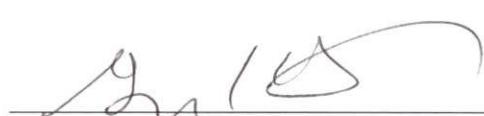


**CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**



Roderick L. Harris, Secretary



Dr. Gregory L. Hall, President

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING – DECEMBER 17, 2025**

Meeting called to order by Mr. Douglas Wang, President Pro Tempore of the Board at 9:03 a.m. in the office of the Board, 5550 Venture Drive, Parma, Ohio, on December 17, 2025.

Roll Call: The following members were present: Mr. Douglas Wang, Ms. Sonja Rajki, Dr. Sherrie Williams, and Mr. Daniel Richards. Ayes: Mr. Wang, Ms. Rajki, Dr. Williams, Mr. Richards.

It was moved by Mr. Richards, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following Motion be adopted:

**BE IT RESOLVED** to excuse Dr. Gregory Hall as late at the time of the meeting. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

The reading of the minutes of the November 19, 2025 regular Board meeting was dispensed with as copies had previously been received by each member. Inasmuch as there were no corrections, it was moved by Mr. Richards, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the minutes be approved. Ayes: 2, Nays: None, Abstained: Dr. Williams and Ms. Rajki abstained due to be absent for the November 19, 2025 board meeting, motion did not carry.\*\*

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the following Motion be adopted:

**BE IT RESOLVED** to amend agenda items as highlighted on revised agenda. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Public Comments on Agenda Resolutions Only (three-minute maximum) – N/A.

Review of the Financial Statements.

Wedad Alhamwi, Deputy Director of Finance, presented the financial statements through November 30, 2025, indicating a strong cash position. Board members Dr. Hall and Dr. Williams emphasized the importance of implementing standard operating procedures for grant management and activity code setup to reduce delays in revenue and expenditure allocation and improve accountability. They also recommended amending contracts to ensure sub-recipients comply with timely reporting requirements. The Board stressed the need for accurate expenditure tracking to maintain available funds for community initiatives and avoid missed opportunities. The overarching goal is not profit but the effective use of resources to serve the community. Joe McRae, Chief Administrative Officer, affirmed that current and planned actions align with this direction.

Dr. Hall arrived to the meeting.

Legislative Updates

John Mills, General Counsel, provided a legislative update on HB 134, which authorizes home kitchen registration for the sale of certain foods. The bill has passed the Ohio House of Representatives and may be introduced to a Senate committee. The Board expressed concern that the bill poses an unjustifiable risk by allowing small-scale restaurants to bypass the licensing process. Dr. Harris, Health Commissioner, noted internal discussions on advocacy strategies,

including outreach to the Ohio Restaurant & Beverage Association. Matt Johnson, Director of Environmental Public Health, reported that the Association is listed as an Interested Party but has taken a hands-off approach. Currently, CCBH is the only agency opposing HB 134. Under the bill, licensing would be managed by the Department of Agriculture, which is understaffed and unlikely to handle the expected volume. The proposed license fee cap is \$50.00.

#### Committee Reports – Finance Committee

Mr. Wang reviewed the minutes from the November 19th Finance Committee.

#### Approval of Resolutions/Motions:

#### REGULAR ACTIONS OF THE BOARD:

Ayana Bailey, Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2025-129. Ms. Bailey reported that the increase reflects a six-month extension of the grant, which would equate to a \$50,000 reduction (\$100,000 if applied to a full year). The funder encouraged CCBH to apply for additional funding to sustain the program. CCBH has submitted the application and is awaiting notification of the awarded amount.

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-129 be adopted:

**BE IT RESOLVED** to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter and execute a contract addendum with the Cuyahoga County Office of Early Childhood to administer the 2025/2026 Newborn Home Visiting Program and to revise the end date from December 31, 2025 to June 30, 2026 and to increase the amount to be received from \$1,450,000.00 to \$1,762,500.00. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Michele Benko, Maternal and Child Health Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2025-130, which provides two years of funding for the Child Fatality Review Board. The award reflects a 10% decrease this year, following a similar reduction in 2023. Despite the decrease, staff can be fully funded, aided by cost savings from transitioning to a digital dashboard. The program currently supports 1.20 FTEs, which remains sufficient to complete required work. Martha Halko, Director of Population Health, noted that the Child Fatality Review program is mandated by the Ohio Revised Code and expressed appreciation for the funding, as CCBH would otherwise be responsible for administering the program at its own expense.

It was moved by Mr. Richards, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-130 be adopted:

**BE IT RESOLVED** to Authorize the Health Commissioner to accept the 2026/2027 Child Fatality Review grant funding from Cuyahoga County Office of Early Childhood from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027 in an amount not to exceed \$216,000.00. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Molly Evans, Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2025-131, which addresses sub-recipients under the Overdose Data to Action grants. Case Western Reserve University's Begun Center provides research and evaluation support, including developing performance measures,

managing data collection systems, and assisting with reporting requirements. The Centers, a federally qualified health center, operates a syringe services program that offers harm reduction supplies, connects clients to treatment, and facilitates collection of materials for testing at the medical examiner's office. The Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office conducts routine fatal overdose surveillance, disseminates findings to public health and safety partners, and annually tests approximately 520 samples, providing toxicology results to syringe service sites.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-131 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter into and execute contracts with the following agencies under the 2025/2026 Overdose Data to Action grant from September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026:

|   | <u>Amount not to exceed:</u> |
|---|------------------------------|
| Case Western Reserve University           | \$ 479,650.00                |
| The Centers                               | \$ 210,560.00                |
| Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office | \$ 245,583.00                |

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Erin Lark Turcoliveri, Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2025-132, which funds an expansion of the Love Leads Here HIV Prevention and Care campaign using carryover funds. Building on last year's successful partnership with the Cleveland Cavaliers, the campaign will increase visibility by hosting three tables on the Main Concourse, providing education and distributing HIV self-test kits. Advertising will include venue signage, LED displays, and mascot engagement, with new exposure on the Cavaliers' website, which reaches 11 million visitors. The campaign will be featured at 10 games, with the Love Leads Here logo displayed on the court and broadcast across 282 networks.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Dr. Williams, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-132 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter into and execute a contract with Cavaliers Operating Company, LLC under the 2025/2026 Ending HIV Epidemic-Care grant from December 17, 2025 through December 17, 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00.

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Nichelle Shaw, Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2025-133 for year three of the five-year REACH program. Bike Cleveland is responsible for designing strategies to promote community physical activity, with the goal of making walking, biking, rolling, and transit safer and more accessible in target communities. Through community engagement and coalition building, Bike Cleveland will gather feedback on traffic calming measures aimed at reducing crashes in specific areas.

The Case Western Reserve University Swetland Center will work to increase access to produce prescriptions and fruit and vegetable voucher incentives for Black and Hispanic populations experiencing the highest burden of chronic disease. This effort includes establishing Standard Operating Procedures to streamline Produce Prescription (PRx) program operations, implementing infrastructure and system changes to reduce barriers, and providing resources such as staffing, marketing materials, enrollment and patient tracking assistance, nutrition education,

cooking tools, cooking demonstrations, and transportation support to local farmers' markets. Additionally, the Center will develop an action plan to ensure sustainable PRx programming.

During discussion, the Board asked how communities can engage or request Bike Cleveland's presence. Nichelle Shaw explained that Bike Cleveland uses reports to identify traffic hot spots, with most work concentrated in the City of Cleveland. While some municipalities have individual Bike Cleveland clubs, their presence outside the urban core is limited.

It was moved by Mr. Richards, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-133 be adopted:

**BE IT RESOLVED** to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter into and execute contracts with the following agencies under the 2025/2026 REACH grant from September 30, 2025 through September 29, 2026:

|  | <u>Amount not to exceed:</u> |
|--|------------------------------|
| Bike Cleveland   | \$ 121,632.00                |
| Case Western Reserve University Swetland Center for Environmental Health | \$ 140,000.00                |

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Nichelle Shaw introduced Resolution 2025-134. Strategy Solutions previously conducted the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and is continuing its efforts with the next objective of developing the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-134 be adopted:

**BE IT RESOLVED** to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter into and execute a contract addendum with Strategy Solutions, Inc., to increase the amount to be paid to Strategy Solutions, Inc. from \$45,995.00 to \$99,300.00, and revise the end date from January 31, 2026 to June 30, 2026 (Resolution 2025-074). Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Erik Hamilton, Operations Administrator, introduced Resolution 2025-135 regarding housekeeping and facility maintenance services. This resolution extends the current agreement an additional year, with the intention of issuing a competitive bid for these services in 2026.

It was moved by Mr. Richards, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-135 be adopted:

**BE IT RESOLVED** to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter into and execute a contract addendum with Hott Associates, Inc. (RFP# 2022-04) for housekeeping and facility maintenance services revising the end date of the contract from December 31, 2025 to December 31, 2026. Amount to be paid to HOTT Associates, Inc. will be \$3,715.00 per month for housekeeping and \$1,150.00 per month for facility maintenance/management (2024-161 and CRC 2022-165). Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Alison Patrick, Youth Health and Wellness Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2025-136. This marks the second time CCBH has received this grant funding, with the first award occurring in fiscal year 2021. The new award represents an increase of \$33,000 from the previous amount and will expand the Farm to School program into early childcare environments. The initiative will

provide new food safety training and resources for childcare programs to improve meal quality. It will also continue supporting small and medium-sized local farms and adapt the Harvest of the Month education program for early childcare audiences.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Dr. Williams, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-136 be adopted:

**BE IT RESOLVED** to Authorize the Health Commissioner to accept the 2025/2027 Ohio Specialty Crop Block grant funding from the Ohio Department of Agriculture from September 30, 2025 through September 29, 2027 in an amount not to exceed \$103,868.00. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

#### **BOARD ORDERS, RULES, FEES OR REGULATIONS**

##### **FIRST READING:**

Gerry Scott, Food Safety Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2025-137, noting that the fee increase is due to the higher cost of the new edition of the training materials. The adjustment ensures that the updated fee covers the increased expense of these materials.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Dr. Hall, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-137 be adopted:

**BE IT RESOLVED** to Amend the Cuyahoga County Board of Health's Food Protection Program Fee for the ServSafe Manager in Food Protection Course as an emergency measure effective January 1, 2026. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

##### **SECOND READING:**

None

##### **THIRD READING:**

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Dr. Hall, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-116 be adopted:

**BE IT RESOLVED** to Amend the Cuyahoga Board of Health's Food Protection Program Fees pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code Sections 3717.25 and 3717.45 effective January 1, 2026. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-138 be adopted:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that approval be given of the Consent Agenda as set forth in the attached schedules:

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Schedule A | Appropriation Measures.                        |
| Schedule B | Cash Transfers.                                |
| Schedule C | Routine Personnel Actions.                     |
| Schedule D | Employee Training and Travel Expenses.         |
| Schedule E | Approval of Vouchers. (Available upon request) |
| Schedule F | CRC Report and Other Contracts.                |

Ayes: 4, Nays: None, Abstained: Mr. Richards, motion carries.

**Health Commissioner's Report –  
Infectious Disease Update**

Vino Panakkal, Epidemiology Program Supervisor, and Blaise Soberano, Communicable Disease Investigator Program Manager, provided the Infectious Disease Update. See full report attached.

Dr. Williams shared concern with unclear guidance regarding testing for Hep-B. Ms. Rush noted that other states are forming coalitions independent of CDC guidance, while Ohio has not aligned with these efforts, potentially causing confusion. Dr. Ganesh highlighted the historical transmission of Hepatitis B to newborns and reaffirmed support for birth vaccination, noting long-term complications. The group discussed challenges related to shared decision-making, insurance coverage, and public trust in CDC guidance. Dr. Williams stressed the importance of science-based messaging and maintaining public health's commitment to evidence-based practices, regardless of political climate. Dr. Brown raised concerns about affordability for those without insurance coverage, prompting discussion on coalition-building and safety-net strategies. The conversation concluded with agreement on emphasizing facts and science to guide public communication.

**PHAB Reaccreditation Update**

La'Keisha James, Performance & Quality Administrator, provided an update on CCBH's PHAB reaccreditation status.

In August 2025, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) conducted its virtual Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) site visit, which included more than 30 participants, including two board members. During the exit conference, PHAB reviewers shared their observations regarding CCBH's strengths and opportunities for improvement, followed by a comprehensive written report issued in September 2025.

The reviewers identified several notable strengths. They commended the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for their level of detail and inclusion of partners. They recognized CCBH's strong foundation in equity and community engagement, as well as its ability to coordinate effectively with partners and maintain their involvement. The Strategic Plan was highlighted for its integration across programs and alignment with key organizational plans. Reviewers also praised the agency's clear and commendable commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) throughout its operations and noted that the agency's growth and progress were evident.

PHAB also provided recommendations for improvement. They encouraged CCBH to clarify baselines and targets within the Strategic Plan to ensure metrics are well-defined and support data-informed decision-making. To strengthen staff engagement, PHAB recommended building a deeper understanding of key agency plans and their connection to daily work. Additionally, reviewers emphasized the need to expand the Performance Management and Quality Improvement (PMQI) system through training and capacity building, incorporate performance management data into decision-making processes, and broaden quality improvement efforts across the entire agency.

Although the documentation submitted to PHAB reflected progress only through March 2025, CCBH has made significant advancements since that time. In 2025, the agency completed two organization-wide quality improvement trainings: Level 1 PMQI training in March with 83 percent staff participation and Results-Based Accountability (RBA) training in September with 88 percent participation. In May 2025, CCBH established an internal Quality Improvement Committee (QIC), which includes representatives from each service area and meets quarterly to review quality initiatives and monitor strategic plan progress. By June 2025, three QIC members achieved Lean Six Sigma yellow/green belt certification, and an additional thirteen staff members are scheduled to complete certification by February 2026. The agency also completed one PHAB-approved Quality Improvement Project (QIP) in June 2025 and plans to complete three more by February 2026. Furthermore, in September 2025, CCBH leadership obtained professional certification in Results-Based Accountability.

**Medical Director's Report**

See full Medical Report attached.

**Health Commissioner's Report**

See full Health Commissioner's Report attached.

**Public and Staff Comments (three-minute maximum) – N/A.**

**Miscellaneous Business –**

Thereupon, it was also moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following Motion be adopted:

**BE IT RESOLVED** to revise the 2026 Board Meeting Schedule and 2026 Board Committee Meeting Schedule as outlined in the attachment (ref. enclosed). Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

\*\*Mr. Mills brought to the Board's attention that the Resolution for the approval of the November 19, 2025 Board meeting minutes earlier in the meeting did not pass due to a total of only four votes with two of those votes being abstentions. Now with all five Board members present Mr. Mills asked for the Board to vote again on the Resolution.

Thereupon, it was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the that the November 19, 2025 Board Meeting minutes be approved.

Thereupon, it was moved by Ms. Rajki, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the following Motion be adopted:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the meeting be adjourned at 10:32 a.m. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

**SCHEDULE A**  
**APPROPRIATION MEASURES**

1. Budget Establishment(s):

- A. Establish a budget for the 2026/2027 Child Fatality Review grant in the amount of \$216,000.00 (ref. enclosed).
- B. Establish a budget for the 2025/2027 Ohio Specialty Crop Block grant in the amount of \$103,868.00 (ref. enclosed)

2. Budget Revision(s):

- A. Budget revision for the 2024/2025 MRC Strong grant to redistribute funds (ref. enclosed).

**SCHEDELE B**  
**CASH TRANSFERS**

1. Operating Transfer(s):

- A. Operating transfer from the General Fund to the 2024/2026 USDA Farm to School grant in the amount of \$29,348.25 (ref. enclosed).
- B. Operating transfer from the General Fund to the 2022/2025 Feed Our Future (RFSP) grant in the amount of \$107,143.11 (ref. enclosed).

2. Residual Equity Transfer(s):

None

**SCHEDULE C**  
**ROUTINE PERSONNEL ACTIONS**

Unless otherwise specifically indicated, said appointments shall be effective as of the beginning of the next pay period following completion and satisfaction of any post offer requirements and signature as determined by the Director of Organizational Development.

1. Ratify Appointment(s):

- a. Cherron Smith, Emergency Preparedness Planner, Pay Grade D, \$50,420.00 annually, effective December 15, 2025.
- b. George Mata, Public Health Nurse Program Manager, Pay Grade E, \$65,000.00 annually, effective December 15, 2025.
- c. Amber Hitchcock, Public Health Nurse Supervisor, Pay Grade F, \$74,000.00 annually, effective December 15, 2025.

2. Appointment(s):

None

3. Promotion(s):

- a. Brian Carroll, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, Pay Grade D, \$50,420.00 annually, effective December 29, 2025.
- b. TBD, Deputy Director, Pay Grade G, \$TBD annually.

4. Resignation(s):

None

**SCHEDULE D**  
**EMPLOYEE TRAINING AND TRAVEL EXPENSES**

Administration

- a. Angela Garcia, BA, \$1,357.58, First Quarter 2026 tuition approved by the TARC on December 4, 2025.

Environmental Public Health

- b. Matt Johnson to local Health Director's meetings in 2026 – various locations in Ohio.
- c. Environmental Public Health staff to ODH coordinated Rabies meetings for 2026 – various locations in Ohio.
- d. Environmental Public Health staff to Northeast Ohio Sewage Treatment Round Table meetings for 2026 – various locations in Northeast Ohio.
- e. Authorization to pay routine out-of-county district travel expenses in the same manner as in district policy for 2026 to Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Offices; Summit, Geauga, and Portage Counties; City of North Ridgeville; and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) office – Twinsburg, Ohio.
- f. Authorization to pay routine out-of-county district travel expenses in the same manner as in district policy for 2026 Food, Vector and Plumbing Program related activities – various locations in Northeast Ohio.
- g. Environmental Public Health staff to Ohio Environmental Health Association (OEHA) Board and Committee activities for 2026 – various locations in Ohio.
- h. Environmental Public Health staff to Smoke Free Ohio Enforcement related activities for 2026 – various locations in Northeast Ohio.
- i. Environmental Public Health staff to Smoke Free Ohio Program meetings in 2026 – various locations in Ohio.
- j. Environmental Public Health staff to Water Quality (Beaches, Stormwater, Sewage Treatment, Private Water, Watershed and Climate Change) program related meetings and field activities for communities for 2026 – various locations in Northeast Ohio.
- k. Environmental Public Health staff to ODH Legionella Workgroup meetings for 2026 – various locations in Ohio.
- l. Environmental Public Health staff to Northeast Food Safety Round Table meetings for 2026 – various locations in Northeast Ohio.
- m. Environmental Public Health staff to Northeast Ohio Aquatics Roundtable meetings for 2026 – various locations in Ohio.

- n. Environmental Public Health staff to Ohio Mosquito and Vector Control Association (OMVCA) Board and Committee activities for 2026 – various locations in Ohio.
- o. Environmental Public Health staff to ODH coordinated Rabies meetings for 2026 – various locations in Ohio.
- p. Environmental Public Health staff to ODH coordinated Body Art Program meetings for 2026 – various locations in Ohio.
- q. Environmental Public Health staff to ODH coordinated Sewage Treatment System Program meetings for 2026 – various locations in Ohio.
- r. Environmental Public Health staff to ODH coordinated Swimming Pool Program meetings for 2026 – various locations in Ohio.
- s. Environmental Public Health staff to Materials Management/Solid Waste Program activities and meetings for 2026 – various locations in Ohio.
- t. Environmental Public Health staff to Food Protection Program training seminars coordinated by Ohio Department of Health and Ohio Department of Agriculture for 2026 – various locations in Ohio.
- u. Environmental Public Health staff to Retail Food Safety Advisory Council meetings for 2026 – various locations in Ohio.
- v. Environmental Public Health staff to Ohio Statehouse Public Health laws testimonies to support laws and regulations for 2026 – various locations in Ohio.
- w. Savannah Porter, MBA, \$4,000.00, First Quarter 2026 tuition approved by the TARC on December 4, 2025.

Epidemiology, Surveillance and Informatics

None

Nursing & Clinical Services

- a. Various HIV/STI Prevention staff to provide HIV/STI Disease Intervention partner notification and linkage care: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina counties.
- b. Correction to November 2025 Schedule D, Nursing and Clinical Services Item D: Markayla Mariner to provide HIV/STI Disease Intervention partner notification and linkage care: October 10, 2025. Northfield, OH.
- c. Angelique Garcia, MBA, \$4,000.00, First Quarter 2026 tuition approved by the TARC on December 4, 2025.

Population Health

- a. Liz Manley, Alison Patrick to the 2025/2027 Ohio Specialty Crop Block program meetings: September 30, 2025 – September 29, 2027. Various locations in Ohio.
- b. Chloe Nace-Rolland, MPH, \$4,000.00, First Quarter 2026 tuition approved by the TARC on December 4, 2025.

\*Professional education under ONA contract.

**SCHEDULE F**  
**CRC REPORT AND OTHER CONTRACTS**

**A. CRC Report**

1. November 18, 2025 1<sup>st</sup> CRC Meeting (ref. enclosed):

**No Exchange of Funds**

CRC 2025-220 Environmental Public Health Services is submitting an addendum to the contract with Paragon CMS (CRC 2025-190), 23206 Cedar Rd., Beachwood, OH 44122 to extend the contract end date from December 1, 2025, to December 31,2025. No exchange of funds.

CRC 2025-221 Environmental Public Health Services is submitting an addendum to the contract with Paragon CMS (CRC 2025-172), 1899 Beersford Ave., East Cleveland, OH 44112 to extend the contract end date from November 11, 2025, to December 31,2025. No exchange of funds.

CRC 2025-222 Environmental Public Health Services is submitting an addendum to the contract with Paragon CMS (CRC 2025-142), 1185-1187 Brockley Ave., Lakewood, OH 44107 to extend the contract end date from October 6, 2025, to December 31,2025. No exchange of funds.

CRC 2025-223 Environmental Public Health Services is submitting an addendum to the contract with Paragon CMS (CRC 2025-206), 13815 Beaumont Ave., Down, East Cleveland, OH 44112 to extend the contract end date from November 16, 2025, to December 31,2025. No exchange of funds.

CRC 2025-224 Environmental Public Health Services is submitting an addendum to the contract with Paragon CMS (CRC 2025-177), 1865 Farmington Rd., East Cleveland, OH 4411 to extend the contract end date from November 16, 2025, to December 31,2025. No exchange of funds.

**Contract Approvals and Authorizations**

CRC 2025-226: Addendum – Ohio Guidestone – increase amount to be paid from \$120,000.00 to not to exceed \$127,027.00

CRC 2025-227: Douglas & Associates, LPA - \$50,000.00

CRC 2025-228: Veerakone PLLC - \$50,000.00

CRC 2025-229: The Baldwin Group, Inc. - \$950.00

CRC 2025-230: Kelly Stake – amount to be paid is to remain the same.

CRC 2025-231: Phase II Stormwater Service agreement –

|                          | <u>Amount to be received not to exceed:</u> |
|--------------------------|---|
| City of Richmond Heights | \$3,780.00                                  |
| City of Bay Village      | \$16,300.00                                 |

**Tabled Items**

CRC 2025-209 Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics is submitting an addendum to the Data Use Agreement with Case Western Reserve (CRC 2025-185) under the Newborn Home Visiting Program for the removal of service location. No exchange of funds.

CRC 2025-213, RFQ 2025-05 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Treatment.

2. December 2, 2025 2<sup>nd</sup> CRC Meeting (ref. enclosed):

No Exchange of Funds

CRC 2025-209 Addendum to the Data Use Agreement with Case Western Reserve University (CRC 2025-185) under the Newborn Home Visiting Program for the removal of service location. No exchange of funds.

Contract Approvals and Authorizations

CRC 2025-232: Greene County Combined Health District - \$5,000.00

CRC 2025-234: South Pointe Hospital – increase amount to be paid from \$13,399.52 to not to exceed \$19,099.52

CRC 2025-235: CCBH Plumbing Inspector, Robert DeLorenzo - amount to be paid is based on a per inspection basis.

CRC 2025-236: CCBH Plumbing Inspector, Jason Monaco - amount to be paid is based on a per inspection basis.

CRC 2025-237: CCBH Plumbing Inspector, Michael Spies - amount to be paid is based on a per inspection basis.

CRC 2025-238: Thrive for Change – increase amount to be paid from \$62,275.00 to not to exceed \$ 73,275.00

CRC 2025-239: Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center – decrease the amount to be paid from \$605,523.00 to \$560,431.00

CRC 2025-240: Phase II Stormwater Service Agreement -

|                      | Amount to be received not to exceed |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| City of Lakewood     | \$8,130.00                          |
| City of Strongsville | \$3,640.00                          |
| Orange Village       | \$5,300.00                          |

Tabled Items

CRC 2025-233 Agreement renewal with LexisNexis for legal research and disease investigations. Amount to be paid not to exceed \$9,720.00.

- B. Other Contracts - None

# ESI December 2025 Board Highlights

## Infectious Disease (Communicable Disease, Respiratory, HIV/STI)

This report covers Communicable Diseases that were reported to the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) for the period from November 2025 to December 2025 to date.

During the reporting period, reported cases were as follows:

### I. Salmonella Typhi Case:

- ❖ 1 case of Salmonella Typhi was reported during November 2025
  - This is the first to be reported to CCBH during 2025
  - Case was an adult reporting recent international travel to an 'endemic' country
  - Ohio typically receives around 10 cases of Salmonella Typhi annually. A majority are determined to be linked to international travel

### II. Respiratory Highlights

**Table 1. Vaccination Coverage among Respiratory Hospitalization Cases**

| Disease   | Percentage of Cases Vaccinated | Average Number of Total Doses Received* |
|-----------|--------------------------------|---|
| Influenza | 36%                            | n/a                                     |
| COVID-19  | 87%                            | 4                                       |

\*The CDI team only verifies flu vaccination for the current season for cases of Influenza associated hospitalization (IAH). For cases of COVID-19 associated hospitalization, total number of doses received is recorded.

**Table 2. Age Distribution among Respiratory Hospitalization Cases\***

| Disease   | Mean Age   | Age Range    | Mean Age of Vaccinated Cases |
|-----------|------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| Influenza | 57.8 years | 3-88 years   | 76.9                         |
| COVID-19  | 75         | 11-104 years | 76                           |

\*Per Current CDC guidance, COVID-19 vaccination is only recommended for individuals over the age of 60 and individuals with specific comorbidities

- ❖ As of 10/1/2025 Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) associated-hospitalizations, COVID-19 associated-hospitalizations, and Influenza associated-hospitalizations (IAH) were switched to electronic reporting via CliniSync. See below for a summary of CCBH respiratory activity since 10/1/2025:

- COVID-19 associated-hospitalizations
  - Since 10/1/2025 78 total cases of COVID-19-associated hospitalizations were reported to CCBH via REDCap
  - During November 2025, 52 cases of COVID-19 associated-hospitalization were reported
- RSV associated-hospitalizations
  - During late November CCBH received its 1<sup>st</sup> case of RSV-associated hospitalization
    - Case was a child under 5 years
- IAH
  - Since 10/1/2025 33 cases of IAH were reported to CCBH
  - From 11/1/2025 to date, 26 cases of IAH were reported
    - 36% received a flu vaccine for the current season
    - While this number is not unusual, there is likely some lag or issues in reporting via CliniSync that are ongoing

### III. Recent Outbreak Summary

- ❖ 10 outbreaks were reported to CCBH during November 2025
  - 3 Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD) outbreaks
    - All reported in school/ childcare settings
    - 24 total cases, (mean= 8 cases per outbreak)
  - 3 COVID-19 outbreaks
    - All were reported in institutional/ healthcare settings
    - 41 total cases (mean=13.7 cases per outbreak)
  - 2 Gastro Intestinal (GI) outbreaks
    - Both reported in childcare settings/ schools
    - 11 total cases (mean=5.5 cases per outbreak)
    - Both had unknown etiology
  - 1 Legionella Cluster
    - 2 cases linked to a community setting
    - EPH follow up was conducted
  - 1 Carbapenamase Producing Organism (CPO) Cluster
    - 3 total cases in an institutional setting

### IV. Hepatitis B Vaccine Update

- ❖ **“CDC Advisors Vote in Support of Major Change to childhood Vaccination”**
  - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to remove the universal recommendation for administering of the Hepatitis B vaccine at birth, and instead “... make vaccine recommendations based on the mother’s testing status.” For example, if a mother receives a negative test for Hepatitis B, the parents of the newborn, with guidance from their healthcare provider decide whether the newborn receives the vaccine.

## New Releases (New Reports, Dashboards, Updates, etc.)

### ***2025 Q3 overdose surveillance bulletin***

Data Analyst Kenya Moyers completed the Q3 2025 Overdose Surveillance Bulletin for Cuyahoga County and presented it to all Overdose Data to Action program sub-grantees (i.e., prevention partners) on 12/8. The 2025 Q3 bulletin shows that drug overdose deaths are trending down over 2025 but

emergency departments visits for suspected drug overdose are trending up. Cocaine remained the top drug seized in the county and BTMPS appeared in the top five drugs seized for the first time in Q3. For further details click here: <https://ccbh.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/OD2A-2025-Q3-OD-Surveillance-Bulletin.pdf>

### ***HealthyNEO Data Dispatch***

Healthy Northeast Ohio's next Data Dispatch newsletter will issue this month. The December Dispatch, developed by Data Analyst Sarah Szabo, will highlight 2025 accomplishments including community engagement with the site over the year and nearly 100 new local indicators being added. Other site updates to be shared include the addition of a brain health dashboard and fact sheets, and various regional community health reports.

The HIV/STI Epidemiology Team (Clarence Williams and Alisha Cassady) issued a public health advisory alert on 12/9/2025, regarding a significant increase in congenital syphilis cases. So far, there have been 19 cases reported in our six county region (which includes Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina counties). Unfortunately, 2 of those cases were stillbirths. For comparison, in 2024 there were 10 cases of congenital syphilis with no stillbirths reported. The advisory will include syphilis screening recommendations for healthcare providers and making them aware of the increase. For questions regarding the advisory, Epidemiologist Alisha Cassady will be the point person.

## External Engagement (Community events, Presentations/Conferences/Abstracts)

### ***Healthy brain fact sheet dissemination***

Data Analyst Sarah Szabo tabled for CCBH at the Parma Heights library resource fair on 12/9. The event focused on supporting under resourced populations. In addition to providing information about CCBH programs like back-to-school vaccinations, reproductive/sexual health services, and fresh food resources, she promoted brain health and distributed her recently published Dementia Caregiving in Cuyahoga County fact sheet, along with small branded giveaways.

External Affairs also helped Sarah secure approval to distribute all three Healthy Brain Initiative fact sheets at each of the 27 Cuyahoga County library branches, which will occur before month end.



Epidemiologist Alisha Cassady gave an epidemiology presentation to the EHE Community Advisory Group (CAG) on 12/16/2025. The presentation highlighted the following data findings:

- Data to show the impact of EHE-Care funding on overall care continuums
  - EHE care programming led to a 16% increase in total number of clients enrolled in EHE programming
  - EHE care programming led to a 3% increase in clients linked to care
  - Led to a 2% increase in clients prescribed ART
  - Led to a 2% increase in clients who are virally suppressed
  - In regards to comparing to 90-90-90 Goals – Part A and EHE combined: 85% were linked to care, 98% were prescribed ART, and 88% achieved viral suppression

Epidemiology Supervisor Vino Panakkal submitted an abstract to the NACCHO Public Health, Informatics, and IT Surveillance Conference (PHI\*con), taking place in July 2026. The abstract title is "Epidemiologists and Informaticians at a Local Health Department Collaborate to Launch Epidemiological Data Dashboards for Cuyahoga County, Ohio" The Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) in Parma, Ohio, like many health departments, is in the midst of data modernization efforts at their organization. Data modernization is one of the objectives in the agency's strategic plan. One key component of the efforts is modernizing the sharing of epidemiological data with the public, through data visualizations and data dashboards. The team of epidemiologists were seeking a way to present large amounts of data in a streamlined manner, that went beyond a written report. The epidemiologists felt that bringing Informaticians into the project would provide a beneficial and unique perspective to dashboard development. The cross-collaboration brought out the best in both teams with the final dashboard products. The data dashboard has proven to be a very effective method in sharing data in a more interactive and accessible way for the community. The Cuyahoga County Board of Health in Parma, Ohio, utilized a multi-disciplinary approach of Informaticians and Epidemiologists to develop data dashboards and visualizations. The presentation will discuss the effectiveness of this approach in dashboard design, and data governance and security. Challenges, successes and lessons learned will also be discussed.

## Agency-Wide Initiatives

### ***Data modernization interviews underway***

On behalf of the CCBH Data Modernization & Use workgroup, co-leads Samantha Smith (Data Analytics Supervisor) and Yancey Quinn (Informatics Supervisor) are conducting qualitative interviews with leadership throughout the month of December to better understand the agency's vision for data modernization and perspectives of different services areas. Data from 3 SLT have been collected thus far and 6 others have scheduled. This effort relates to CCBH's Strategic Plan infrastructure goal area. The data obtained will help shape prioritization recommendations. Contact Samantha ([ssmith@ccbh.net](mailto:ssmith@ccbh.net)) or Yancey ([yquinn@ccbh.net](mailto:yquinn@ccbh.net)) if interested in participating to share your opinions.

### ***CCBH Website Purchase Website Plug-In***

ESI Informatics team working in conjunction with the CCBH's Communication team and Zed (our CCBH Support Vendor) to request and implemented the purchase of two WordPress Plug-ins (or add-ons) to help our web site to better organizer library content moving forward. An Example of this can be seen at <https://ccbh.net/reports-and-publications/> which can also be navigate under the ESI webpage

### ***RedMAP Project***

The Informatics team has been working with Vino Panakkal, Alisha Cassady, and Clarence Williams internally along with Dr. Justin Yax, and his internal support teams from University Hospitals regarding the discovery of a few technical issues and concerns around the sharing of data unitizing the CCBH Redcap system. Both discovered issues have been addressed, the project is moving forward, and should began sharing test (Non-Live) data from UH to CCBH and shortly thereafter Metro to CCBH.

Live datasets should began Quarter 1 in 2026, barring no other set backs are discovery around the data itself.

### ***Enterprise Updates (Admin)***

The Informatics team has been working thru out the year and in conjunction with members of the Administrative Department regarding two areas of concern. One area is to help provide technical support due to Fiscal staff turnover and two was to help make improvement to our internal Enterprise system. The Informatics team met with members of Admin Leadership in November in order to help prioritize the workload that they provided. One of the challenges around providing technical support to the Admin team regarding staff turnover is that many of the processes that were in place were not driving solely by the enterprise system and the informatics team are not SMEs on those processes. However, as new processes and procedures are established better documentations practices can occur.

We are planning on meeting with this team monthly to address items on this workload. Gu Ouyang has been the primary contact for Enterprise technical support for the new payroll clerk.

Josh Panakkal has also been working though out the year with Erik Hamilton on developing a new contract management selection in Enterprise for Board and CRC items. The plan is to start utilizing that first quarter of 2026.

**CCBH Board Meeting**  
**December 17, 2025**

**Medical Director's Report Summary**  
*December 2025 Activities*

**Clinical Oversight and Support**

1. Providing clinical consultation to staff on complex cases, protocols, and evidence-based practices. (ongoing)
2. Vaccine Planning – Reviewing upcoming guidance for various vaccines with changes at the federal level
3. Kava and Kratom Regulatory Monitoring – Monitoring the evolving legal situation involving businesses selling food and beverages containing kava and kratom, maintaining readiness to provide medical support as needed.

**Disease Surveillance and Response**

1. Now serving as a liaison representative to serve on the Advisory Council for the Elimination of Tuberculosis (ACET) for the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) – represent local health departments at the national level and contribute to shaping TB policy and strategy.
2. Reviewing and providing input for local response to congenital syphilis alert.
3. Implementation of POC Syphilis Testing in Cuyahoga County prisons in collaboration with Metro Health to assess use-case scenarios.

**Media and Communications**

1. Two TV interviews (Fox 8 and Ideastream) on the new influenza A (subclade K) variant that is circulating.

**Community Engagement and Education**

1. **Preventive Medicine Residency** – residents gain public health experience through board meeting participation, communications training, field visits with environmental health sanitarians, clinical site rotations, and active involvement in ongoing projects within the ESI service area.
2. **CWRU MPH Program Teaching** – Teaching a semester-long Health Policy and Management course designed as an applied, practical curriculum for second-year students in the health policy concentration. The course emphasizes real-world policy applications and contextual relevance to prepare students for professional practice in health policy and management.

**Staff Development and Training**

1. **World AIDS Day Panel for CCBH** - panelist for educational update to CCBH staff on HIV
2. **CCBH EPH Annual Meeting** – Provide updates on emerging diseases and new reportable diseases.

## December 2025 Health Commissioner's Report

### Health Commissioner (HC)

- **Boards/External Committees:** HC attended the Cleveland Peacemakers, Inc.'s Exec. Dir. Search Committee meeting.
- **Budget:** HC and Fiscal team previewed the final proposed 2026 budget with CCBH's Directors team, in advance of presentation to Board for adoption.
- **Partnerships:**
  1. HC joined two calls with Cleveland Dept. of Public Health leaders, CCBH team members, and consultants to advise on format of final draft of the CCBH/CDPH joint community health needs assessment report.
  2. HC and Dr. Andre Brown met with the Human Solidarity Project to plan a professional development workshop for the CCBH Directors team.
- **Select Meetings:**
  1. HC attended the monthly Assoc. of Ohio Health Commissioners' meeting.
  2. HC met with a hired facilitator to continue planning for upcoming Board retreat.
  3. HC attended monthly meetings with a) Martina Pace (UH Regional Community Health), and b) Dr. David Margolius (CDPH).
  4. HC provided remarks at the end-of-year staff meetings for both ESI and EPH, in addition to the wrap-up meeting for CCBH's social media team.
  5. HC met with the Directors of ESI and EPH to discuss a potential cancer cluster investigation and to review the investigation process.
- On Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, the HC and other invited CCBH employees attended the Community of Faith Collaborative's annual Christmas Dinner, held at the Rocky River Civic Center.
- The HC, along with approximately a dozen CCBH team members, completed the last full-day training for Lean Six Sigma Green Belt certification.
- Except for two municipalities, all contracts for CCBH to serve as the health authority have been received. NOTE: 17 municipalities reached out to request meetings, presentations or more information, prior to signing their contracts.

### Population Health (PH)

- On December 9<sup>th</sup>, in recognition of World AIDS Day, CCBH hosted an *HIV Awareness for Public Health Professionals* event. This in-service for CCBH employees included presentations from CCBH Epidemiologists, Disease Intervention Specialists, and program managers/supervisors. Additionally, a moderated panel of Ryan White Planning Council members (alongside Dr. Ganesh) shared insights about stigma, lived experiences and testimonials.

### **Environmental Public Health (EPH)**

- CCBH has been re-awarded the **Lead Hazard Reduction Grant (\$7.1M)** by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development. The funding cycle is 4+ years. The purpose of this grant is to help communities control lead paint hazards and protect children under age six from poisoning in older homes. Programming includes identifying and removing lead-based paint and other housing-related health hazards in eligible rental and owner-occupied homes.