

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF THE MEETING – February 25, 2026

Meeting called to order by Dr. Gregory Hall, President of the Board at 9:04 a.m. in the office of the Board, 5550 Venture Drive, Parma, Ohio, on Wednesday February 25, 2026.

The Secretary called the roll. The following members were present: Dr. Gregory L. Hall, Mr. Douglas Wang, and Ms. Sonja Rajki

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

BE IT RESOLVED to excuse Dr. Sherrie Williams and Mr. Daniel Richards due to schedule conflicts at the time of the meeting. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

The reading of the minutes of the January 28th 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. Wang, seconded by Dr. Hall, that the minutes be approved. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

The reading of the minutes of the January 30th Special Board meeting was dispensed with as copies had previously been received by each member. Inasmuch as there were no corrections, it was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the minutes be approved. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

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

Review of the Financial Statements

Michael Pissini, Director of Finance, presented the monthly Financial Statements and introduced the new reporting layout. He highlighted that the agency remains in a strong cash position. The Board provided initial feedback on the updated layout and labeling and agreed to continue the discussion at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Legislative Updates – None

Committee Reports

The Diversity Committee report was postponed to the next meeting due to the absence of Dr. Sherrie Williams.

Approval of Resolutions/Motions:

REGULAR ACTIONS OF THE BOARD:

Heather Grisez, Environmental Health Program Manager, presented Resolution 2026-010, explaining that the variance request seeks approval to retain a 42-foot section of sewer line beneath an existing concrete patio structure due to the significant financial burden removal of the structure would place on the resident; she noted that the contractor inspected the line with cameras and confirmed that the affected portion is in good working condition.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-010 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to grant a variance from Ohio Administrative Code Section 3701-29-12(P)(2) for the Sewage Treatment System Servicing the Residence at 368 Bentleyville Rd., Moreland Hills, Ohio (PPN# 913-23-002). Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Samantha Smith introduced Resolution 2026-011 and explained that Partner for Change is a state-funded initiative led locally by First Year Cleveland to reduce infant mortality. CCBH supports the effort through data and analytic capacity. The current contract funds epidemiologist time to produce monthly monitoring of infant mortality and birth outcomes, deliver presentations on infant mortality, prematurity, and pregnancy health at community and stakeholder meetings, and complete ad hoc maternal and child health analyses, including geospatial mapping. CCBH is also collaborating with the Child Fatality Review (CFR) team to strengthen the infant cause-of-death review process. These data-driven activities inform the work of key partners—Neighborhood Leadership Institute, which leads community engagement, and Better Health Partnership, which coordinates health system alignment—to guide strategies that address racial disparities and reduce infant mortality in Cuyahoga County.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-011 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to accept the Partner for Change Initiative funding from Case Western University from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 in the amount not to exceed \$62, 712.44. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Amy Geiss, Deputy Director of Nursing and Clinical Services, presented Resolution 2026-012 and explained that the 2026 Family Connects funding opportunity will expand the current newborn home visiting initiative from a model serving families below 200% of the federal poverty level to a universal model. She noted that the first phase of funding will support training and the completion of 504 visits between April and June, with long-term plans to scale the program to reach approximately 60% of births in Cuyahoga County—about 7,000 annually. To support this expansion, CCBH anticipates hiring additional nurses beginning in July, along with an additional Program Manager and Supervisor as part of phase one.

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-012 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to accept the 2026 Family Connects Ohio grant from January 28, 2026 through June 30, 2026 in the amount not to exceed \$422,800.00. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Zach Levar, Deputy Director of Population Health, introduced Resolution 2026-013, noting that it represents the initial partial award for the 2026 Ryan White Part A grant, totaling 28% of the agency's typical annual award of approximately \$4.8 million. He reported that the 2025 Ryan White Part A grant year is concluding, during which the program served 3,200 clients—about 55% of individuals living with HIV across the six-county region—and emphasized that Ryan White Part A serves as a payer of last resort.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-013 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to accept the 2026/2027 Ryan White grant funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration from March 1, 2026 through February 28, 2027 in an amount not to exceed \$1,337,661.00. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Martha Halko, Director of Population Health, introduced Resolution 2026-014 which is a second installment of funds now totaling \$50,000 from the Cleveland Department of Public Health providing support for the completion of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) projects.

It was moved by Ms. Rajki, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-014 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to accept additional 2025/2026 Cuyahoga County Health Needs Assessment project funding from the Cleveland Department of Public Health from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 and revise the end date from January 31, 2026 to June 30, 2026 (Resolution 2025-107). Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

BOARD ORDERS, RULES, FEES OR REGULATIONS

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-015 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 CRC Report and Other Contracts.

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Reports and Presentations

Infectious Disease Update

Jackie Napolitano, Epidemiologist, and Blaise Soberano, Communicable Disease Investigator presented the Infectious Disease Update. Takisha Fuller, Deputy Director of Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics, reported out on the Administrative Tabletop Exercise held earlier this week. See full report attached.

Medical Director Report

Dr. Prakash Ganesh, Medical Director, presented the Medical Director's report. See full report attached.

Health Commissioner's Report

Dr. Roderick Harris, Health Commissioner, presented the Health Commissioner's report. See full report attached.

Ms. Rajki asked the Health Commissioner about the lead remediation funds withdrawn from the City of Cleveland by the State and whether there was any opportunity for the agency to obtain those funds. Tom Fink, Deputy Director of Environmental Health, responded that it was highly unlikely the funds would be redirected to the agency and noted that CCBH is already slated to receive \$7 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Child Fatality Review Presentation

Holly Galicki, Program Manager, and Alexis Ipsaro, Epidemiologist, gave a presentation on the 2024 Child Fatality Review report.

Dr. Hall provided feedback emphasizing the importance of including the Asian/Pacific Islander demographic in the report, even though their rates remain comparatively low.

Dr. Andre Brown offered additional feedback, encouraging the program to consider how it will recommend structural interventions, noting that despite the significant number of Black infant deaths, the report does not include recommendations addressing the health impacts on mothers and infants stemming from the pressures and stresses associated with racism; he further asked what additional strategic partnerships could be pursued to help address infant mortality.

Ms. Rajki requested the inclusion of comparisons to other similar urban areas that may be performing better, as well as to those with infant mortality rates comparable to ours.

Public and Staff Comments (three-minute maximum) – None

It was moved by Dr. Hall, 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.

The Secretary called the roll:

Ayes: Dr. Hall, Mr. Wang, Ms. Rajki.

Executive Session began at 10:43 a.m.

Executive Session ended at 11:09 a.m.

Miscellaneous Business – None

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned at 11:09 a.m. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

SCHEDULE A
APPROPRIATION MEASURES

1. Budget Establishment(s):
 - A. Establish a budget for the 2026 First Year Cleveland - Partner for Change Initiative in an amount of \$62,712.44 (ref. enclosed).
 - B. Establish a budget for the 2026 Family Connects Ohio grant in the amount of \$422,800.00 (ref. enclosed).
 - C. Establish a budget for the 2026/2027 Ryan White (HIV Emergency Relief Project) grant in the amount of \$1,337,661.00 (ref. enclosed).

2. Budget Revision(s):
 - A. Budget revision for the 2024/2025 Perinatal Behavioral Health peer to Peer grant to redistribute funds (ref. enclosed).
 - B. Budget revision for the 2024/2025 Child Fatality Review (CFR) grant to redistribute funds (ref. enclosed).
 - C. Budget revision for the 2024/2025 Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) grant to reduce the budget by \$8,185.14 (ref. enclosed).
 - D. Budget revision for the Budget revision for the 2022/2025 Feed Our Future (RFSP) grant to reduce the budget by \$6,082.72 (ref. enclosed).
 - E. Budget revision for the 2024/2025 REACH grant to redistribute funds (ref. enclosed).

SCHEDULE B
CASH TRANSFERS

1. Operating Transfer(s):

None

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. Sarah Wilburn, Human Resources Generalist, Pay Grade D, \$50,420.00 annually, effective February 23, 2026.
- B. Alicia Boozer, Medical Billing & Credentialing Specialist, Pay Grade B, \$37,599.00 annually, effective March 9, 2026.

2. Appointment(s):

- A. TBD, Environmental Health Specialist in Training (EHSIT)/Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS), Pay Grade C/D, \$43,991.00/\$50,420.00 annually.
- B. TBD, Public Health Nurse, \$51,772.50 annually.
- C. TBD, Public Health Nurse, \$51,772.50 annually.
- D. TBD, Public Health Nurse, \$51,772.50 annually.
- E. TBD, Public Health Nurse, \$51,772.50 annually.

3. Resignation(s):

- A. Joshua Panakkal, Informatician, effective January 23, 2026.

4. Retirement(s):

- A. Kathleen Schoch, Public Health Nurse Program Manager, effective May 29, 2026.

5. Job Description(s):

- A. IT Systems Administrator, revised effective February 25, 2026 (ref. enclosed).
- B. IT Systems Specialist, revised effective February 25, 2026 (ref. enclosed).
- C. Web Specialist, revised effective February 25, 2026 (ref. enclosed).

6. Position Complement Revision(s):

- A. Public Health Nurse – from 17 to 21 FTEs – effective February 25, 2026 (ref. enclosed).
- B. Public Health Nurse Program Manager – from 4 to 5 FTEs – effective February 25, 2026 (ref. enclosed).

SCHEDULE D
EMPLOYEE TRAINING AND TRAVEL EXPENSES

Administration

- a. Suzanne Hrusch – PIO Training: April 29-30, 2026. Columbus, OH.

Environmental Public Health

- b. Correction – Stephen Marinuzzi to Ohio Department of Agriculture Pesticide Applicator Exam: January 29, 2026. Ravenna, OH.
- c. Megan Conklin to Association of Ohio Pedologists Annual Meeting: February 12, 2026. Delaware, OH.
- d. Thomas Murach to Ohio Department of Agriculture Pesticide Applicator Exam: March 4, 2026. Jefferson, OH.

Epidemiology, Surveillance and Informatics

- e. Jacqueline Jackson, Cherron Smith to NACCHO Preparedness Summit: April 12-17, 2026. Baltimore, MD.

Nursing & Clinical Services

- f. Brandy Eaton and Aiyana Bailey to Family Connects Academy Training: February 24 – 26, 2026. Columbus, OH.

Population Health

- g. Brittanie Evans, Elizabeth Falter, Melissa Hansen, Anastassia Idov to the 2026/20274 Ryan White program meetings: March 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027. Various locations in Ohio.
- h. Anastassia Idov, Erin Lark Turcolivieri to the 2026 Policy Training Advisory Council (PTAC) Annual Meeting: April 21 – 22, 2026. Chicago, IL.
- i. Sonji Deal to the 2026 Biomedical HIV Prevention Summit: April 7 – 10, 2026. Chicago, IL.

*Professional education under ONA contract.

SCHEDULE E
CRC REPORT AND OTHER CONTRACTS

A. CRC Report

1. February 3, 2026 1st CRC Meeting (ref. enclosed):

No Exchange of Funds

CRC 2026-010 Environmental Public Health Services submitting Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the following communities to provide Phase II Stormwater services as part of the NEORSO Regional Stormwater Management Program (RSMP) from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2030. No Exchange of Funds.

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| City of Seven Hills | City of Berea |
| City of Brecksville | Mayfield Village |
| City of Pepper Pike | |
| City of Mayfield Heights | |

Contract Approvals and Authorizations

CRC 2026-011: David W. Knight- amount to be paid not to exceed \$1,000.00.

CRC 2026-012: Cleveland Clinic Foundation- decrease amount to be paid from \$164,500.00 to \$140,500.00.

CRC 2026-013: Ohio public health association (OPHA)- amount to be paid not to exceed \$4,000.00.

CRC 2026-014: Tyler Portner- amount to be paid not to exceed \$30,000.00.

2. February 17, 2026 2nd CRC Meeting (ref. enclosed):

No Exchange of Funds

CRC 2026-015 Environmental Public Health Services submitting Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the following communities to provide Phase II Stormwater services as part of the NEORSO Regional Stormwater Management Program (RSMP) from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2030. No Exchange of Funds.

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| City of Bedford | City of Independence |
| City of Broadview Heights | Village of North Randall |
| City of Brooklyn Heights | City of Parma Heights |
| City of Euclid | City of Richmond Heights |
| City of Garfield Heights | |

Contract Approvals and Authorizations

CRC 2026-016: Kelly Stake- increase the amount to be paid from \$94,200.00 to \$104,500.00.

CRC 2026-017: Ohio Department of Health- amount to be received is based on the ODH reimbursement schedule.

CRC 2026-018: Cleveland Department of Public Health- Amount to be paid not to exceed \$25,600.00.

CRC 2026-019: The Woodrow Project- increase the amount to be paid from \$178,728.00 to \$182,832.00.

CRC 2026-020: Muse Content Group- amount to be paid not to exceed \$10,000.00.

CRC 2026-021: Phase II Stormwater- amount to be received not to exceed:

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| City of Bedford | \$2,520.00 |
| Village of Bentleyville | \$2,000.00 |
| City of Broadview Heights | \$4,640.00 |

B. Other Contracts

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Roderick L. Harris, Secretary

Dr. Gregory L. Hall, President