CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Roderick L. Harris, Secretary

Dr. Gregory L. Hall, President

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF THE MEETING – September 23, 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, September 23, 2026.

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

The reading of the minutes of the August 26, 2026 regular Board meeting was dispensed with as copies had previously been received by each member. With a correction to the Health Commissioner's Report, it was moved by Ms. Rajki, seconded by Dr. Williams, that the minutes be approved. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carried.

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 carried.

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

Review of the Financial Statements.

Michael Pissini, Director of Finance, presented the Board financial statements.

Through August, we are approximately 67% through the fiscal year, and the organization continues to maintain a stable overall financial position.
A few highlights from the August report:

General Fund – Page 3: Year-to-date revenue totaled approximately $9.91 million, or 63% of the annual budget, while expenditures totaled approximately $9.80 million, or 60% of budget. This results in a modest YTD operating surplus of approximately $105,000 and an ending General Fund cash balance of approximately $10.50 million.

August Activity – Page 3: General Fund revenue for the month was approximately $431,000, compared with expenditures of approximately $1.06 million, resulting in a monthly deficit of approximately $632,000. The monthly variance primarily reflects the timing of revenue collections versus relatively consistent operating expenditures.

Revenue Performance – Pages 3–4: Licenses and permits remain particularly strong at 87.5% of budget, while charges for services and intergovernmental revenue are at 67.7% and 65.9%, respectively. City contract revenue remains timing-driven, with the next significant receipt projected in September. Page 4 provides the YTD revenue composition.

Expenditure Performance – Pages 3 & 5: Overall General Fund expenditures are at 60% of budget through August. Salaries, our largest expenditure category, are at 66.3%, essentially in line with the percentage of the fiscal year completed. Page 5 provides the YTD expenditure composition.

Year-over-Year Comparison – Page 6: August 2026 expenditures were approximately $419,000 lower than August 2025, while August revenue was approximately $97,000 higher. On a YTD basis, expenditures are approximately $679,000 higher than 2025, driven primarily by professional services and office operations, while salary expenditures are approximately $292,000 lower.

Year-End Projection – Page 7: Based on actual activity through August and updated projections for September through December, General Fund revenue is currently projected at approximately $15.63 million and expenditures at approximately $15.09 million. This would result in an estimated $539,000 year-end surplus and an ending cash balance of approximately $10.93 million, compared with the originally budgeted $663,000 deficit and $9.73 million ending cash balance.

Overall Cash Position – Page 1: Across all funds, CCBH ended August with approximately $13.33 million in cash, consisting of approximately $10.50 million in the General Fund and $2.84 million in Special Revenue/Grant Funds.
Overall, the August results continue to reflect a stable financial position, with General Fund spending remaining controlled relative to budget and the current year-end forecast improving significantly from the original FY2026 budget assumptions.

Legislative Updates

None

Committee Reports

Dr. Williams gave the 7/22/2026 Diversity Committee meeting summary.

Mr. Wang gave the 7/22/2026 Finance Committee meeting summary.

Mr. Wang commented that CCBH has demonstrated increasingly strong financial management practices. Wang noted that the proposed 2027 budget is generally balanced, with a projected variance of less than 1 percent. Wang further observed that the agency's operating budget represents only a portion of CCBH's overall impact, noting that while CCBH receives approximately $8 million to $9 million annually through municipal per-capita funding, the agency leverages those local investments to secure nearly $40 million in total funding and services for the communities it serves.

Approval of Resolutions/Motions:

REGULAR ACTIONS OF THE BOARD:

Brandy Eaton, Director of Nursing and Clinical Services, introduced Resolution 2026-081 and stated that the resolution would authorize acceptance of funding for the new Family Connects Ohio grant program. Eaton reported that the program began in May and provides reimbursement of $450 per home visit for up to 2,400 visits. Eaton explained that implementation of the program requires an expansion of nursing staff and noted that CCBH is increasing staffing from six to ten nursing positions, with eight positions currently filled. Eaton stated that the program is progressing well and that the Ohio Department of Health is expected to provide startup funding to support new hires, with those funds anticipated in the coming month.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Dr. Williams, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-081 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to execute an agreement with the Ohio Department of Children and Youth through Help Me Grow to administer the 2026/2027 Family Connects Ohio grant from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the amount not to exceed $1,080,000.00. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carried.

Tom Fink, Deputy Director of Environmental Public Health, introduced Resolution 2026-082. The contract with the Cuyahoga County Department of Housing and Community Development (CCHCD) is part of our HUD Lead Hazard Reduction grant that we began in March of 2026. CCHCD is a sub-grantee of CCBH and handles multiple aspects of the grant, including enrollment verification for potential clients, specification writing for houses enrolled, and construction management of the projects that are being actively worked on. This work will be done on all of the cases located outside of the city of Cleveland Hts, as Cleveland Hts handles all of these responsibilities for properties within their city limits.

It was moved by Mr. Richards, seconded by Dr. Williams, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-082 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter into and execute a contract with the Cuyahoga County Department of Housing and Community Development from March 2, 2026 through March 4, 2030 in an amount not to exceed $569,639.00. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carried.

Monica Williams, Program Supervisor, introduced the Resolution 2026-083 to accept funds for the 2026-2027 Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Grant in the amount of $623,040.00. It was reported that the grant has supported CCBH's Emergency Preparedness Program since 2011 and provides funding to address public health threats and emergencies, infectious disease outbreaks, and bioterrorism preparedness activities.

The grant also supports implementation of the City Readiness Initiative (CRI), which enhances the region's capacity to distribute medical countermeasures and supplies during large-scale public health emergencies. Program activities are conducted in collaboration with numerous community partners, including health care providers, faith-based organizations, community groups, emergency management agencies, law enforcement, fire departments, the Regional Preparedness Coordinator, the Cleveland Department of Public Health, CCBH staff, and the Medical Reserve Corps.

It was further reported that grant funding is primarily allocated to support Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics personnel, including salaries and benefits, as well as staff training, emergency preparedness planning, communication, and response activities that strengthen the agency's epidemiological capacity and ability to investigate and respond to public health threats. The grant also includes an in-kind component totaling $47,974.08, representing approximately 7.7 percent of the total award.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Dr. Hall, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-083 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to to accept the 2026/2027 Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant from Ohio Department of Health from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, in an amount of $623,040.00 CCBH In-Kind Match is $47,974.08. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carried.

Alison Patrick, Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2026-084 and stated that the funding represents a new three-year initiative focused on adolescent mental health. Patrick explained that two projects will be implemented during the first year, including community-based trainings designed to support youth development and equip participants with skills to become safe and engaged members of the community. Patrick further stated that the funding will allow CCBH to engage youth in community health improvement planning activities. CCBH will partner with Case Western Reserve University to provide training opportunities for participating youth, who will assist in designing strategies supporting the behavioral health priorities identified in the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

Martha Halko, Director of Population Health, added that the project supports a funded priority within the behavioral health component of the Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan process.

In response to a Board member's question, Patrick stated that youth participants will play an active role in shaping engagement strategies and will be compensated for their involvement in the project. Halko noted that the initiative will provide youth with an opportunity to learn about public health while empowering them to participate in community health improvement efforts.

Board members also inquired about project partners in addition to Case Western Reserve University. Patrick stated that the Educational Service Center and the SAY Program at Beech Brook will serve as partners and noted that CCBH is exploring additional collaborations with community organizations. Board members requested an update on additional partners as the program is implemented.

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Dr. Williams, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-084 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to accept the 2026/2027 Adolescent Health Resiliency grant funding from the Ohio Department of Health from October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027 in the amount not to exceed $99,435.00. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carried.

Molly Evans, Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2026-085 and stated that the resolution would authorize acceptance of funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) program. Evans reported that this funding will support the fourth year of the program, which began in September 2023 and is scheduled to continue through August 2028. Evans noted that CCBH has received level funding from the CDC for the program during each of the past three years.

Evans explained that approximately $2.3 million of the award is allocated to local hospitals, universities, nonprofit organizations, and other partner agencies that support overdose surveillance, data collection, and overdose prevention initiatives.

Evans further reported that Cuyahoga County recorded 363 overdose fatalities in 2025, representing the lowest overdose mortality rate in a decade. Evans added that the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office is projecting a slight additional decline in overdose fatalities during 2026.

It was moved by Mr. Richards, seconded by Dr. Hall, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-085 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to accept the 2026/2027 Overdose Data to Action grant funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2027 in the amount not to exceed $2,851,407.00 Ayes: All, Nays: Dr. Hall, motion carried.

Zach Levar, Deputy Director of Population Health, introduced Resolution 2026-086 and stated that the resolution would authorize acceptance of the fourth year of five years of Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) funding. Levar explained that the program seeks to improve health outcomes and reduce disparities in under-resourced communities through initiatives that increase opportunities for physical activity and improve access to nutritious foods. Levar noted that the award reflects a 5 percent reduction from the prior year's funding level but stated that the reduction is not expected to significantly affect program activities.

Levar highlighted several program accomplishments, including expanded collaboration with the Hunger Network to improve access to nutritious foods through local food pantries and county employee wellness initiatives. Levar also noted ongoing partnerships with Case Western Reserve University and Bike Cleveland to support physical activity programming and active transportation initiatives.

During Board discussion, members inquired about tracking chronic disease outcomes and mortality rates. Levar stated that chronic disease outcomes are tracked indirectly through available public health measures. Martha Halko, Director of Population Health, explained that chronic disease data are generally available at the county level rather than the municipal level. Halko noted that CCBH utilizes data from sources including the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Community Health Needs Assessment surveys, Healthy Northeast Ohio, and other population health data sources to monitor trends in chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, and obesity.

Halko stated that chronic disease disproportionately affects residents of under-resourced communities and communities of color, particularly in the City of Cleveland and first-ring suburbs, which are priority areas for REACH activities. Halko explained that while it is difficult to directly attribute changes in chronic disease rates to any single program, CCBH tracks intermediary measures that assess access to health-promoting opportunities. Examples include expanding access to safe walking and biking infrastructure and increasing the availability of healthy food options in high-need communities. Halko noted that future collaboration with the Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics Division may provide additional opportunities to analyze chronic disease data at the municipal level.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Dr. Williams, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-086 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to accept the 2026/2027 Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) grant funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from September 29, 2026 through September 30, 2027 in the amount not to exceed $641,224.00. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carried.

Anastassia Idov, Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2026-087 and stated that the resolution would increase the Cleveland Clinic contract to the full funding amount awarded for the current program year. Idov noted that Cleveland Clinic is a long-standing partner of CCBH and provides HIV medical care and support services to uninsured and underinsured individuals living with HIV.

It was moved by Ms. Rajki, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-087 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter into and execute an addendum to the contract with Cleveland Clinic Foundation under the 2026/2027 Ryan White (HIV Emergency Relief) grant from March 1, 2026 through February 28, 2027 to increase the amount to be paid from $33,800.00 to $110,000.00 (Resolution 2026-035). Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carried.

Molly Evans introduced Resolution 2026-088 and stated that HUMADAOP works to empower those identifying as Latino, Latinx, and/or as people who speak Spanish to reduce the negative impact of substance use through bilingual, culturally sensitive, prevention, intervention, treatment (in-patient and outpatient), and re-entry programs.

With OD2A funding in year 3, they engaged 352 individuals through their culturally relevant stigma reduction education seminar. They provided transportation to treatment for 228 clients and they provided naloxone training in Spanish to 255 individuals

In year 4, they plan to continue providing the services they have been and expand peer supporters reach to provide case management services at recovery houses

During Board discussion, Dr. Williams noted that the funding originates from OD2A resources and inquired about overdose fatality data for the Latino population. Evans stated that overdose fatalities within the Latino population are currently lower than in previous years but noted that rates had exceeded those of the Caucasian population in prior years. In 2025, 6% of all overdose fatalities in Cuyahoga County were attributed to Hispanic individuals. This represents a relational value to total overdose fatalities in the county and does not describe adjusted demographic rates across the county. Dr. Williams expressed interest in receiving additional information regarding the differences in outcomes among population groups.

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-088 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter into and execute a contract with Hispanic Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program under the 2026/2027 Overdose Data to Action grant from September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2027 in an amount not to exceed $165,400.00. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carried.

BOARD ORDERS, RULES, FEES OR REGULATIONS

Megan Conklin, Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2026-090 and stated that the resolution requests a variance to allow approximately 17 feet of existing sewer pipe located beneath an existing patio to remain in place. Conklin explained that the pipe was inspected and determined to be in good condition, making replacement unnecessary.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-090 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 19740 Benbow Road, Strongsville, Ohio (PPN# 397-35-018). Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carried.

Megan Conklin, Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2026-091 and stated that the resolution requests a variance to allow approximately 35 feet of existing sewer pipe located beneath an existing patio to remain in place. Conklin explained that the pipe was inspected and determined to be in good condition, making replacement unnecessary.

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-091 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 920 Chestnut Road, Gates Mills, Ohio (PPN# 842-23-006). Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carried.

Megan Mementowski, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, introduced Resolutions 2026-092 – 2026-095 and stated that the resolutions requests a variance to allow an entry gate to remain open and unlatched during hours of operation, provided that an attendant is present to monitor access to the facility.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-092 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Grant a variance from Ohio Administrative Code Section 3701-31-04(B)(6)(S) for the Village of Mayfield, Parkview Pool at 425 N. Commons Boulevard, Mayfield Village, Ohio. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carried.

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-093 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Grant a variance from Ohio Administrative Code Section 3701-31-04(B)(6)(S) for the City of Solon, Municipal Pool at 33655 Arthur Road, Solon, Ohio. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Dr. Williams, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-094 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Grant a variance from Ohio Administrative Code Section 3701-31-04(B)(6)(S) for the City of Parma, Nike Pool at 11828 W. Pleasant Valley Road, Parma, Ohio.

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Dr. Hall, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-095 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Grant a from Ohio Administrative Code Section 3701-31-04(B)(6)(S) for the City of Parma, Walter's Grove Pool at 4400 Walter Avenue, Parma, Ohio. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carried.

FIRST READING:

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-096 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED To amend the CCBH Provider Fees for clinical services effective October 1, 2026, as an emergency measure (ref enclosed). Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carried.

SECOND READING:
None

THIRD READING:
None

It was moved by Ms. Rajki, seconded by Dr. Hall, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-097 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.

Health Commissioner's Report –

Infectious Disease Update – Full Report Attached.

Presentation for 2026: Medical Reserve Corps

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

It was moved by Ms. Rajki, seconded by Dr. Williams, 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, Dr. Williams, Mr. Richards, Ms. Rajki.

Executive Session began at 10:35 a.m.

Executive Session ended at 11:05 a.m.

Miscellaneous Business –

Thereupon, it was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Dr. Williams, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-089 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to approve the 2027-2029 bargaining agreement with the Ohio Nurses' Association. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carried.

Thereupon, it was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Dr. Williams, that the following Resolution 2026-98 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to accept the rates for healthcare insurance coverages for the policy period from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carried.

Thereupon, it was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the following Resolution 2026-99 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to accept the contract with Northwest Group Services, Inc. (NWGS) for the administration of the Board of Health's Flexible Spending Account (FSA) program and COBRA services from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027. The amount to be paid to NWGS is $6.00 per participating employee per month. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made and approved. The meeting adjourned.

SCHEDULE A
APPROPRIATION MEASURES

1. Budget Establishment(s):

   A. Establish a budget for the 2026/2027 Adolescent Health Resiliency grant in the amount of $99,435.00 (ref. enclosed).

   B. Establish a budget for the 2026/2027 Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) grant in the amount of $2,851,407.00 (ref. enclosed).

   C. Establish a budget for the 2026/2027 Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant in the amount of $671,014.08 (ref. enclosed).

   D. Establish a budget for the 2026/2027 Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) grant in the amount of $641,224.00 (ref. enclosed).

2. Budget Revision(s):

   A. Budget revision for the 2026/2027 Every Baby Sleeps Safe (EBSS) grant to redistribute funds (ref. enclosed).

   B. Budget revision for the 2025/2026 Ending the HIV Epidemic/CDC (EHE Prevention) grant to decrease the budget by $35,073.33 (ref. enclosed).

   C. Budget revision for the 2026/2027 Ending the HIV Epidemic/CDC (EHE Prevention) grant to redistribute funds (ref. enclosed).

   D. Budget revision for the 2026 Family Connects Ohio (FCO) grant to decrease the budget by $156,400.00 and redistribute funds (ref. enclosed).

   E. Budget revision for 2024/2025 Newborn Home Visiting (NBHV) grant to increase the budget by $61,636.00 (ref. enclosed).

   F. Budget revision for the 2025/2026 Reproductive Health & Wellness (RHW) grant to increase the budget by $6,019.70 and redistribute funds (ref. enclosed).

SCHEDULE B
CASH TRANSFERS

1. Operating Transfer(s):

   A. Operating transfer from the General Fund to the 2025/2026 Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant in the amount of $47,974.08 (ref. enclosed).

2. Residual Equity Transfer(s):

   None

SCHEDULE C
ROUTINE PERSONNEL ACTIONS

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

1. Ratify Appointment(s):

    a. Jeffery Crosby, Grant Program Manager, Pay Grade E, $60,000.00 annually, effective August 31, 2026.

    b. Monique Rich, Grant Program Manager, Pay Grade E, $66,000.00 annually, effective August 31, 2026.

    c. Vincent Evans, Outreach & Linkage Liaison, Pay Grade C, $48,390.50 annually, August 31, 2026.

    d. Andre Taylor, Outreach & Linkage Liaison, Pay Grade C, $48,390.50 annually, August 31, 2026.

    e. Amanda Patrlja, Public Health Nurse, $51,772.50 annually with a one-time lump sum payment of $2,500.00, effective September 21, 2026.

    f. Isaiah Allen, Environmental Health Specialist in Training (EHSIT), Pay Grade C, $43,991.00 annually, effective September 21, 2026.

    g. Grace Specht, Environmental Health Specialist in Training (EHSIT), Pay Grade C, $43,991.00 annually, effective September 21, 2026.

2. Appointment(s):

    h. TBD, Administrative Assistant, Pay Grade B, $37,599.00 annually.

    i. TBD, Grant Coordinator, Pay Grade C, $43,991.00 annually.

    j. TBD, Medical Secretary, Pay Grade A, $32,136.00 annually.

    k. TBD, Outreach & Linkage Liaison, Pay Grade C, $43,991.00 annually.

    l. TBD, Outreach & Linkage Liaison, Pay Grade C, $43,991.00 annually.

    m. YBD, Public Health Nurse (PHN) Supervisor, Pay Grade F, $66,312.00 annually.

3. Promotion(s):

    n. Sheryl Fleury, Administrative Services Supervisor, Pay Grade E, $57,811.00 annually, effective September 7, 2026.

o. Elizabeth Ludtke, Grant Program Manager, Pay Grade E, $57,811.00 annually, effective September 21, 2026.

4. Resignation(s):

p. Darlene Williams, Medical Secretary, effective September 4, 2026.

q. Emilee Tancak, Communicable Disease Investigator, effective October 2, 2026.

5. Credentialing Payment(s):

r. Cathy Pring, Public Health Nurse (PHN), one-time lump sum payment of $3,000.00, effective September 23, 2026.

s. Harmony Welch, Public Health Nurse (PHN), one-time lump sum payment of $3,000.00, effective September 23, 2026.

SCHEDULE D
EMPLOYEE TRAINING AND TRAVEL EXPENSES

Administration

a. La'Keisha James to PHSCO Accreditation Documentation Workshop – July 9, 2026 – Medina.

b. La'Keisha James to Clear Impact Compyle for Public Health – September 18, 2026 – Wood County.

c. Theresa Mullins, Account Clerk, BA, $520.34, Fourth Quarter 2026 tuition approved by the TARC on September 4, 2026.

Environmental Public Health

d. WPU Staff to Mack Industries Annual Open House (CEU's): September 11, 2026. Medina, Ohio.

e. Tom Fink to Southeast OHEA Fall Conference: September 22 – September 23, 2026. Glouster, Ohio.

f. Robert Brand to Cuyahoga County Tree Summit: September 25, 2026. Independence, Ohio.

g. Matt Johnson to NWOEHA Conference: October 1 – October 2, 2026. Sandusky, Ohio.

h. Ashley Ruminski and Megan Mementowski to OEHA NW Conference (speakers): October 2, 2026. Sandusky, Ohio.

i. Megan Conklin to Association of Ohio Pedologists Annual Field Day: October 8 – October 9, 2026. London, Ohio.

j. 12 EPH staff members to OEHA NE District Conference: October 13 – October 14, 2026. Twinsburg, Ohio.

k. 4 EPH Staff to Ohio Mosquito and Vector Control Association Annual Conference: October 26 – October 27, 2026. Hocking Hills, Ohio.

l. Ashley Ruminski and Megan Mementowski to the International Aquatics & Water Safety Conference: February 7 – February 12, 2027. Reno, NV.

m. Ashley Axford, Administrative Specialist, BS, $1,505.24, Fourth Quarter 2026 tuition approved by the TARC on September 4, 2026.

Epidemiology, Surveillance and Informatics

n. Sarah Szabo to the Public Health Services Council of Ohio/Ohio Accreditation Learning Community Clear Impact Workshop: September 17, 2026. Bowling Green, OH.

o. Jackie Napolitano and Sara Meckley to OPHA's 2026 Public Health Nursing & Epidemiology Conference, "Envisioning Tomorrow's Public Health: Embracing Collaboration for Community Resilience," November 5-6, 2026. Kent, Ohio.

p. Various ESI staff to Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant meetings and activities July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027. Various locations in Ohio.

q. Jana Rush, Director, ESI, DrPH, $2,000.00, Fourth Quarter 2026 tuition approved by the TARC on September 4, 2026.

Nursing & Clinical Services

r. Melissa Kolenz, Shameem Ahmad and LaJuanna White to DIS Managers and Program Managers meeting: September 16, 2026. Reynoldsburg, OH.

s. Markayla Mariner, Disease Intervention Specialist, MPH, $3,170.00, Fourth Quarter 2026 tuition approved by the TARC on September 4, 2026.

Population Health

t. Alison Guzik, Elizabeth Manley, Alison Patrick, Hannah Ritchie to the 2026/2029 Adolescent Health Resiliency program meetings: October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2029. Various locations in Ohio.

u. Hannah Ritchie to the 2025/2028 Distributor-Embedded Value Chain Coordinators (Project Scales) program meetings: August 10, 2026 - June 30, 2028. Various locations in Ohio.

v. Elizabeth Manley, Chloe Nace-Rolland, Nichelle Shaw, April Vince to the 2026/2027 Reach program meetings: September 30, 2026 – September 29, 2027. Various locations in Ohio.

w. Mollie Evans, Rebecca Hysing to the 2026/2027 Overdose Data to Action program meetings: September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2027. Various locations in Ohio.

x. Elizabeth Ludtke to the 2026/2027 Overdose Data to Action program meetings: September 21, 2026 – August 31, 2027. Various locations in Ohio.

*Professional education under ONA contract.

SCHEDULE E
CRC REPORT AND OTHER CONTRACTS

A. CRC Report

1. August 18, 2026 1st CRC Meeting (ref. enclosed):

   No Exchange of Funds

   CRC 2026-085 Population Health submitting a Data Use Agreement with the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) under the 2026/2027 Relink HIV Pathways to Care grant from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 to submit data to NASTAD solely for the purposes of program implementation support, performance monitoring, evaluation, quality improvement, and dissemination of aggregate, non-identifiable findings related to the Relink HIV Project. No exchange of funds.

   Contract Approvals and Authorizations

   CRC 2026-096: Better World Advertising- amount to be paid not to exceed $50,000.00.

2. September 1, 2026 2nd CRC Meeting (ref. enclosed):

   No Exchange of Funds

   CRC 2026-097 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 2026-098 Administration Services submitting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Middleburg Heights Recreation for use of facilities and related arrangements associated with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health All Staff Meeting scheduled for May 11, 2027.

   Contract Approvals and Authorizations

   None

B. Other Contracts

CCBH CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Your Trusted Source For Public Health Information

5550 Venture Drive | Parma, Ohio 44130
Direct: 216.201.2000 | Fax: 216.676.1311
ccbh.net

ESI Monthly Executive Summary – September 2026

Executive Summary

In September, ESI continued to monitor communicable disease threats while preparing its respiratory surveillance tools for the 2026–27 season. Following the end of the multistate cyclosporiasis outbreak, staff continued closing local investigations and reviewed the response to identify improvements for future incidents. The team also investigated measles exposures and maintained traveler monitoring.

ESI released new infant health and overdose surveillance findings to support planning and prevention. The 2025 overdose profile documented a substantial decline in overdose deaths from 2023 to 2024, while the latest quarterly bulletin showed mixed trends across deaths, emergency visits, and naloxone activity. Teams also advanced the infant death review database, updated public dashboards, and supported community partners with data and outreach.

Leadership Updates

Director Jana Rush and Deputy Director Takisha Fuller attended the fall Association of Ohio Health Commissioners conference. Participation supported engagement with public health leaders across Ohio, provided an opportunity to learn about emerging state and local priorities, and strengthened relationships that can inform CCBH planning and collaboration.

Infectious Disease Communicable Disease Respiratory and HIV STI

Cyclosporiasis response

The CDC declared the multistate outbreak associated with Taylor Farms iceberg lettuce over on September 11. CCBH ended its partial incident command activation on August 21 and continues to close out local case investigations. As of September 17, CCBH had received 1,200 reports since June 1, attempted contact or survey for 1,198 (99%), and obtained completed questionnaires for 722 (60%). Of those completed, 464 were interviews and 258 were electronic surveys. ESI response staff and leads joined the September 15 response hotwash to identify improvements for future incidents.

Measles exposure investigations

In a regional measles outbreak, CCBH investigated three local exposure events, on July 18, August 2, and September 2. For the first two events, contacts without documented immunity completed quarantine without reported illness. For the September 2 emergency department exposure, 13 potential CCBH contacts were identified; 11 documented immunity and two remained under quarantine through September 23 unless immunity could be established. The source submission reported 83 confirmed cases across 10 Ohio counties at the time of its update.

Other communicable disease surveillance

The CDI team is monitoring seven travelers categorized as low risk for Ebola exposure and has cleared 14 other low-risk travelers following monitoring, most recently on September 8. Staff conduct follow-up calls during the 21-day monitoring period. In August, the team interviewed two linked mpox cases, supported appropriate isolation, and identified no further cluster.

Respiratory season preparation

CDI and Informatics are testing changes to the Respiratory Illness Surveillance Dashboard using 2025–26 data and seeking input from ESI staff and Communications. A companion public respiratory information page is in development for the 2026–27 season.

New Releases Reports Dashboards and Updates

Infant mortality and pregnancy health

The September rolling 12-month report (September 2025–August 2026) estimates a provisional infant mortality rate of 5.92 per 1,000 live births, compared with 5.79 in the previous report. The reported Black-to-White disparity measure rose to 6.16. Overall, 11.9% of births were preterm; 82% of pregnancies began prenatal care in the first trimester, 32% involved a hypertensive disorder, and 18% had an interpregnancy interval under 18 months. These preliminary figures may change. Supervisor Samantha Smith is scheduled to share findings and a new preterm birth trend display with First Year Cleveland and Partners for Change on September 24.

Overdose surveillance products

The OD2A team released the 2025 Drug Overdose Integrated Epidemiologic Profile. It reports 353 unintentional drug overdose deaths among county residents in 2024, more than 35% fewer than in 2023; 73% involved fentanyl or analogues. Non-Hispanic Black men had the highest death rate. The profile also reports 2,708 suspected overdose emergency department visits and 2,744 EMS naloxone administrations in 2024; ZIP code 44109 had the highest rates of both deaths and suspected overdose visits. These data inform prevention priorities.

The second-quarter 2026 Overdose Surveillance Bulletin reports a 29.8% decline in deaths from the first quarter, alongside increases in suspected overdose emergency visits, Project DAWN naloxone distribution, and EMS naloxone administrations. The public Overdose Data Dashboard received its quarterly refresh and now links to the 2025 Overdose Fatality Review annual report. A partner-produced cascade of care brief describes MetroHealth linkage and retention outcomes; CCBH surveillance staff reviewed and disseminated it.

Data systems and other products

ESI launched a REDCap Infant Cause of Death Review database to support structured review by physician partners and the new infant death review subcommittee. Informatics developed the system with Data Analytics and Population Health; implementation is underway. Data Analytics completed the

annual REACH evaluation submission on August 26. Epidemiology is finalizing the East Cleveland cancer cluster investigation, an additional Chagrin Falls item identified in the source update, and a violence prevention infographic. Informatics processed REDMAP datasets from MetroHealth and University Hospitals.

External Engagement

Epidemiology staff participate in Cleveland Fast Track Cities and Ending the HIV Epidemic care meetings and in the Northeast Ohio Gun Safety Coalition, Euclid HOPE Violence Prevention Taskforce, and Cleveland Thrive partnership. These forums connect CCBH surveillance work with HIV care and violence prevention partners.

At Operation BRIDGE Day in Lakewood on August 26, CCBH staff shared Project DAWN kits, overdose alerts, and surveillance information. Data Analytics provided East Cleveland leadership with a custom Healthy Northeast Ohio dashboard containing more than 100 population health indicators and supplemental overdose measures. Staff also prepared brain health education for senior center outreach.

The Local Emergency Planning Committee reviewed its hazardous materials transportation roadway report to support emergency planning and responder coordination. Preparedness staff are scheduled for continuity of operations training in September. The county EMS advisory subcommittee continues review of proposed procedure amendments.

Online Engagement

The CCBH Violence Data Dashboard recorded 159 views on Tableau Public in the 30 days preceding the epidemiology submission. Communications promoted overdose warning signs and awareness resources, brain health and Healthy Aging Month, Healthy Northeast Ohio, and 988 Day.

Agency Wide Initiatives

Informatics developed a help desk feature and updated scheduling and leave-accrual functions in Enterprise. The team supported Medical Reserve Corps roster analysis and visualizations. Data Moderation Initiative co-leads finalized a report for workgroup review planned in October.

Planning is underway for an October 27 Data Days session on mental health at Parma Heights Library. ESI supervisors completed the county Human Resources Civil Treatment Workplace for Leaders training. Staff activities are also building awareness for the October 17 Walk to End Alzheimer's.

September 2026 Health Commissioner's (HC) Report

Boards/External Committees:
Attended:

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

Select Meetings:
Attended:

- Meeting with Mr. T. Scott, Dir. of Cuyahoga County Dept. of Housing & Community Development
- A CCBH Violence Prevention strategy session—with City of Cleveland, County Executive Office & County Office of Violence Prevention representatives
- City of Cleveland Thrive Coalition's project wrap-up meeting (Violence Prevention)
- CCBH strategic plan meeting with contracted consultant
- Strategic plan goal workshop session with CCBH's senior leadership team
- Preliminary 2027 budget preview session with CCBH's senior leadership team
- Standing meetings with: Martina Pace, University Hospitals; Dr. David Margolius; Domonic Hopson, Neighborhood Family Practice; and Dr. Karen Hacker, Karen Hacker Health Strategies, LLC
- Association of Ohio Health Commissioner's monthly meeting
- Association of Ohio Health Commissioner's annual Fall conference
- CDPH's No Menthol Poetry Slam event
- Bruhs Healing Brothers town hall meeting on male mental health

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

<u>Population Health (PH)</u>

Overdose Prevention
Mollie Evans spoke at the Ohio National Guard Counterdrug Program's annual training in August, presenting to 100 members on measuring the drug landscape in Cuyahoga County. She also led a Prevention Committee session on Overdose Data to Action initiatives, which involved networking with local partners across Ohio. Mollie was recently interviewed by Spectrum News for Overdose Awareness Day.

Youth Health and Wellness
CCBH received new funding from the Ohio Department of Health through the Adolescent Health Resiliency Grant. The initiative aims to strengthen adolescent resilience, address the impacts of childhood adversity, and empower youth to participate in community health improvement planning.

Grant activities include implementing *Building Resiliency with Youth: A How-to Guide for Safe Adults* to expand trauma-informed care and increase the number of safe, trusted adults available to young people. CCBH will partner with the Prevention Research Center at Case Western Reserve University to engage youth in health improvement planning focused on mental health, sexual health, and family and community engagement.

EPH

- East Cleveland Service Garage: Cleanup activities at the East Cleveland Service Garage are underway with support of an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency contractor. As of September 16, significant progress had been made, with more than 200,000 cubic yards of waste removed.
- Electronic Payments: EPH is preparing to launch credit card payment capabilities for licenses and fees. The system is expected to be operational by the end of September.

ADMIN

Information Technology

- Phone System: The desktop phone replacement project is complete. All staff members now have new VoIP phones.
- Cloud Migration: Data migration for Population Health and Nursing & Clinical Services is complete. Administration, EPH, and ESI are scheduled for migration over the coming months, with the overall project expected to be completed by year-end.
- Help Desk: The IT team is developing an enterprise help desk service request system to improve the management and prioritization of staff technology needs.
- Credit Card Processing: Final testing is underway for the long-awaited credit card processing system. Pending successful testing, CCBH expects to begin accepting credit card payments in EPH and NCS in October.

Human Resources & Organizational Development

- CCBH continues to work with PHSCO (consultant) to finalize the 2027–2029 CCBH Strategic Plan. PHSCO will provide an update at the September Board Quality Committee meeting.
- Collective Bargaining: CCBH successfully negotiated a 2027–2029 collective bargaining agreement with the Ohio Nurses Association.

Finance

- The proposed 2027 Budget will be presented at the September Finance Committee meeting. Pending committee approval, the Budget will be presented for final Board approval in October.