

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF THE MEETING – November, 19 2025

Meeting called to order by Dr. Gregory Hall, President of the Board at 9:02 a.m. in the office of the Board, 5550 Venture Drive, Parma, Ohio, on Wednesday, November 19, 2025.

Roll Call: The following members were present: Dr. Gregory L. Hall, Mr. Douglas Wang, and Mr. Daniel Richards.

The Secretary called the roll:

Ayes: Dr. Hall, Mr. Wang, and Mr. Richards.

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

BE IT RESOLVED to excuse Ms. Sonja Rajki and Dr. Sherrie Williams due to a schedule conflicts at the time of the meeting.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Mr. Richards moved to amend the November 7, 2025 Board Meeting minutes to correctly reflect his abstention for the approval of Resolution 2025-117.

The reading of the minutes of the November 7, 2025 rescheduled Board meeting was dispensed with as copies had previously been received by each member. It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the minutes be approved as amended.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Mr. Hamilton moved to amend the Agenda to reflect a correction to Resolution 2025-120 of which the start date was revised from March 1, 2025 to October 1, 2025.

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

BE IT RESOLVED to amend agenda items as highlighted on revised agenda.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Public Comments on Agenda Resolutions Only (three-minute maximum) – None.

Review of the Financial Statements.

Wedad Alhamwi, Deputy Director of Finance, review the Financial Statements through October 31, 2025.

Approval of Resolutions/Motions:

REGULAR ACTIONS OF THE BOARD:

Megan Symanski, Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2025-118.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-118 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter into and execute a contract with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSD) to provide Phase II storm water services to communities that are entirely or partially within the NEORSD Regional storm water Management Program area from January 2026 through December 31, 2030 in the amount of \$550,236.00.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Martha Halko, Director of Population Health, presented Resolution 2025-119 to secure additional Cribs for Kids funding from the Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY). This funding, which previously came from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), has transitioned to DCY, a process that has posed some challenges. Initially, the upcoming funding cycle was expected to be competitive; however, DCY has not yet finalized the application process. As a result, this marks the second extension of funding issued by DCY while they prepare their formal solicitation. The department anticipates releasing the solicitation early next year, with a program start date targeted for July 1.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-119 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to accept additional 2024/2025 Cribs for Kids grant funding from the Ohio Department of Children and Youth in an amount not to exceed \$114,450.00, and to revise the end date from December 31, 2025 to June 30, 2026. (Resolutions 2024-147 & 2025-105).

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Erin Lark-Turcoliveri introduced Resolution 2025-120, which allocates funding to Better World Advertising approved by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) through carryover funds from a previous grant year. The project will enable Better World Advertising to transition the current microsite into a comprehensive, interactive website focused on HIV prevention and care. This initiative includes funding for photo and video shoots designed to create compelling storytelling narratives aimed at reducing stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS.

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-120 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter into and execute a contract with Better World Advertising, Inc. under the 2025/2026 Ending HIV Epidemic - Care grant from October 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Alison Patrick, Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2025-121.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-121 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter into and execute contracts with the following agencies under the 2025/2028 Distributor-Embedded Value Chain Coordinators (Project SCALES) grant from October 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028:

	<u>Amount not to Exceed</u>
Food Works Group	\$ 45,000.00
The Sanson Company	\$ 150,000.00
Sirna & Sons Produce	\$ 150,000.00
What Chefs Want!	\$ 150,000.00

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Zach Levar, Deputy Director of Population Health, introduced Resolution 2025-122. Under the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) grant, three providers will deliver specialized services aimed at reducing overdose-related harm and improving access to care. Project White Butterfly (PWB), a non-profit organization, will employ low-threshold care methods and leverage lived experience to conduct street-based outreach for individuals who are often overlooked by traditional programs. Their efforts also focus on reducing stigma and removing barriers to treatment. Cleveland State University (CSU), in collaboration with three faculty experts in substance use from the Schools of Social Work, Engineering, and Criminology, Anthropology, and Sociology, developed and maintains DrugHelp.care, a web-based application that provides timely information to medical providers and an interactive resource map for individuals seeking help. WellLink, formerly the Center for Health Affairs and home to the Northeast Ohio Hospital Opioid Consortium—which includes Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, and MH Medical Center—will lead initiatives centered on education, patient management, harm reduction, prevention, treatment, data collection, and public policy to address opioid-related challenges across the region.

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-122 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>
Cleveland State University	\$ 50,380.00
Project White Butterfly	\$ 76,522.00
WellLink Health Alliance	\$ 59,016.00

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Tom Fink, Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2024-123. This funding was going to support to set up of a Lead Resource Center, but the funder did not follow through with the funding.

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-123 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Rescind the Resolution 2024-114 accepting funds under the Ohio Department of Health Lead Prevention and Mitigation grant due to Cancellation.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-124 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Approve the application of a salary increase for all non-bargaining unit employees effective the first full pay period of January 2026.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-125 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Approve the revised the CCBH Position Complement effective January 1, 2026 (ref. enclosed).

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-126 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Approve the Operational Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 (ref. enclosed).

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

BOARD ORDERS, RULES, FEES OR REGULATIONS

Mr. John Mills, CCBH General Counsel, appeared on behalf of CCBH. The License Holder, Xinru ("Jack") Huang, appeared pro se. Mr. Mills informed the Board that License Holder had requested a hearing on the proposed final orders. Mr. Gerry Scott, CCBH Supervisor, Ms. Tara Hanchar, CCBH Registered Environmental Public Health Specialist (REHS), and Ms. Brooke LaHood, CCBH Program Manager, were sworn in by Dr. Hall. Mr. Scott testified that in his role as Supervisor in the CCBH food program, he was aware that the licensed facility had failed to

correct repeated critical violations of the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code, despite an informal hearing on the violations in 2025 at which License Holder was present.

Ms. Hanchar testified that in her capacity as a REHS, she had inspected the facility multiple times in 2024 and 2025. Each of the inspections showed multiple repeat critical violations: including but not limited to: food temperature control, absence of staff trained in food safety, date-marking of perishable foods, lack of sanitization, proper food storage, and handwashing. Mr. Scott sent a warning letter to the facility describing the violations on or about July 1, 2024. The License Holder did not correct the violations. Ms. Hanchar reviewed five representative inspection reports with the Board, from 4/10/24, 9/17/24, 12/11/24, 3/13/25, and 6/30/25 in chronological order. These inspections at the facility showed that the License Holder was taking no action to correct the violations. Ms. LaHood also visited the facility in her capacity as a Food Program Manager on two occasions, on 10/1/25 and 10/17/25. Ms. LaHood testified that she inspected the facility on those occasions and found multiple unresolved critical violations.

The Board viewed a PowerPoint presentation with photographs taken by Ms. Hanchar and Ms. LaHood documenting the violations at the facility from 2024 and 2025. It was the testimony of the three witnesses that the violations were unresolved and that the facility presented an unjustifiable public health risk. Mr. Richards and Mr. Wang asked the witnesses about the nature of a complaint against the facility in March of 2025. A brief recess was held. Upon resuming the hearing, Mr. Scott testified that the complaint inspection in 2025 was due to a food illness complaint but the investigation did not establish that this facility was the cause.

A total of twenty-eight exhibits were given to the Board (attached). Mr. Mills recommended to the Board that the food operator's license of the License Holder be suspended, and concluded the testimony on behalf of CCBH.

Mr. Huang spoke on his own behalf as License Holder. Mr. Huang did not rebut any of the evidence or testimony presented to the Board, but expressed that certain staff were undergoing additional training and would be more responsive to public health food risks in the future. He also expressed a desire to purchase additional refrigeration equipment. Mr. Huang did not call any witnesses on behalf of License Holder and did not examine any of the CCBH witnesses or exhibits.

The Board determined that, based on the factual record and testimony presented, that good cause and sufficient evidence existed to suspend License Holder food operator's license for a period of not less than three months, and until all violations are corrected.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-127 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Approve the Board's Final Findings and Orders suspending the food operator's license of Fuji Grill Buffet, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 3717.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

FIRST READING:

None

SECOND READING:

RESOLUTION 2025-116 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.

THIRD READING:

None

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Dr. Hall, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-128 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 F	CRC Report and Other Contracts.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Health Commissioner's Report –

(1) Infectious Disease Update

Blaise Soberano, Communicable Disease Investigator, and Jackie Napolitano, Epidemiologist, presented the infectious disease report. See full report attached.

(2) Medical Director Report

Dr. Prakash Ganesh, Medical Director, provided his Medical Director report. See full report attached.

(3) Health Commissioner Report

Dr. Roderick Harris, Health Commissioner provided the Health Commissioner report. See full report attached.

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

Miscellaneous Business –

None

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Roderick L. Harris, Secretary

Dr. Gregory L. Hall, President