager and Amanda Ng, Health Promotion Coordinator

Kim Collom presented on strengthening public health readiness through a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) exercise. She provided an overview of the March 2026 exercise, highlighted key capabilities & partners involved, shared major strengths & areas for improvement, and outlined actions underway to strengthen preparedness. WCHD conducts exercises as part of an ongoing Integrated Preparedness Planning Program. Lessons learned are incorporated into future planning, training, and exercises. HPAI was chosen because of the ongoing relevance, potential human health impact, and the opportunity to test cross-sector coordination & targeted response. Partners involved include University of Michigan School of Public Health, Washtenaw County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

Amanda Ng went over the exercise design. It was conducted on March 21st at the Learning Resource Center (LRC). The exercise included a 3-part structure and was guided by a structured scenario-based Situation Manual (SitMan). The exercise objectives were discussed for each entity involved. The scenario involved a suspected human exposure linked to animal contact at a fair with escalation requiring multi-agency coordination. Kim went over the public health responses. Key strengths were discussed including strong cross-agency coordination/communication, high engagement from partners, and successfully executed MRC activation & Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) request process. Opportunities for improvement were also covered including improving Point of Distribution (POD) workflow efficiency, strengthening documentation & tracking processes, and enhancing accessibility considerations. Kim talked about opportunities for improvement learned from the exercise and actions underway to achieve those improvements.

10. BOC Liaison Report

Justin Hodge said the BOC meeting this week ran until 2am. The big thing that they discussed was the Arbor South development. There will only be one board meeting per month for June, July, and August. Jimena asked if there is anything to share about the Access to Healthcare Millage Resolution that the BOH passed. Justin said Jeremy Lapedis is still talking to commissioners about it and he doesn't know if it will be on an upcoming BOC agenda. Shekina Singletery asked about the time sensitivity of it and Justin replied that it would need to be done by July in order for campaigning to occur.

11. Old Business

- **Tobacco Policy/Legislation Updates**

Amanda Ng provided a quick update. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has a process for approving products for sale and had been taking steps to mitigate products not approved. They recently authorized 4 new flavored products, which is a change from the stance that flavors were too enticing for youth. The new devices must be connected to a government ID in order to be activated via Bluetooth. The company that is selling the product says it works but there hasn't been any independent testing. The FDA also says they are putting marketing restrictions on the new devices. The only products they will be going after are those that are blatantly targeted towards kids or unsafe devices.

The State of Michigan is one of 8 states that still does not have tobacco retail licensing. They have been looking at removing penalties for young people that possess tobacco products. Two bills have passed the Senate and have moved to the House. The governor's proposed budget includes a \$1 increase in taxes on tobacco products.



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- **CDC Immunization Schedules**

Jimena Loveluck discussed the legal challenge to the recommended changes to the immunization schedule. She said it was successful and the federal court ruled in favor of maintaining the July 2025 schedule.

- **Upcoming [Screening](#) of The Road Home (5/28 @ EMU)**

Jimena highlighted the upcoming The Road Home documentary at Eastern Michigan University.

12. New Business

- **Summer Outreach**

WCHD receives a lot of requests for outreach events over the summer. The outreach team has focused on setting priorities and criteria to determine which events to participate in. Many of the priorities are related to the Community Health Assessment (CHA) including addressing priority populations, access to healthcare, access to healthy food, and mental health. The events will be highlighted on the WCHD website calendar.

- **Provider Micro Conference (6/25)**

There will be a provider micro conference on June 25th. Board members were encouraged to share the information. They are focused on communicable diseases and occur twice per year.

13. Adjournment

Motion by C. Pretto, seconded by D. Yordanich, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:58 AM.

Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien from Zoom recording.

