

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH



Roderick L. Harris, Secretary



Dr. Gregory L. Hall, President

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF THE MEETING –May 27, 2026

Meeting called to order by Dr. Gregory Hall, President of the Board at 9:03 a.m. in the office of the Board, 5550 Venture Drive, Parma, Ohio, on Wednesday, May 27, 2026.

The Secretary called the roll. The following members were present: Dr. Gregory L. Hall, Mr. Douglas Wang, Dr. Sherrie Williams, 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 Mr. Richardson due to a schedule conflicts at the time of the meeting. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

The reading of the minutes of the April 22, 2026 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 Ms. Rajki, seconded by Dr. Hall, that the minutes be approved. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Wang, 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) – None.

Review of the Financial Statements.

Michael Pissini, Director of Finance, presented the April 2026 Financial Statements and reported that the agency remains in a stable financial position. He noted that the agency is performing ahead of expectations in key revenue categories and that the total cash balance across all funds is approximately \$15 million, with \$13 million held in the General Fund. He explained that Intergovernmental Revenue is currently trending below prior-year levels due to the timing of grant-related reimbursement cycles. In previous years, this revenue was initially recorded in the General Fund and later adjusted to the Special Revenue Funds; therefore, the current imbalance is expected to normalize as the fiscal year progresses.

Mr. Pissini further reported that expenditures are slightly under budget and that cash-flow projections indicate continued financial stability.

Following the report, Board President Dr. Hall commended Mr. Pissini, stating, "You've done an outstanding job," and Dr. Williams agreed, adding, "It shows."

Legislative Updates – None

Committee Reports – Mr. Wang reviewed the Finance Committee meeting minutes and gave an overview of the meeting held on April 22, 2026.

Approval of Resolutions/Motions:

REGULAR ACTIONS OF THE BOARD:

Michele Benko, Maternal and Child Health Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2026-036 and explained that the associated funding will support implementation of the "Count the Kicks" program. She reported that the program utilizes a mobile application designed to help expectant mothers track fetal movement during the third trimester, noting that decreased fetal movement is often an early indicator of pregnancy complications. Ms. Benko stated that the program will be supported through both community and clinical outreach, enabling providers and community members to learn how to use the application effectively. She also noted that the program originated in Iowa, where its use has been associated with a 30 percent reduction in stillbirths.

Dr. Williams asked whether the application is free of charge, whether training will be provided, and whether language and literacy accessibility had been considered. Ms. Benko responded affirmatively to all questions and added that the application is available in 40 different languages.

Ms. Benko further reported that United Healthcare has been supplying free program materials in Ohio and serves as a resource for providers to order additional materials.

It was moved by Ms. Rajki, seconded by Dr. Williams, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-036 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to accept the 2026/2027 Community and Faith Based Infant and Maternal Health Support Services grant funding from First Year Cleveland from April 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in an amount not to exceed \$57,500.00.
Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Erin Lark-Turcoliveri, Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2026-037 and reported that the two contracts presented are the final contracts issued under the partial award. She stated that these funds will be used to support Core Medical Services and Supportive Services. Ms. Lark-Turcoliveri further noted that the agency received notification of the remainder of the full award earlier that morning, and therefore the Board can expect an additional round of contracts to be presented next month.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Dr. Williams, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-037 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter into and execute contracts with the following agencies under the 2026/2027 Ending the HIV Epidemic-Care grant from March 1, 2026 through February 28, 2027.

	<u>Amount not to exceed:</u>
Cleveland Clinic Foundation	\$ 69,874.00
University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center	\$ 55,500.00

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Amber Hitchcock, Clinic Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2026-039 and reported that the associated funding will support the Reproductive Health and Wellness Program. She explained that the program provides a range of services, including exams and education, STI testing and

treatment, HIV testing, and contraceptive services. Ms. Hitchcock noted that the funding reflects a slight decrease from the prior year and that the funds support the salary of the Nurse Practitioner, 10 percent of the Clinic Program Manager's salary, the lease for the Warrensville Heights clinic location, and laboratory costs. She stated that the program's goal is to serve 1,150 low-income men and women of childbearing age, representing an increase of 150 individuals from the previous year. Ms. Hitchcock also reported that the program is revenue-generating, with \$50,000 in revenue budgeted for the current year.

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-039 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED Authorize the Health Commissioner to accept the 2026/2027 Reproductive Health and Wellness grant funding from the Ohio Department of Health from April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027 in the amount not to exceed \$141,000.00. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by (seconder not recorded), that the following RESOLUTION 2026-040 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Director of Finance to dispose of excess and/or surplus assets as indicated on the enclosed list. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

BOARD ORDERS, RULES, FEES OR REGULATIONS

Ms. Heather Grisez, Program Manager, introduced Resolutions 2026-041, 2026-042, and 2026-043, explaining that each resolution requests a variance to allow the existing pipes on the respective properties to remain in place. She reported that the sections of pipe in question are located beneath patios and concrete surfaces, and replacing them would create an undue burden and significant cost for the homeowners. Ms. Grisez further stated that contractors have inspected all of the pipes using camera equipment and confirmed that they are in good working condition.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-041 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to grant a variance from Ohio Administrative Code Section 3701-29-12(P)(2) for the Sewage Treatment System servicing the residence at 3195 Roundwood Road, Hunting Valley, Ohio (PPN# 882-15-001). Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

It was moved by Ms. Rajki, seconded by Dr. Williams, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-042 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to grant a variance from Ohio Administrative Code Section 3701-29-12(P)(2) for the Sewage Treatment System servicing the residence at 35320 Chagrin Falls Blvd., Moreland Hills, Ohio (PPN# 912-11-004). Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

It was moved by Ms. Rajki, seconded by Dr. Williams, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-043 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to grant a variance from Ohio Administrative Code Section 3701-29-12 (P)(2) for the Sewage Treatment System servicing the residence at 7360 Daisy's Wood Lane, Gates Mills, Ohio (PPN# 843-20-010). Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

FIRST READING:

None

SECOND READING:

None

THIRD READING:

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-028 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to amend the CCBH Provider Fees for clinical services effective June 1, 2026 (ref enclosed). Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-044 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

Dr. Hall requested the Quarterly CRC Report be presented during the Reports and Presentations section of the Agenda.

Infectious Disease Update

Jackie Napolitano, Epidemiologist, and Blaise Soberano, Communicable Disease Investigator, presented the Infectious Disease Update. Full Report Attached.

Presentation for 2026: HR Diversity Report

Rebecca Burke, Director of Organizational Development, presented the HR Diversity Report. Following the presentation, Dr. Williams, Board Member and Chair of the Diversity Committee, inquired about the agency's strong success in attracting applicants aged 21–34, noting current challenges in the job market for recent graduates. Ms. Burke explained that the agency has expanded its presence at local college employment fairs, participating in four events during the spring and engaging in activities such as tabling, speaking, and conducting speed-interview sessions. She further reported that the agency attends technology and engineering job fairs and maintains partnerships with more than 20 colleges and universities to provide public health experience opportunities, as well as partnerships with several high schools. She added that the

agency is also able to offer online practicums to students both in and out of state.

Dr. Williams then asked why the agency is not performing as strongly in attracting middle-aged applicants. Ms. Burke responded that she would need to provide additional information at a later time but noted that the agency has experienced an increased number of recent retirements.

Medical Director Report

Dr. Prakash Ganesh, Medical Director, reported that the clinical team has been conducting green card visits and that the backlog has now been resolved. Dr. Williams asked whether any events are currently scheduled for the Mobile Health Clinic. Amber Hitchcock, Clinic Supervisor, responded that staffing limitations had temporarily affected scheduling; however, all positions except one have now been filled, and two newly hired nurses are completing orientation. She stated that expanded outreach will be possible once onboarding is complete and noted that she has a meeting scheduled with Suzanne Hrusch, Director of External Affairs, to discuss promotion and advertising for upcoming events. Dr. Williams remarked that this is encouraging progress and emphasized that the agency is a trusted source of public health information, noting that community members often rely on guidance from their doctors, nurses, and pharmacists, and public health officials.

Health Commissioner's Report

Dr. Rod Harris presented the Health Commissioner's Report. Full Report Attached.

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

Miscellaneous Business –
None

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned at 10:27a.m. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

SCHEDULE A
APPROPRIATION MEASURES

1. Budget Establishment(s):

- A. Establish a budget for the 2026/2027 Community and Faith Based Infant and Maternal Health Support (First Year Cleveland- Count the Kicks) grant in the amount of \$57,500.00 (ref. enclosed).
- B. Establish a budget for the 2026 ODH Bathing Beach Monitoring Project and Notification Program in the amount of \$29,129.00 (ref. enclosed).
- C. Establish a budget for the 2026/2027 Reproductive Health and Wellness grant in the amount of \$141,000.00 (ref. enclosed).

2. Budget Revision(s):

- A. Budget revision for the 2023 Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) grant to redistribute funds (ref. enclosed).
- B. Budget revision for the 2025 Dental Sealant grant to redistribute funds (ref. enclosed).
- C. Budget revision for the 2025/2026 Community Health Needs Assessment General Fund to increase the budget by \$10,000.00 (ref. enclosed).
- D. Budget revision for the 2025/2027 Maternal and Infant Vitality (MIVI) grant to redistribute funds (ref. enclosed).
- E. Budget revision for the 2024/2026 Lead Safe Ohio 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. Paul Diasanta, IT Systems Specialist, Pay Grade D, \$50,420.00 annually, effective May 4, 2026.
- b. Amanda Blevins, Public Health Nurse, \$51,772.50 annually with a one-time lump sum payment of \$2,500.00, effective May 18, 2026.
- c. Amber Mjolinir, Public Health Nurse, \$51,772.50 annually with a one-time lump sum payment of \$2,500.00, effective June 1, 2026.
- d. Alanis Nayder, Public Health Nurse, \$51,772.50 annually with a one-time lump sum payment of \$2,500.00, effective June 1, 2026.
- e. Cathy Pring, Public Health Nurse, \$51,772.50 annually with a one-time lump sum payment of \$2,500.00, effective June 1, 2026.
- f. Lori Stanton, Public Health Nurse, \$51,772.50 annually with a one-time lump sum payment of \$2,500.00, effective June 1, 2026.
- g. Lewis Davis, Informatician, Pay Grade E, \$57,811.00 annually, effective June 1, 2026.

2. Ratify Seasonal Appointment(s):

- h. Ashlyn Beatty, Student Environmental Worker, \$15.00/hour, effective May 18, 2026 through August 7, 2026.

3. Appointment(s):

- i. Febi Tsai, Environmental Health Specialist in Training (EHSIT), Pay Grade C, \$43,991.00 annually, effective June 1, 2026.
- j. TBD, Communicable Disease Investigator, Pay Grade D, \$50,420.00 annually.
- k. TBD, Licensed Practical Nurse, Pay Grade C, \$43,991.00 annually.
- l. TBD, Outreach & Linkage Liaison, Pay Grade C, \$43,991.00 annually.
- m. TBD, Public Health Nurse, \$51,772.50 annually.

4. Reassignment(s):

- n. Maurice Cole, Outreach & Linkage Liaison, Pay Grade C, \$66,977.11, effective May 18, 2026.

5. Promotion(s):

- o. Arealia Warren, Public Health Nurse, \$51,772.50 annually with a one-time lump sum payment of \$2,500.00, effective May 18, 2026.
- p. Justine Taylor, Public Health Nurse (PHN) Program Manager, Pay Grade E, \$57,811.00 annually, effective May 18, 2026.
- q. Kriss Sargent, Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) Program Manager, Pay Grade E, \$57,811.00 annually, effective May 18, 2026.

6. Credentialing Payment(s):

- r. Toni Pennington, Public Health Nurse (PHN), one-time lump sum payment of \$3,000.00, effective May 27, 2026.

7. Resignation(s):

None

SCHEDULE D
EMPLOYEE TRAINING AND TRAVEL EXPENSES

Administration

- a. Suzanne Hrusch, Kevin Brennan to the OEHA conference: April 16 –17, 2026. Columbus, OH.
- b. **CORRECTION:** Suzanne Hrusch to The Ohio Department of Public Safety - Charles D. Shipley Building: April 29 – 30, 2026. Columbus, OH 43223.
- c. Roderick Harris to preparedness meetings and provide testimony at legislative hearings and committee meetings for 2026 - various locations.
- d. Roderick Harris to Association of Health Commissioners (AOHC) meetings for 2026 – various locations.
- e. Roderick Harris to Ohio Department of Health (ODH) meetings for 2026 – various locations.
- f. Roderick Harris to American Public Health Association (APHA) meetings for 2026 – various locations.
- g. Roderick Harris to National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) meetings for 2026 – various locations.
- h. Roderick Harris to 2026 NACCHO Preparedness Summit: Protecting Our Communities: April 12 – April 16, 2026. Baltimore.
- i. Roderick Harris to Continuum 2026 conference: June 21 – 26, 2026. San Juan, PR.

Environmental Public Health

- j. EPH Staff to Annual Drip Dispersal Seminar – May 13, 2026 – Sunbury, OH.
- k. Robert Brand to 2026 PHI*Con/NACCHO360 Conference – July 13-16, 2026 – Louisville, KY.

Epidemiology, Surveillance and Informatics

- l. Sarah Szabo to American Academy of Pediatrics, Ohio Chapter – Put a Lid On It bike helmet safety program office: May 15, 2026. Columbus, OH.

Nursing & Clinical Services

None

Population Health

- m. Wedad Alhamwi, Elly Falter, Melissa Hansen, Anastassia Idov, Erin Janowski, Erin Lark Turcoliveri, Zach Levar, Brian Lutz to the 2026 National Ryan White Conference on HIV Care & Treatment: August 3 – 7, 2026. Washington, D.C.

*Professional education under ONA contract.

SCHEDULE E
CRC REPORT AND OTHER CONTRACTS

A. CRC Report

1. April 21, 2026 1st CRC Meeting (ref. enclosed):

No Exchange of Funds

CRC 2026-040 Administration Services submitting a non-financial Memorandum of Understanding between CCBH and the University of Cincinnati for cyber security training and related services.

CRC 2026-041 Administration Services submitting a non-financial addendum to the Business Associate Agreement with Lakewood, to allow for additional exchange of Protected Health Information ("PHI").

CRC 2026-042 Population Health submitting a no cost Data Agreement with Food Works Group under the 2025/2028 Distributor-Embedded Value Chain Coordinators (Project Scales) grant to use shared data to research, plan, facilitate, and evaluate a multi-phase Value Chain Coordination program in Ohio from May 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028.

CRC 2026-043 Administration Services submitting a Public Health Experience Agreement with Northeast Ohio Medical University-Consortium of Eastern OH to provide public health experience for students from August 8, 2026 through April 8, 2031. No Exchange of funds.

Contract Approvals and Authorizations

CRC 2026-044: CPR1 LLC- amount to be paid not to exceed \$1,058.40 per year, plus a one-time shipping fee not to exceed \$120.00, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$4,353.60.

CRC 2026-045: Muse Content Group- increase the amount to be paid from \$15,000.00 to \$20,655.75 and revise the contract end date from January 31, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

CRC 2026-046: A.J. Boggs & IXN, Inc. DBA IXN- amount to be paid not to exceed \$11,640.00. Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center- amount to be paid not to exceed \$36,000.00. We Think 4 A Change- amount to be paid not to exceed \$39,000.00. The Center- amount to be paid not to exceed \$1,500.00.

CRC 2026-047: Healthy Birth Day- amount to be paid not to exceed \$7,000.00.

2. May 5, 2026 2nd CRC Meeting (ref. enclosed):

No Exchange of Funds

CRC 2026-048 Administration Services submitting a non-financial services agreement with Dental Benefit Providers, Inc. for dental sealant program billing.

CRC 2026-049 Administration Services submitting a non-financial services agreement with Delta Dental, Inc. for Medicaid reimbursement and related services.

CRC 2026-050 Administration Services submitting an addendum to the non-financial services agreement with United Healthcare, Inc., for Ohio Medicaid billing.

CRC 2026-051 Administration Services submitting a no cost addendum to the contract with the Greene County Combined Health District to revise the end date of the contract from December 31, 2025 to December 31, 2026.

CRC 2026-052 Administration Services submitting a no cost addendum to the contract with Veerakone PLLC to revise the end date of the contract from June 1, 2026 to September 1, 2026.

CRC 2026-053 Population Health Services submitting a no cost addendum to the contract with Strategy Solution, Inc. (Resolutions 2025-074 & 2025-134 & CRC 2026-009) under the Cuyahoga County Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan Project from July 23, 2025 through November 30, 2026 to revise the end date of the contract from June 30, 2026 to November 30, 2026.

CRC 2026-054 Environmental Public Health Services submitting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Beachwood to provide Phase II Stormwater services as part of the NEORS Regional Stormwater Management Program (RSMP) from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2030. No Exchange of Funds.

Contract Approvals and Authorizations

CRC 2026-055: Garla Jalloh- amount to be paid not to exceed \$9,223.65.

CRC 2026-056: Cuyahoga County Department of Senior and Adult Services- amount to be paid not to exceed \$15,009.00.

CRC 2026-057: Gateway Outdoor Advertising- amount to be paid not to exceed \$15,400.00.

CRC 2026-058: City of Fairview Park- amount to be received not to exceed \$7,300.00.

3. May 19, 2026 3rd CRC Meeting (ref. enclosed):

No Exchange of Funds

CRC 2026-059 Administrative Services submitting a non-financial business associate agreement (BAA) between Cuyahoga County Board of Health and Wonderware Inc., dba CORE Business Technologies, Inc.

CRC 2026-060 Environmental Public Health Services submitting Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the following communities to provide Phase II Stormwater services as part of the NEORS Regional Stormwater Management

Program (RSMP) from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2030. No Exchange of Funds.

City of Bedford Heights
Village of Bratenahl
Village of Oakwood

Contract Approvals and Authorizations

CRC 2026-061: Phase II Stormwater Service Agreement: Village of Gates Mills-
amount to be received not to exceed \$1,000.00.

CRC 2026-061: Phase II Stormwater Service Agreement: Village of Oakwood-
amount to be received not to exceed \$1,400.00.

B. Other Contracts

ESI Monthly Executive Summary – May 2026

Overview

The Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics (ESI) service area continued advancing public health surveillance, preparedness, and data modernization efforts through infectious disease response, regional partnerships, community data engagement, and emergency preparedness activities. Key efforts this month focused on communicable disease monitoring, maternal and child health data, violence prevention, preparedness exercises, and strengthening community-facing data initiatives.

Key Highlights

- CCBH investigated and monitored multiple infectious disease events, including Mpox cases, travel-related zoonotic diseases, and ongoing respiratory illness surveillance.
- The 2025–2026 respiratory season surveillance period concluded in May. A season summary report is being finalized, and the respiratory dashboard is currently undergoing enhancements and redesign in preparation for relaunch ahead of the 2026–2027 respiratory season.
- ESI hosted the Q2 CCBH Data Days event focused on Child Fatality Review and Fetal Infant Mortality Review, drawing nearly 40 in-person attendees and positive regional partner feedback.
- Due to increased international attention regarding Hantavirus clusters, CDI staff partnered with the Communications team to develop and publish a public-facing Hantavirus informational webpage for community education and risk awareness.
- Emergency Preparedness conducted a regional POD training and walkthrough exercise involving 22 participants and multiple community partners to strengthen medical countermeasure readiness and accessibility planning.
- Data Analytics supported countywide CHNA executive summary development by identifying priority trends, disparities, and geographic differences across all five identified priority areas.

Public Health Surveillance & Response

Infectious Disease / Outbreaks

- CDI staff investigated 2 confirmed Mpox cases and completed contact notification and vaccination outreach activities.
- ESI continued monitoring respiratory illness activity, including COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV, while supporting outbreak investigations in congregate care settings.

- Ongoing monitoring also included travel-related malaria and Q fever cases, Lyme disease reports, and situational awareness regarding the international Ebola outbreak declared by WHO.
- Epidemiology staff continued support for cancer cluster investigations and violence surveillance activities across multiple communities.

Other Priority Conditions

- Maternal and child health surveillance showed the provisional infant mortality rate decreased to 6.73 per 1,000 live births, with continued monitoring of racial disparities and pregnancy health indicators.
- Violence surveillance presentations highlighted declining annual gunshot wound trends while continuing to identify disproportionate impacts among Black/African American residents and youth populations.

Data & Analytics Impact

- ESI continued producing and disseminating surveillance reports and dashboards supporting maternal and child health, overdose prevention, respiratory surveillance, and HIV/STI monitoring.
- The Q2 Data Days event strengthened community engagement around public health data storytelling and generated interest from regional health departments seeking to replicate the model.
- ESI staff provided data support and analysis for external partners, including Hamilton County Public Health and First Year Cleveland.

Community Engagement & Partnerships

- Staff participated in community outreach and education activities, including wellness fairs, violence prevention coalitions, HIV stakeholder meetings, and public health awareness campaigns.
- ESI collaborated with regional and national partners, including CDC OD2A recipients, Cleveland Clinic, First Year Cleveland, and multiple emergency preparedness partners.

Preparedness & Response Readiness

- Emergency Preparedness conducted POD exercises and accessibility planning activities with Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers and regional partners, resulting in updates to operational plans and completion of an After-Action Report/Improvement Plan submitted to ODH.
- Staff participated in national and state preparedness trainings and continued planning for the August National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) Full-Scale Exercise at Cleveland Hopkins Airport.

Strategic / Agency Priorities Progress

- ESI advanced community-facing data modernization and accessibility efforts through Data Days programming, public dashboards, webpage enhancements, and expanded public health messaging.
- Workforce development and regional collaboration efforts continued through presentations, trainings, preparedness exercises, and public health education initiatives.

May 2026 Health Commissioner's (HC) Report

Boards/External Committees:

Attended:

- Two Bi-weekly meetings of the Village of Healing Black Men's Health Advisory Council, and two executive committee meetings
- Cleveland Peacemakers, Inc.'s Board meeting
- First Year Cleveland's Steering Committee meeting

Select Meetings:

Attended:

- Association of Ohio Health Commissioners' monthly all-member call
- Standing meetings with Dr. Margolius, Director of Cleveland Dept. of Public Health (CDPH)
- Presentation by University of Notre Dame students to Cuyahoga County Executive re: Medicaid work requirement analysis
- Association of Ohio Health Commissioners' annual 2-day Spring Conference
- National Medical Association's Regional Conference's dinner, film screening/town hall meeting
- Ohio Black Child Development Institute's 2-day Power-building Fellowship retreat
- Planning call with Garla Jalloh (consultant) to prepare for True Colors personality assessment workshop conducted during CCBH all-staff meeting
- County Office of Violence Prevention strategy session
- Standing meeting with Sabrina Roberts, Special Assistant to County Executive

Partnerships:

- 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

Speaking:

- Served as panelist at the 2026 Northeast Ohio Health Care Transformation Forum, hosted by Northeast Ohio Medical University. **Topic: Radical collaboration to bring about transformation in NEO healthcare.**

Co-panelists:

- Shehzad Saeed, MD, FAAP, AGAF, NASPGHAN-F Chair, Department of Pediatrics, Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine & Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dayton Children's Hospital
- Clinton Forrest Faison III, M.D., Sc.D.(hon), FAAP, Senior Vice President and Provost, NEOMED & 38th Surgeon General of the Navy

Other:

- A full-day CCBH all-staff meeting was held on May 11th at the Middleburg Heights Community Center, which included a CHNA/CHIP overview/update, a presentation from the Alzheimer's Association about brain health, a True Colors workshop, and staff service awards.

Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics (ESI)

- ESI hosted the Q2 CCBH Data Days event focused on Child Fatality Review and Fetal Infant Mortality Review, drawing nearly 40 in-person attendees and positive regional partner feedback.
- Due to increased international attention regarding Hantavirus clusters, CDI staff partnered with the Communications team to develop and publish a public-facing Hantavirus informational webpage for community education and risk awareness.
- Emergency Preparedness conducted a regional POD training and walkthrough exercise involving 22 participants and multiple community partners to strengthen medical countermeasure readiness and accessibility planning.

Population Health (PH)

- **Overdose Prevention:**
Through the OD2A program, Population Health staff partnered with ESI and the CCMEC to track overdose trends and evaluate prevention efforts, contributing to a significant decline in fatal overdoses in Cuyahoga County—from 635 deaths in 2023 to 419 in 2024—with provisional 2025 data projecting an additional 14% decrease to approximately 360 deaths, including a 53% drop in fentanyl-related overdose deaths; however, cocaine has re-emerged as the most prevalent substance identified in overdose deaths, highlighting the need for continued monitoring and prevention efforts.
- **Youth Health & Wellness (YHW):**
The YHW team submitted a competitive Ohio Department of Health Adolescent Health Resiliency grant application requesting up to \$300,000 over three years to expand youth engagement in public health planning and elevate youth voice in local CHA/CHIP initiatives.
 - The proposed project will be a partnership with Case Western Reserve University and youth-led community programs, which convenes the School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC), a youth-led group that empowers high school students to take an active role in meaningfully contributing to health and wellbeing efforts in their school districts. CCBH will partner with CWRU to connect the SHAC to CHNA/CHIP efforts. This will expand opportunities for youth voices to directly influence intervention strategies designed **with them** and not **for them**.
- **HIV Programs:**
The Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) program was selected to participate in an Integrated Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Community of Practice, a 6-month multi-state collaboration focused on strengthening HIV care linkage, retention, and re-engagement strategies to strengthen the systems that keep people connected to HIV care and drive progress toward the goals of the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative.
- **Healthy Communities:**
Through the REACH initiative, CCBH partnered with Urban One and Bike Cleveland to launch a new video-based health communications campaign, "Your Health, Your Way," using personal storytelling and social media content to promote physical activity, increase community engagement, and expand awareness of our REACH strategies. The full video is 20 minutes long, with 4 highlight clips created for Instagram and Facebook Reels.

Dropbox link to videos:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/wrydjuzk3cpkpmhug4hcn/AKagwy6a-yiDyx5ribsk1jc/FINAL%20VIDEOS/What's%20the%20Move%20Bike%20Cleveland%20FINAL.mp4?rlkey=x1w5cp019eveiomkxvkwkd6q&st=b89xy550&dl=0>