

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING – JANUARY 28, 2026**

Meeting called to order by Mr. Douglas Wang, President Pro Tem of the Board at 9:03 a.m. in the office of the Board, 5550 Venture Drive, Parma, Ohio, on Wednesday January 28, 2026.

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

The reading of the minutes of the December 17, 2025 regular Board meeting was dispensed with as copies had previously been received by each member. In as much as there were no corrections, it was moved by Ms. Rajki, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the minutes be approved. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Dr. Hall, 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.

Michael Pissini, Director of Finance, presented the financial statements through December 31, 2025. Mr. Wang noted that much of the positive variance resulted from reduced working capital needs, which lessened the burden on the general fund. Mr. Pissini agreed and emphasized the need for greater consistency in fiscal practices, noting that prior years showed significant fluctuations between budgeted and actual expenditures. He stated that the department will focus on improving communication of financial trends, strengthening grant fiscal management, and ensuring more timely processing of grant-related revenues and expenditures.

Mr. Wang commented that improved consistency in grant management will help determine whether surpluses—such as the current amount exceeding \$1 million—represent a trend, which could create opportunities to reinvest in community benefits and to compare performance against City contract per capita revenues. Dr. Williams questioned whether a recurring surplus could be assumed at this time, and Mr. Wang reiterated that more consistent processes are needed to make that determination. He also attributed much of the positive variance to salary-related savings. Dr. Harris noted that some of the variance was due to decisions to delay hiring for certain budgeted positions given the uncertain federal funding environment in 2025.

Both Mr. Wang and Dr. Williams concluded that the financial update was positive and thanked Mr. Pissini for the clear explanation.

Legislative Updates –

Legal Counsel John Mills informed the Board that members should have reviewed the Delegation Memo in preparation for the upcoming Board Retreat. He explained that the memo reflects an extensive effort to delegate more administrative tasks and establishes a process for approving voucher payments. Under the proposal, payments less than or equal to \$50,000 would

be approved through delegated authority, while the approval of payments exceeding that amount would be incorporated into the Board's authorizing resolution. He also noted that current Contract Review Committee (CRC) regulations already direct approvals back to the CRC, making duplicative approvals at both CRC meetings and the Board Consent Agenda unnecessary.

Ms. Rajki emphasized the importance of receiving meaningful reporting on all contract awards. She suggested that the Board use the upcoming retreat to develop a preferred reporting format and ensure the information remains useful and transparent.

Committee Reports – None

#### REGULAR ACTIONS OF THE BOARD:

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Dr. Williams, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-001 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to confirm that the Cuyahoga County Board of Health is in compliance with Federal, State and Local laws regarding accessibility to services and protection from discrimination in providing services to the community or in employment decisions. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Tom Fink, Deputy Director of Environmental Public Health, presented Resolution 2026-002. He explained that the contract supports the department's solid waste programs. The contract helps fund the department's activities to enforce all countywide solid waste regulations, with enforcement authority within the City of Cleveland now included.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-002 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter into and execute a contract with Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District to provide a regulatory enforcement program throughout the health district from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028. Amount to be received is not to exceed \$690,000.00. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Brandy Eaton, Director of Nursing and Clinical Services, presented Resolution 2026-003 regarding the Reproductive Health and Wellness grant, which supports the clinic's family planning program. She explained that the Ohio Department of Health conducted its mid-year reallocation earlier than usual due to federal funding cuts, resulting in a reduction to the grant award. The cuts will lower the number of reimbursable visits, which are reimbursed at approximately \$94 per encounter, and the program's deliverable threshold has been adjusted accordingly. Despite the funding reduction, the program is expected to break even because it generates income that will offset the loss. Ms. Eaton confirmed that no services will be reduced.

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-003 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to accept an addendum to the 2025/2026 Reproductive Health and Wellness grant funding from the Ohio Department of Health

to decrease the amount to be received from \$153,750.00 to \$127,051.00 (Resolution 2025-39). Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Kathryn Birdsell, Program Supervisor, presented Resolution 2026-004 concerning the Dental Sealant Program. She explained that the program provides dental sealants to students in grades two through six who attend schools with at least 40% enrollment in free or reduced-price lunch programs. The program generates revenue by billing private insurance and Medicaid, and this year's award reflects level funding. School eligibility is reassessed annually based on updated eligibility data. Last year, the program served 1,073 children.

Board Member Ms. Rajki noted that obtaining parent consent can be challenging and offered to collaborate on improving the consent process. She shared that she has experience helping a school implement a streamlined, year-long consent form and is willing to meet to discuss potential solutions.

It was moved by Ms. Rajki, seconded by Dr. Williams, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-004 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to accept the 2026 Dental Sealant grant funding from the Ohio Department of Health from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 in the amount not to exceed \$43,000.00. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Erin Lark Turcoliveri, Program Supervisor, presented Resolution 2026-005. She explained that the funding increases reflect the final reallocation process for the last three months of the grant, based on sub-recipient requests for any remaining available funds. The AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland will use its allocation to support housing programs. MetroHealth and University Hospitals, which collaborate on the Ryan White Program, will apply their increased funding to address gaps in Ryan White resources, specifically to support case management and laboratory service costs.

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-005 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter into and execute contract addendums increasing the amounts to be paid to the following agencies under the 2025/2026 Ending HIV Epidemic – Care grant from March 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026:

	<u>Amount not to exceed:</u>	
	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland (Resolutions 2025-026 & 2025-093)	\$ 310,000.00	\$ 439,772.00
MetroHealth System (Resolutions 2025-026 & 2025-093)	\$ 412,005.00	\$ 516,437.00
University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center (Resolutions 2025-026 & 2025-093)	\$ 251,000.00	\$ 326,536.00

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

Mollie Evans, Program Supervisor, presented Resolution 2026-006. She reported that MetroHealth emergency rooms continue to experience the highest number of opioid-related encounters and also provide services to inmates in the Cuyahoga County jail system. She noted that this grant reflects level funding for the current cycle.

It was moved by Ms. Rajki, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-006 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter into and execute a contract with MetroHealth System under the 2025/2026 Overdose data to Action grant from September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$472,968.00. Ayes: 4, Nays: None, Abstained: Mr. Richards, motion carries.

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

Tom Fink, Deputy Director of Environmental Public Health, and Jeff Hanchar, Program Manager, introduced Resolution 2026-007. The public nuisance site is a former transfer station property in East Cleveland has become a large illegal dumping site. Declaring it a public nuisance is required before applying for EPA cleanup funding. City leadership supports the action.

Board members raised concerns about preventing future dumping and ensuring a long-term plan. Staff noted that cleanup alone will not stop dumping elsewhere, but if funding is awarded, the Department would manage the funds and implement a structured cleanup plan. The Board also discussed the possibility of arranging refuse disposal with neighboring communities.

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-007 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to declare a public nuisance related to open dumping and other nuisance conditions at certain properties located in the City of East Cleveland, Ohio. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

John Mills, General Counsel, presented Resolution 2026-008. He reported that following the suspension hearing in November, the owner of Fuji Bar and Grill has implemented required operational changes, including equipment updates, procedural improvements, and additional staff training. The department is satisfied that these corrective actions allow the establishment to resume operations. Mr. Mills noted that the resolution includes a stipulation that any future violations will result in automatic consequences lasting for a minimum of one year.

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-008 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to approve Stipulated Final Findings and Orders lifting the suspension of the food operator's license of Fuji Grill Buffet, and issuing a conditional food operator's license, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 3717. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

FIRST READING:

None

SECOND READING:

None

THIRD READING:

None

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-067 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.

## Reports and Presentations

### Infectious Disease Update

Jackie Napolitano, Epidemiologist, and Blaise Soberano, Communicable Disease Investigator, presented the Infectious Disease Update. See full Infectious Disease Update attached.

### Presentation for 2026: January: HIV and STI Prevention

Melissa Kolenz, Program Supervisor, and Clarence Williams, Epidemiologist, gave a presentation on the HIV and STI Prevention programs.

### Health Commissioner's Report

See full Health Commissioner's Report attached.

### Medical Director's Report

See full Medical Director's Report attached.

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

It was moved by Ms. Rajki, seconded by Mr. Wang, that pursuant to Resolution 1993-43 and O.R.C. Sec 121.22 the Board Adjourn to Executive Session to discuss appointment, employment, promotion, discipline or compensation of a public employee, and to consider matters of collective bargaining. Ayes: Dr. Hall, Mr. Wang, Ms. Rajki, Dr. Williams, Mr. Richards.

Executive Session began at 10:57 a.m.

Executive Session ended at 11:30 a.m.

### Miscellaneous Business –

None

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned at 11:31 a.m. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

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Roderick L. Harris, Secretary

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Dr. Gregory L. Hall, President

# ESI January 2026 Board Highlights

## *Leadership Updates*

### Health Equity & Data Storytelling Considerations

Recent federal executive actions have led to updates in language requirements that directly affect how OD2A, HIV/STI surveillance, and other federally funded programs communicate data. These directives require agencies to discontinue DEI- and equity-related programs and revise associated policies and materials, resulting in stricter guidance on the terminology permitted in grant-supported reports and public-facing content.

As these requirements are implemented, programs are now limited in how they characterize populations, structural factors, and prevention activities, particularly where harm-reduction or gender-related terminology was previously standard. These constraints influence how epidemiologists and analysts frame disparities, describe intersecting risks, and contextualize trends across program areas. When certain terms cannot be used, it reduces the accuracy and clarity of data narratives and may narrow the ability to fully explain drivers of burden or inequities.

ESI will continue refining data storytelling approaches to maintain accuracy and clarity while ensuring alignment with federal guidance. Our focus remains on producing high-quality, compliant epidemiologic reporting that supports informed decision-making.

### Congenital Syphilis Advocacy

A Public Health Advisory on congenital syphilis was issued on December 9, 2025, reaching more than 500 partners and staff and generating strong engagement across regional health systems. Lake County General Health District requested to distribute the advisory through AWHONN, and clinicians at University Hospitals used it to initiate improvements to referral pathways between Emergency Medicine and Obstetrics.

Post-advisory education efforts are expanding across UH, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, and MetroHealth, including renewed in-service trainings for emergency departments and planned outreach to OB/GYN, L&D teams, and FQHCs in 2026. The team is also developing evaluation strategies to measure impacts on screening and provider knowledge.

Final 2025 congenital syphilis counts are expected by mid-February 2026, followed by an annual report summarizing trends and disparities. After data finalization, coordinated awareness activities, social media messaging and resource dissemination, will be launched with Communications to support public awareness and screening.

The team is additionally assessing Ohio's current prenatal syphilis screening mandate to determine whether updated recommendations for expanded screening frequency are warranted, reflecting ongoing efforts to align clinical practices with current epidemiologic trends to improve maternal and infant outcomes.

### Leadership Media Update

ESI leadership participated in several media engagements covering the recent measles outbreak, seasonal respiratory illness trends, and current vaccine recommendations. Interviews were conducted with multiple major outlets, including News 5, Fox 8, Ideastream Public Media, WKYC Channel 3, and Cleveland 19 News. These engagements strengthened public awareness efforts and reinforced ESI's role as a trusted source of epidemiologic insight and guidance.

### Partner Engagement

CCBH and CDPH are exploring a strengthened shared-services partnership within the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program. CDPH has expressed interest in collaborating with CCBH to ensure responsibilities and contributions remain aligned and equitable under the updated CORE funding model. This collaboration presents a positive opportunity to modernize shared processes, clarify expectations, and reinforce coordinated preparedness across both jurisdictions.

### Data Days

Jana Rush will host the 2026 Q1 Data Days event on January 27, from 2:00–3:30 PM at the Independence Public Library. The session will feature an overview of new brain health data products developed through the Healthy Brain Initiative, highlighting opportunities to strengthen community awareness and data-informed action.

The Alzheimer's Association, Cleveland Area Chapter, will join as a featured partner to provide a Brain Health 101 overview, including evidence-based insights on healthy behaviors that may reduce the risk of cognitive decline.

We look forward to your participation in this event and to continuing our shared commitment to advancing data-driven public health practice!

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

### Measles (Class A disease, major Public Health concern)

During the reporting period, one (1) Measles outbreak was reported to CCBH:

- There was one (1) initial case with symptom onset during late December 2025
  - Subsequently, three (3) additional cases were identified.
- All four (4) cases were unvaccinated pediatrics from one (1) household
- Cases were exposed while out of town, in an out-of-State jurisdiction that was experiencing a large measles outbreak.
- Three (3) Healthcare facilities were identified as possible exposure locations
  - All possible contacts were identified
  - CCBH is working with ODH, as well as other regional partners to contact all possible exposures and initiate appropriate follow up action.
- No general public exposures have been identified, so far.

### COVID-19

- COVID-19 activity is low but increasing nationally.
- COVID-19-associated hospitalizations remained stable. 111 hospitalizations were reported this week compared to 106 hospitalizations for the previous week.
- There have been 607 COVID-19-associated hospitalizations this season. This translates to a case rate of 48.9 per 100,000 residents and is higher than the state rate of 40.4.
- No COVID-19-related deaths were reported this week in the CCBH jurisdiction by the Ohio Department of Health Vital Statistics. There have been five (5) COVID-19 related deaths this season.
- CCBH is investigating 27 active COVID-19 outbreaks. All outbreaks are in congregate care settings.
- Wastewater monitoring data suggest viral gene copy concentration levels were increasing at NEORSD Easterly WWTC and steady at NEORSD Southerly and Westerly WWTCs.

### Influenza

- Seasonal influenza activity remains elevated across the country.
- Due to reporting issues, pneumonia and Influenza death data was not available at the time of this report.
- Influenza-associated hospitalizations (IAHs) decreased. 139 IAHs were reported this week compared to 238 the previous week. IAHs are considered 'very high' this week.
- There have been 792 hospitalizations, so far, this season. This translates to a case rate of 63.8 per 100,000 residents and is higher than the State's rate of 54.0.
- 2.5% of Emergency Department (ED) visits were for flu-like symptoms. ED visits for fever/ILI were above the 5-year median and considered 'moderate' this week.
- CCBH is investigating five (5) Influenza outbreaks – Three (3) in congregate care settings, one (1) in an institutional setting, and one (1) in a school.
- Wastewater monitoring data suggest viral gene copy concentration levels were high at NEORSD Easterly and Westerly WWTCs and low at NEORSD Southerly WWTC.

## RSV

- RSV activity is elevated in many areas of the country. This includes ED visits among infants less than 1 year, and children 1-4 years old, and hospitalizations among infants less than 1-year old.
- RSV-associated hospitalizations remained stable. 57 RSV-associated hospitalizations were reported this week compared to 58 the previous week.
- There have been 262 hospitalizations this season. This translates to a case rate of 21.1 per 100,000 residents, and is higher than the State's rate of 11.8.
- CCBH is not investigating any RSV outbreaks.
- Wastewater monitoring data suggest viral gene copy concentration levels were low at NEORS D Easterly WWTC and not detected at NEORS D Southerly and Westerly WWTCs.

## Toxic Alcohol Poisoning Investigation

- On 11/18/2025 the Northeast Ohio Regional Epi partners were notified of a possible cluster of toxic alcohol poisoning identified in the state.
- Case Definition:
  - Hospitalized on or after 8/1/2025 for symptoms consistent with toxic alcohol exposure including altered mental status
  - At least ONE of the following:
    - High anion gap metabolic acidosis
    - Increased osmolal gap
  - Negative testing for the following common toxic alcohols within 24 hours after presentation
    - Methanol (MeOH) and ethylene glycol (EG)
- On 12/22/2025, ODH requested of CCBH to complete investigations related to 2 suspected cases of toxic alcohol poisoning from our jurisdiction.
- The CDI Team and the Data Analytics Team retrieved relevant records and completed the appropriate fields in the line list provided by the State.
- Findings:
  - 1 case was confirmed based on the above case definition while one was determined to be not a case
- ODH is currently reviewing the records and findings submitted by CCBH.

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

### Newest infant mortality report

Data Analyst Tatyana Khaled generated the Cuyahoga County Infant Mortality & Birth Outcome Data Report for January 2026. Data from January to December 2025 are included. The current provisional infant mortality rate for the county is below 6 per 1,000 live births, which is welcome news, however total infant deaths for 2025 (71) are likely underreported at this time as the mortality dataset is known to be lagging with cleaning in progress related to reporting system updating at the state level. The preliminary preterm birth rate for 2025 for Cuyahoga County currently sits at 12.43% per the report. The statistics will continue to be monitored.

### FYC needs assessment data

Epidemiologist Alexis Ipsaro conducted detailed quantitative analyses and mapping to support First Year Cleveland's infant mortality reduction-related community needs assessment as part of the

Partner for Change grant. The data requested and generated included 2024 birth demographic, socioeconomic, and health behavior indicators, among others, for Cuyahoga County overall as well as for the Black non-Hispanic population.

### 2025 Q2 Syphilis Report

Epidemiologist Clarence Williams released 2025 Q2 Syphilis Report on 1/5/26.

Key Highlights:

- Syphilis cases increased by 30 compared to Q2 of 2024
- 55% of new cases had a previous history of an STI
- 22% of new cases were HIV-positive
- 70% of individuals received proper treatment for syphilis after diagnosis
- 21% of individuals were diagnosed with both HIV and Syphilis

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

### Abstracts

Epidemiologist Daniella Saul recently had her poster abstract accepted to the 2026 NACCHO Preparedness Summit taking place in April 2026. Her abstract is titled “Streamlining the Cancer Cluster Investigation Process in the Digital Age: Lessons from A Local Health Department in Cuyahoga County, Ohio”

Data Analytics Supervisor Samantha Smith submitted an abstract for presentation at the 2026 NACCHO PHI\*con conference, which focuses on public health informatics, surveillance, and IT. Entitled “Data Modernization in Practice at a Local Health Department: Approaches and Lessons” the abstract notes the need for modern data systems in public health and proposes to share CCBH’s planning and implementation of data modernization to date, including the activities of our Data Use & Modernization workgroup and lessons learned. We will be notified of our acceptance status in March.

### Ongoing Partners for Change Data Support

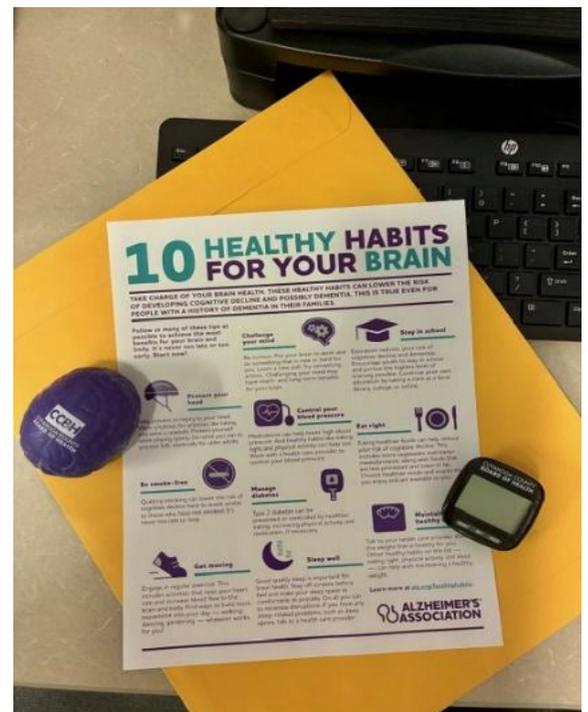
On 12/19 Data Analytics Supervisor Samantha Smith presented to the Partners for Change Core Team on CCBH’s maternal and child health data analytics support to date and shared provisional monthly infant mortality (showing declines) and prematurity (largely stable) rates for Cuyahoga County. Zip code maps of rates of pre-pregnancy hypertension, gestational hypertension, and hypertension disorders of pregnancy were also presented as well as 2024 sleep-related death data. Data Analyst Tatyana Khaled and Epidemiologist Alexis Ipsaro conducted these data analyses.

### RedMAP Project

A “Live” production data file has been shared from UH to CCBH. This file contains both positive and negative HIV testing records for UH for patients from December 2023. We will be seeking to receive a similar data file from Metro Health. Once CCBH has both these files the Epi team will be looking to merge and de-identify some of data fields of the two files before sharing it with Curtis Labs at CWRU. The file will remain within CCBH’s domain and will be shared via a remote connection where Curtis Lab’s will be looking to do some Geo Coding for the HIV RedMAP Project.

## Bike helmets for brain health

Data Analytics team members Sarah Szabo and Samantha Smith orchestrated a “Helmets for the Holidays” event as part of our Healthy Brain Initiative work. 100 youth bike helmets, with bike safety information cards and coloring books, were provided to Fairhill Partners for distribution to their Kinship Care Program families at a 12/20 event. Brain health tip sheets, pedometers, and brain stress balls were also provided for 75 grandparents.



## Community outreach and health promotion at Remington

Data Analytics team members Sarah Szabo and Samantha Smith tabled at the Remington College – Cleveland Campus community resource fair on 1/14 on behalf of CCBH. They disseminated the Healthy Northeast Ohio population health data platform as well as promoted flu shots and measles vaccination. Medical assisting, dental assisting, culinary, and construction profession students were engaged.

## Next CCBH Data Days event upcoming: Jan 27<sup>th</sup> 2pm

ESI's Data Days planning work group has organized and scheduled CCBH's next Data Days event to be held on 1/27 at 2pm. This quarter's topic is brain health. Data Analyst Sarah Szabo will be co-presenting with staff from the Alzheimer's Association, Cleveland Area Chapter. Brain health data products created through the Healthy Brain Initiative will be shared as well as a brain health 101 overview with tips and the latest research on healthy habits that can lower the risk of developing cognitive decline and possibly dementia. To register click [here](#).

## ***Agency-Wide Initiatives***

### Enterprise Update: Contract Management Sub-System Launch

The Informatics Team has successfully launched the new Contract Management sub-system within the Enterprise platform. Staff were notified of the system's go-live status, and two training sessions were conducted to prepare users for implementation.

The sub-system will be utilized for February CRC and Board agenda items. Initial user feedback and enhancement requests have been collected and are currently under review to support continued refinement and ensure a smooth transition.

### HIV Criminalization Advocacy

Epidemiology Supervisor Vino Panakkal, and Epidemiologist Alisha Cassady currently serve on the EDI Advocacy Subcommittee and are working on a potential advocacy brief on HIV Criminalization for 2026.

### Risk Reduction Learning Collaborative application

Data Analyst Sarah Szabo applied for the 2026 Risk Reduction Learning Collaborative (RLC) for local health departments on 1/16. The RLC is a training opportunity offered by The Alzheimer's Association BOLD Public Health Center of Excellence on Dementia Risk Reduction (Center) in collaboration with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) that aims to strengthen the capacity of local health departments to community action plan to improve brain health. Specifically, the RLC is designed to:

- Increase knowledge and confidence of local health officials around dementia risk reduction.
- Increase understanding of the intersection of social determinants of health and dementia modifiable risk factors.
- Provide training to implement the Community Convening framework to run a local convening.

Sarah led the agency's now complete Healthy Brain Initiative in 2025 with much success and RLC participation could help to inform how best to sustain dementia risk reduction activities at CCBH. Award notification will occur in February.

## January 2026 Health Commissioner's Report

### Commissioner

- **Boards/External Committees:** HC attended: 1) First Year Cleveland's Steering Committee meeting; 2) Cleveland Peacemakers, Inc.'s Exec. Dir. Search Committee meeting; and 3) Cleveland Peacemakers, Inc.'s Board meeting.
- **Select Meetings:** HC attended: 1) Association of Ohio Health Commissioners' monthly call; 2) Ohio Black Child Development Institute's power-building fellowship monthly call; 3) the EPH All-Staff meeting; calls (alongside Dr. Andre Brown) with the Human Solidarity Project to plan trust-building workshop for CCBH Directors team; and 4) QI project check-in meetings with QI coach.
  - Standing meetings with: Dr. Margolius (CDPH); Martina Pace (UH); and Domonic Hopson (NFP).
- **Partnerships:** 1) HC and Dr. Robert Brand participated in a bi-weekly call with partners from The Ohio State University and the Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition regarding the ongoing air quality monitoring project and grant-seeking; and 2) HC met with Dr. Ye Fan Glavin (CWRU) to brainstorm collaborative regional fundraising strategies for Asian-American Pacific Islander public health initiatives.

### Environmental Public Health (EPH)

- Matt Johnson and Suzanne Hrusch presented at the January 20 East Cleveland City Council meeting about CCBH services in the community and answered questions regarding the contract with CCBH to serve as their health authority.
- EPH submitted the Mosquito Control Grant application to the Ohio EPA. The request is for \$18,674.00 to cover summer workers and supplies for larval control.

### Population Health (PH)

#### **Ending the HIV Epidemic Program:**

- Staff members have begun attending outreach events at Cleveland Cavaliers (Cavs) games and have attended two sold-out games to date.
- The outreach table is located on the street level near the main gate and the escalator to Loudville.
- Giveaways include HIV self-testing kits, condoms, educational materials, and other small program-related items. Staff engaged with many fans about HIV prevention and the importance of testing (see pictures below).
- The Cavs have committed to providing the Love Lead Here campaign with additional marketing spots at no cost as cancellations become available.
  - The team has already received additional free airtime for its commercial, featuring CCBH's Sonji Deal and Cavs in-arena host Ahmaad Crump.

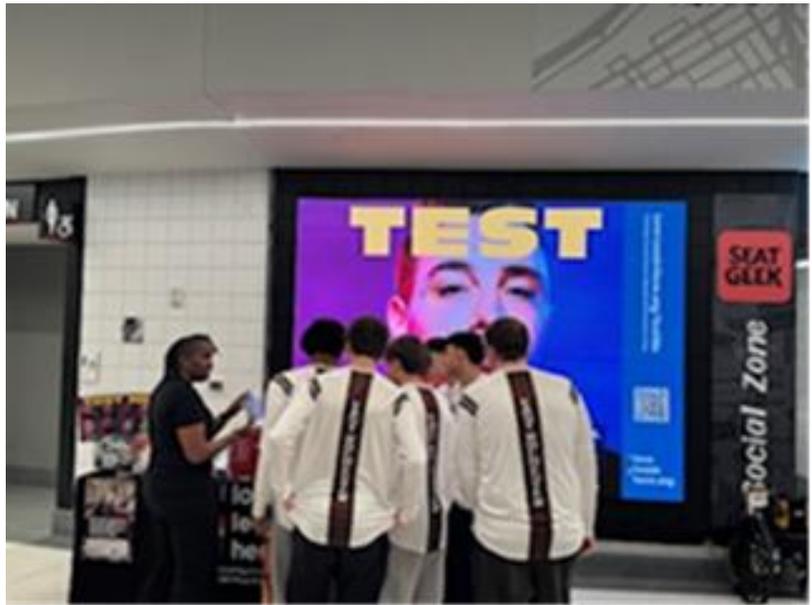


**Cleveland Cavaliers** @cavs · 21h

Hey Cavs fans! Stop by the Street Level Social Zone at Portal 11 to connect with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and at Portal 50 and scan the QR code to enter tonight's 50/50 Raffle, or skip the line at [cavs5050.com](https://cavs5050.com).

125 FOR \$40
50 FOR \$20
5 FOR \$10

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**CCBH Board Meeting  
January 28, 2026**

**Medical Director's Report Summary**

*January 2026 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. I will be presenting to NACCHO on the outputs of that meeting next month.
2. Implementation of POC Syphilis Testing in Cuyahoga County prisons in collaboration with Metro Health to assess use-case scenarios. Currently enrolling patients. NACCHO is assisting with developing study design and process measures.

**Media and Communications**

1. 3 TV interviews on the measles outbreak.
2. 1 Ideastream interview on the measles outbreak and the new influenza A (subclade K) variant that is circulating.

**Community Engagement and Education**

1. **Hawken Mastery School** – collaborative challenge that partners 9th-10th grade students at Hawken Mastery School with my clinical practice to improve patient health literacy. Students will apply their coursework in basic cellular mechanisms to create practical health education materials that address real patient communication needs I've identified in my healthcare setting.
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. Started this month.
3. **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.

**Staff Development and Training**

No activities