

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING – SEPTEMBER 24, 2025**

Meeting called to order by Dr. Gregory Hall, President of the Board at 9:02 a.m. in the office of the Board, 5550 Venture Drive, Parma, Ohio, on Wednesday September 24, 2025.

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

The Secretary called the roll:

Ayes: Dr. Hall, Ms. Rajki, Dr. Williams, Mr. Richards.

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

BE IT RESOLVED to excuse Mr. Douglas Wang due to a schedule conflicts at the time of the meeting.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

The reading of the minutes of the September 3, 2025 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.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

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

Review of the Financial Statements.

Ms. Alhamwi informed the Board that CCBH will transition to using the County's Infor system as the primary platform for managing its financial records. As part of this transition, CCBH plans to retire its current accounting system by the end of the 2025 calendar year. A detailed plan outlining the steps for this transition will be shared at a later date. Dr. Harris, the Health Commissioner, added that CCBH has scheduled meetings with Infor representatives to explore which software modules can be integrated with the County's system.

Additionally, Ms. Alhamwi reviewed the financial statements through August 31, 2025. The statements showed a strong financial reserve, which was attributed to the receipt of the second payment from the city contract revenue

Legislative Updates – None

Committee Reports – None

Approval of Resolutions/Motions:

REGULAR ACTIONS OF THE BOARD:

Molly Evans, Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2025-092, requesting approval to accept an award of \$2,851,407 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) program. This funding will support the Cuyahoga County Board of Health's third year of participation in the OD2A initiative, which began in September 2023 and will continue through August 2028. The Board has received consistent funding from the CDC for the past two years.

Approximately \$2.3 million of the award will be distributed to local hospitals, universities, non-profits, and other sole-source entities that specialize in data collection and overdose prevention efforts. Previous funding supported the launch of a pilot drug checking program, which involves collecting syringes from seven local syringe service programs and testing them weekly at the County Medical Examiner's Office. The results are shared with both syringe service users and harm reduction staff. This initiative helps monitor the local drug supply, educate individuals about unexpected drug adulterants, and improve overdose prevention strategies. In the third year, the program will expand to include testing of pipes and cookers in addition to syringes.

Ms. Evans noted that in 2024, Cuyahoga County experienced its lowest overdose mortality rate in nearly a decade, along with a decrease in overdose-related emergency room visits. Despite challenges in the federal grant landscape, the OD2A program continues to receive bipartisan support.

Dr. Hall asked about the substances found in the samples. Ms. Evans responded that cocaine use remains high, and although fentanyl use has decreased, it is still prevalent. She also mentioned an increase in xylazine and medetomidine—both veterinary tranquilizers—in the local drug supply, which aligns with national trends. The surveillance team has produced data briefs on these substances.

Dr. Williams inquired about other interventions supported by the program. Ms. Evans described a Peer Support program that offers shelter and support for women in recovery, along with education and harm reduction services. Thirteen sub-recipients are involved in various efforts to support OD2A initiatives.

Dr. Williams asked whether overdose rates in Cuyahoga County have declined. Ms. Evans confirmed that 2024 saw the lowest rate since 2016, with 2021 being the peak year. She also confirmed that OD2A is a national program.

Ms. Halko, Director of Population Health, offered to provide the Board with specific data showing trends in overdose rates. Dr. Williams requested information on how overdose rates vary across different populations and whether outcomes differ among demographic groups. Mr. Levar, Deputy Director of Population Health, stated that the department has a robust data infrastructure through its Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics division.

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-092 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to accept the 2025/2026 Overdose Data to Action grant funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026 in the amount not to exceed \$2,851,407.00.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Zach Levar, Deputy Director of Population Health, presented Resolutions 2025-093 and 2025-094, which detail the allocation of funds from the most recent round of grant funding. These funds come from the Ryan White Part A grant and the Ending the HIV Epidemic grant, both of which support care and support services for individuals living with HIV. While the two grants fund overlapping programs and services, this overlap allows CCBH to strategically leverage resources and enhance service delivery. Although CCBH is appreciative of the funding received, managing multiple partial awards increases both the cost and administrative workload required to distribute the funds to community partners.

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-093 be adopted:

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

|   | <u>Amount not to exceed:</u> |              |
|---|------------------------------|--------------|
|   | <u>From</u>                  | <u>To</u>    |
| AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland (Resolution 2025-026)           | \$144,400.00                 | \$310,000.00 |
| Cleveland Clinic Foundation (Resolution 2025-037)                   | \$128,411.00                 | \$299,374.00 |
| MetroHealth System (Resolution 2025-026)                            | \$150,500.00                 | \$412,005.00 |
| Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center (CRC 2025-061)                      | \$32,000.00                  | \$94,900.00  |
| Signature Health, Inc. (Resolution 2025-026)                        | \$117,500.00                 | \$302,050.00 |
| University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center (Resolution 2025-026) | \$125,000.00                 | \$251,000.00 |

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: 3, Nays: None, Abstained: Mr. Richards, motion carries.

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-094 be adopted:

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

|  | <u>Amount not to exceed:</u> |                |
|--|------------------------------|----------------|
|  | <u>From</u>                  | <u>To</u>      |
| AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland (Resolution 2025-038 & CRC 2025-125) | \$72,000.00                  | \$161,500.00   |
| The Centers (CRC 2025-072, Resolution 2025-063)                          | \$73,500.00                  | \$170,500.00   |
| Mercy Health Regional Medical Center (Resolutions 2025-038 & 2025-063)   | \$123,000.00                 | \$260,500.00   |
| MetroHealth System (Resolutions 2025-038 & 2025-063)                     | \$554,621.00                 | \$1,289,433.00 |

|   |              |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Neighborhood Health Care (CRC 2025-072 & Resolution 2025-063)       | \$85,900.00  | \$194,800.00 |
| Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center ( Resolutions 2025-038 & 2025-063)  | \$265,634.00 | \$605,526.00 |
| Signature Health, Inc. (Resolutions 2025-038 & 2025-063)            | \$188,650.00 | \$411,105.00 |
| Upward Spiral Coach & Consulting LLC. (CRC 2025-073 & CRC 2025-139) | \$42,120.00  | \$84,500.00  |

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: 3, Nays: None, Abstained: Mr. Richards, motion carries.

Martha Halko, Director of Population Health, introduced Resolution 2025-095, which supports the work of Birthing Beautiful Communities as part of CCBH's maternal and child health initiatives. This organization focuses on maternal mental health and substance abuse support, particularly for Black and Brown mothers. Their efforts include screening 150 women and hosting three events aimed at recruiting participants into an evidence-based program model. The program emphasizes peer support to address mental health and substance abuse challenges among mothers in these communities.

It was moved by Mr. Richards, seconded by Dr. Williams, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-095 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter into and execute a contract with the Birthing Beautiful Communities under the 2025/2026 Maternal Behavioral Health Peer Support grant from August 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount not to exceed \$63,216.63.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

John Sobolewski, Deputy Director of Environmental Public Health, introduced Resolution 2025-096, which pertains to routine lead remediation activities funded through the Lead Safe Ohio grant. He recommended reducing the number of lead contract approvals presented to the Board by increasing the approval threshold for contracts reviewed by the Contract Review Committee to \$50,000.00. The Board agreed with this recommendation and directed John Mills, Legal Counsel, to amend both the Board and Contract Review Committee By-Laws to reflect the new \$50,000.00 threshold.

It was moved by Mr. Richards, seconded by Dr. Williams, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-096 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter into and execute a contract with Lead Guru Ohio, Paragon CMS, and Green Home Solutions for multiple properties for lead remediation work:

| Property Address  | Contractor  | Not to Exceed  | CRC Agenda Item  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3412 Ashby Rd. Up/Down Shaker Heights, OH 44120</li> <li>1752 Allandale Ave. East</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead Guru Ohio</li> <li>Paragon CMS</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$41,150.00</li> <li>\$49,563.00</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CRC 2025-179</li> <li>CRC 2025-178</li> </ul> |

|                                |             |             |              |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Cleveland, OH 44112            |             |             |              |
| • 1865 Farmington Rd. East     | Paragon CMS | \$48,905.00 | CRC 2025-177 |
| Cleveland, OH 44112            |             |             |              |
| • 3647 Rolliston Rd. Up Shaker | Green Home  | \$48,050.00 | CRC 2025-186 |
| Hts, OH 44120                  | Solutions   |             |              |
| • 13815 Beaumont Ave. East     | Paragon CMS | \$54,307.00 | CRC 2025-187 |
| Cleveland, OH 44112            |             |             |              |

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Ms. Alhamwi introduced Resolution 2025-097, which authorizes payment of a property assessment invoice from the City of Parma. The invoice appears to cover approximately 20 years of assessment charges, although there is currently no evidence indicating whether CCBH was previously invoiced for these charges. Moving forward, the assessment will be paid annually. John Mills, Legal Counsel, reviewed the Ohio Revised Code to determine whether CCBH, as a government agency, is obligated to pay the invoice. Since the assessment is not classified as a tax, it falls under a different statute, and CCBH is required to pay it. Interest has accrued on the invoice, prompting Board Member Mr. Richards to question the fairness of the charges, noting that interest should not have accumulated if CCBH had not been invoiced. Mr. Mills explained that the window to challenge the assessment has already passed.

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Dr. Williams, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-097 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize payment for the contract and/or order with the following vendor:

| <u>Vendor</u>             | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Purpose</u>      |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Cuyahoga County Treasurer | \$ 25,202.92  | 7/17/2025   | Property Assessment |

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

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

Ms. Alhamwi introduced Resolution 2025-098, which pertains to the Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) contract with the Ohio Department of Health. This contract enables CCBH to claim revenue through MAC billing. During the discussion, Board Member Dr. Williams asked whether there were any fees associated with the contract. Ms. Alhamwi clarified that there are no fees involved, and that the contract serves as a revenue source for CCBH.

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-098 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter into and execute a contract with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to participate in the Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) process from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Reimbursement of MAC claims to CCBH will be in accordance with the ODH Medicaid Administrative Claiming Guide.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Joseph McRae, Chief Administrative Officer, introduced Resolution 2025-099, which is an addendum to the existing contract with LetterNine, a vendor that has been working with the organization since 2014. The addendum includes several updates focused on improving cybersecurity. These updates involve upgrading to the Microsoft 365 Business Plan, changing the domain from .net to .gov, providing remote IT support, transitioning server services to the cloud, and implementing ongoing maintenance costs starting next year. The entire transition, including merging all data into the cloud, is expected to be completed by the end of next year.

Ken Uhlik, IT Administrator, added that the upgrade will include Microsoft Intune, which ensures that only the organization's PCs can access the cloud. It will also provide antivirus software and cyber protection for remote workers.

Board member Mr. Richards asked whether eliminating the need to support network servers would result in cost savings. Ken Uhlik confirmed that it would, noting that the upgrades will also eliminate the annual cell phone fee of \$12,000. Additionally, the organization will no longer need Zipcor for email encryption, as LetterNine's cloud server includes that functionality, potentially saving another \$1,000 per year.

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-099 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter into and execute a contract addendum with LetterNine (Resolution 2013-141) for a one-time payment not to exceed \$35,524.00 to execute a plan to modernize and secure the agency's IT environment.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

John Mills, General Counsel, introduced Resolution 2025-100, which pertains to the annual renewal of CCBH's general liability insurance. As part of this renewal, the cybersecurity claims limit has been increased, and public employee bonds have been secured for the Director of Finance and the Chief Administrative Officer positions. The resolution is being submitted prior to receiving the updated rate for the upcoming coverage period, as the renewal information typically arrives after the Board meeting each year. The amount being requested in the resolution serves as a placeholder based on last year's cost. It is understood that, due to a decrease in revenue from the previous year, there may be a reduction in the cost of coverage.

Dr. Williams recommended that the Board approve an increased not-to-exceed amount of \$65,000.00 in case the renewal cost is higher than the placeholder amount. This would eliminate the need to bring the resolution back to the Board for amendment at a later date.

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Dr. Hall, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-100 be amended to increase the not-to-exceed amount to \$65,000.00.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-100 be adopted as amended:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to renew public liability insurance with the Public Entities Pool of Ohio (PEP) from October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$65,000.00.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries

FIRST READING:

None

SECOND READING:

None

THIRD READING:

None

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-101 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that approval be given of the Consent Agenda as set forth in the attached schedules:

Schedule A Appropriation Measures.

Schedule B Cash Transfers.

Schedule C Routine Personnel Actions.

Schedule D Employee Training and Travel Expenses.

Schedule E Approval of Vouchers. (Available upon request)

Schedule F CRC Report and Other Contracts.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

#### Reports/Presentations

##### Infectious Diseases Update

Blaise Soberano, Communicable Disease Investigator, presented a brief summary of the Infectious Disease Update report. Changes to the list of reportable illnesses will take effect on October 1, as mandated by the state. All COVID-19 cases will now be classified as Class B, and only COVID-19 hospitalizations will need to be reported. Additionally, RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) hospitalizations must now be reported. Infant botulism has been added to the list of Class A reportable diseases.

Jana Rush, Director of Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics, added that access to several data indicators will be changing and will end by the end of this year. As a result, the organization will no longer have access to certain data sets. There are also changes to hospitalization indicators, and interim access will need to be obtained through the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) portal until the new systems are in place. ODH has not yet finalized where the new data will be housed. In the meantime, RSV, influenza, and COVID-19 data may be available through temporary placeholders. The team is considering a complete overhaul of the Respiratory Dashboard to combine indicators for all three illnesses, allowing for a more comprehensive view.

Please see attached the detailed Infectious Disease Update report.

#### Health Commissioner's Report

Dr. Roderick Harris, Health Commissioner, presented his Health Commissioner's report. The Nursing and Clinical Services Department recently completed its annual site visit for the Ohio Health Mother's Milk Bank. CCBH is currently the second-largest contributor in the state, having received over 160 ounces of breast milk, ranking just behind Neighborhood Family Practice.

Board Member Dr. Williams asked how individuals access the milk bank. Brandy Eaton, Director of Nursing and Clinical Services, explained that there is an intake process that includes lab screenings. Once a mother is approved, she is referred to a local drop site. CCBH serves as one of these drop sites and ships the collected milk to the Ohio Mother's Milk Bank, which primarily distributes it to neonatal intensive care units (NICUs).

Dr. Harris also reported that the Environmental Health Department's Lead Safe Ohio program had a successful site visit review conducted by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). He provided an update on East Cleveland, noting solid waste violations at the city's transfer station, which is no longer a licensed facility. A notice of violation has been issued.

Dr. Harris shared that he attended the Health Commissioners Fall Meeting with the State and has been involved in interviews for the Director of Finance position. He has also participated in speaking engagements, including leading a class lecture for Physician Assistant students at Case Western Reserve University last month.

Budget planning meetings for 2026 are currently underway, and an update will be provided at the Finance Committee meeting following this session. Dr. Harris was recently accepted into a fellowship with the Black Child Fellowship Institute, which aims to empower residents to become more involved in local decision-making.

Finally, CCBH is collaborating with the County Office of Violence Prevention to host a joint gun safety event, scheduled to take place by November 12.

Please see attached the detailed Health Commissioner's Report.

#### Medical Director's Report

Dr. Prakash Ganesh, Medical Director, presented the Medical Director's Report. He recently spoke to a Health Policy group at Case Western Reserve University. Most attendees were older adults, and their presence provided valuable perspective for younger individuals in the audience regarding the importance of vaccines and being vaccinated. The group's website allows individuals to submit personal stories related to their experiences with vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases.

Dr. Ganesh also noted that CCBH has received several inquiries from news outlets regarding COVID-19 vaccines. However, the organization has chosen not to engage publicly due to the lack of clear directives from the federal administration.

Board Member Dr. Williams expressed strong support for the idea of seniors and grandparents sharing their experiences with vaccine-preventable diseases. She emphasized the importance of



telling stories about what it was like to live through these illnesses, such as living in an iron lung, to help younger generations understand the value of vaccines. Dr. Williams stressed that sharing lived experiences from before vaccines existed is essential and warned that society risks repeating the past if it does not heed the wisdom of its elders.

Please see attached the detailed Medical Director's Report.

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

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

Executive Session began at 10:02 a.m.

Executive Session ended at 10:43 a.m.

#### Miscellaneous Business

Thereupon, it was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the following RESOLUTION (2025-102) be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to accept the following rates for healthcare insurance coverages for the policy period from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 (ref. enclosed):

| <u>Insurance</u>               | <u>Carrier</u>  | <u>Rate per employee/month</u> |             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Major Medical and Prescription | Cigna           | EE                             | \$ 888.33   |
|                                |                 | EE + F                         | \$ 2,442.91 |
| Dental                         | Mutual of Omaha | EE                             | \$ 20.99    |
|                                |                 | EE + F                         | \$ 67.65    |
| Life and AD&D                  | Mutual of Omaha | EE                             | \$ 5.36     |
| Vision                         | EyeMed          | EE                             | \$ 6.18     |
|                                |                 | EE + SP/DP                     | \$ 11.73    |
|                                |                 | EE + CH                        | \$ 12.35    |
|                                |                 | EE + F                         | \$ 18.16    |
| Voluntary Worksite Benefits    | Allstate        | Per attached rate sheet        |             |

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Thereupon, it was also moved by Ms. Rajki, seconded by Dr. Williams, that the following RESOLUTION (2025-103) 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, 2026 through December 31, 2026. The amount to be paid to NWGS is \$6.00 per participating employee per month.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

SCHEDULE A  
APPROPRIATION MEASURES

1. Budget Establishment(s):

A. Establish a budget for the 2025/2026 Overdose Data to Action grant in the amount of \$2,851,407.00 (ref. enclosed).

B. Establish a budget for the 2025 Water Pollution Control Loan Fund grant in the amount of \$150,000.00 (ref. enclosed).

2. Budget Revision(s):

A. Budget revision for the 2024/2025 REACH grant to redistribute funds (ref. enclosed).

B. Budget revision for the 2024/2025 Reproductive Health and Wellness grant to redistribute funds (ref. enclosed).

C. Budget revision for the 2025 Dental Sealant grant to increase the budget by \$15,235.00 (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.

Ratify Appointment(s):

- A. Theresa Mullins, Account Clerk, Pay Grade A, \$32,136.00 annually, effective October 20, 2025.

Promotion(s):

- B. Anastassia Idov, Grant Supervisor, Pay Grade F, \$66,312.00 annually, effective September 22, 2025.

Retirement(s):

- C. John Sobolewski, Deputy Director, effective September 30, 2025.

SCHEDULE D  
EMPLOYEE TRAINING AND TRAVEL EXPENSES

Administration

- a. Suzanne Hrusch and Kevin Brennan to the OEHA Environmental Health Leadership Course: October 21, 2025. Delaware, OH.
- b. La'Keisha James to the Ohio Accreditation Learning Community (ALC) Statewide Training & Networking Day October 22, 2025 – Columbus.

Environmental Public Health

- c. Megan Mementowski and Ashley Ruminski to Kalahari Resorts pump room tour: August 18, 2025. Sandusky, OH.
- d. Megan Mementowski and Tom Fink to International Aquatics & Water Safety Conference: February 15-20, 2026. Colorado Springs, CO.
- e. Megan Conklin to Association of Ohio Pedologists Fall meeting: October 2-3, 2025. Coshocton, OH.
- f. EPH Staff to National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association Annual Conference: October 19-22, 2025. Sandusky, OH.
- g. Megan Symanski and Bryan Lynch to Great Lakes Beach Association Annual Conference: November 2-5, 20-25. Michigan City, IN.
- h. Anju Pandhak, MPH, \$564.00, Fourth Quarter 2025 tuition approved by the TARC on September 4, 2025.

Epidemiology, Surveillance and Informatics

- i. Various ESI staff to Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant meetings and activities July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 – various locations in Ohio.
- j. Jana Rush, DrPH, \$1,300.00, Fourth Quarter 2025 tuition approved by the TARC on September 4, 2025.

Nursing & Clinical Services

- k. Shameem Ahmad, Melissa Kolenz, LaJuanna White and Disease Intervention Specialists to Fall 2025 DIS meeting: October 15, 2025. Columbus, OH.
- l. Toni Pennington, BSN, \$2,232.00, Fourth Quarter 2025 tuition approved by the TARC on September 4, 2025.
- m. Deedra Hein, Certificate Program, \$942.50, Fourth Quarter 2025 tuition approved by the TARC on September 4, 2025.

Population Health

- n. Mollie Evans, Rebecca Hysing, Emily Landis to the 2025/2026 Overdose Data to Action program meetings: September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026. Various locations in Ohio.

\*Professional education under ONA contract.

SCHEDULE F  
CRC REPORT AND OTHER CONTRACTS

A. CRC Report

1. September 2, 2025 1<sup>st</sup> CRC Meeting (ref. enclosed):

Contract Recommendations for Board Approval

CRC 2025-177: Paragon CMS - \$48,905.00

CRC 2025-178: Paragon CMS - \$49,563.00

CRC 2025-179: Lead Guru - \$41,150.00

Contract Approvals and Authorizations

CRC 2025-180: Paragon CMS - \$20,625.00

CRC 2025-181: Trinity High School - \$500.00

CRC 2025-182: Addendum – American Builders and Applicators – increase amount to be paid from \$25,300.00 to \$26,710.00.

2. September 16, 2025 2<sup>nd</sup> CRC Meeting (ref. enclosed):

No Exchange of Funds

CRC 2025-183 Environmental Public Health Services is submitting an addendum to the contract with American Builders and Applicators (CRC 2025-132), 364 E 270th St., Euclid, OH, 44132 to extend the contract end from September 22, 2025 to October 22, 2025. Amount to be paid to remain the same.

CRC 2025-184 Administration submitting an agreement for the Deposit of Public Funds with Fifth Third Bank, NA through August 18, 2030.

CRC 2025-185 Nursing and Clinical Services is submitting a Data Use Agreement with Case Western University for the use of certain data for the Newborn Home Visiting Program.

Contract Recommendations for Board Approval

CRC 2025-186: Green Home Solutions - \$48,050.00

CRC 2025-187: Paragon CMS - \$54,307.00

Contract Approvals and Authorizations

CRC 2025-188: Accurate Analytical, LLC - \$35,512.50

CRC 2025-189: National Band and Tag Company - \$5,335.00

CRC 2025-190: Paragon CMS - \$26,595.00

CRC 2025-191: Addendum – A.J. Boggs & IXN, Inc. – increase amount to be paid from \$3,312.05 to \$18,729.50.

CRC 2025-192: Addendum – We Think 4 A Change, Inc. – increase amount to be paid from \$8,500.00 to \$30,000.00.



CRC 2025-193: Addendum – Near West Side Multi Service Corp. – increase amount to be paid from \$10,100.00 to \$20,100.00.

CRC 2025-194: Addendum – A.J. Boggs & IXN, Inc. – increase amount to be paid from \$66,285.00 to \$91,285.00.

CRC 2025-195: Neighborhood Leadership Institute - \$225.00

CRC 2025-196: PalAmerican Security – increase rates to be paid from \$25.05/hr to \$29.97/hr.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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Roderick L. Harris, Secretary

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Dr. Gregory L. Hall, President

# ESI September 2025 Board Highlights

## ***Reportable Illness Reporting Changes***

Extensive changes to the reportable disease list and reporting requirements take effect on 10/1/2025.

### **1. Major Changes:**

- Only hospitalizations of COVID-19 are reportable, instead of all COVID-19 cases being reportable
- Hospitalizations of RSV are now a reportable condition; previously only RSV outbreaks were reportable

### **2. Other Changes:**

- Infant and wound botulism are now Class 'A' reportable diseases. Previously only foodborne botulism was a Class 'A' reportable, while these were Class B
- Tularemia has been split into 2 separate conditions, inhalation Tularemia (Class A) and non-inhalation Tularemia (Class B)
- Cholera has been moved from a Class A to a Class B disease
- Latent TB infection in a child 2 years of age or younger has been classified as a Class B

### **3. Additions:**

- Free-living amoeba infection (Class A)
- Cronobacter, invasive infection in infants less than 12 months of age (Class B)
- Melioidosis (Class B)

### **4. Removals**

- Amebiasis (Class B)
- Aseptic Meningitis (Class B)

## ***Reportable Disease Trends***

### **1. School/ Childcare Outbreak Increase**

From August 2025 through September 2025 to date:

- 10 outbreaks have been reported all in schools and childcare settings
- Nine (9) Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD) outbreaks consisting of 36 total cases (mean=4 per outbreak)
- 1 Streptococcal disease outbreak with a total of 5 cases

This correlates to the return to school.

### **2. West Nile Virus Update**

- At time of last Board Meeting, CCBH received reports of 1 probable and 1 confirmed West Nile Virus (WNV)
- Since then 2 additional cases have been reported
  - 1 confirmed case in an adult reporting no out of state travel
  - 1 probable case in an adult with no known travel history
  - This brings our seasonal case count to 4 cases

### **3. Increase in Campylobacteriosis Cases**

- This summer, CCBH has seen a high number of Campy cases compared to historical trends
- During August 2025, 29 cases were reported, double what was reported during August 2024 (14)
- 134 case have been reported year to date.

### ***REACH Annual Evaluation Reporting Completed***

Data Analyst Sarah Szabo coordinates required evaluation efforts for Population Health's REACH (Racial and Ethnic Approached to Community Health) program funded by the CDC. Annual requirements include a narrative evaluation report, detailed performance measure collection and description for all strategies (early care and education, food service guidelines, fruit and vegetable voucher incentive/produce prescription programs, and physical activity), and geographic analyses related to the physical activity strategy. Working closely with associated partners and the program team the appropriate data was compiled and submission of these items was completed on 8/27.

### ***Healthy NEO Data Dispatch Issued***

Data Analyst Sarah Szabo issued Healthy Northeast Ohio's Data Dispatch on 8/27. These newsletters are completed 2-4 times per year. The newest edition shared recent platform dissemination highlights, links to updated site guidance documents and data reports, and information on updated data indicators, among other resources. The full text is available here:

<https://www.healthyneo.org/content/sites/cuyahoga/Website Documents/August 2025 Data Dispatch - Healthy NEO.pdf>

### ***Overdose Awareness Day Outreach***

Data Analyst Svetlana Zelenskiy helped provide resources and disseminate Overdose Data to Action surveillance work at a local International Overdose Awareness Day community event held in Cleveland on 8/30. Our overdose surveillance bulletin, showing key indicators of overdose trends in Cuyahoga County, was shared out and well as information on how anyone can sign up to receive overdose spike alerts through ReadyNotify.

### ***MIVI Priority Service Area Analysis***

Data Analyst Tatyana Khaled completed data analyses to support the Maternal & Infant Vitality Initiative start-up. Specifically, she conducted IMR and preterm birth analyses by race and zip code and reviewed health equity index data for priority service area identification. She also completed associated mapping. A total of 19 zip codes were selected, largely on the east side of Cleveland and eastern inner suburbs, based on the analyses.

### ***Partner for Change Kick-off Data Presentation***

Data Analytics Supervisor Samantha Smith delivered a maternal and child health data presentation for the Cuyahoga County Partner for Change kick-off on 9/4. Partner for Change is a new initiative funded by Ohio Department of Children and Youth, guided by Cradle Cincinnati, and led locally by First Year Cleveland, to improve birth outcomes and reduce infant mortality across Ohio. Various representatives from community organizations and health systems attended, and feedback received was very positive.

### ***Responsive Infant Mortality & Birth Outcomes Data Analyses***

Related to our engagement in First Year Cleveland's Partner for Change Initiative, ESI's Data Analytics team is now running monthly infant mortality & birth outcome reports. The 12-month rolling average infant mortality rate through July 2025 was 8.28 per 1,000 live births, and through August 2025 is 7.95 per 1,000 live births. Data Analyst Tatyana Khaled also ran various analyses showing risk factor data in relation to total births, prematurity, and infant deaths, to support a data dive discussion with Partner for Change project leads from First Year Cleveland, Better Health Partnership, Cleveland Clinic, and CCBH. Further, Epidemiologist Alexis Ipsaro provided a 5-year analyses of infant causes of death. Prematurity, specifically short gestation and low birth weight, and external causes, specifically suffocation and

asphyxia due to unsafe sleep, remain the top causes of infant deaths in the county. Collectively these data/insights will help inform the upcoming learning collaborative.

### ***OD2A Component C Infographic***

Members of the overdose surveillance team including Kenya Moyers, Svetlana Zelenskiy, and Samantha Smith, assisted the Overdose Data to Action Component C team in completing their first data product. Component C focuses on surveillance of linkage to and retention in care and is led by staff at the CWRU Begun Center and MetroHealth System. An infographic was produced discussing the program, entry points being studied, data collection planning, and preliminary outcomes. It is available on our overdose data dashboard webpage here: [https://ccbh.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/OD2ALOCAL\\_ComponentC\\_InfographicY2.pdf](https://ccbh.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/OD2ALOCAL_ComponentC_InfographicY2.pdf)

### ***New Healthy Brain Fact Sheets***

Working with representatives from various local organizations that support older adults and healthy aging, Data Analyst Sarah Szabo developed three data infographic fact sheets as part of our Healthy Brain Initiative. The specific topics include 1) subjective cognitive decline, 2) dementia caregiving, and 3) Alzheimer's disease and other dementias in Cuyahoga County, using data from the Ohio Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Alzheimer's Association, Ohio Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, and Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services. These data products will be released in early October.

### ***FIMR Report & CFR Infographic***

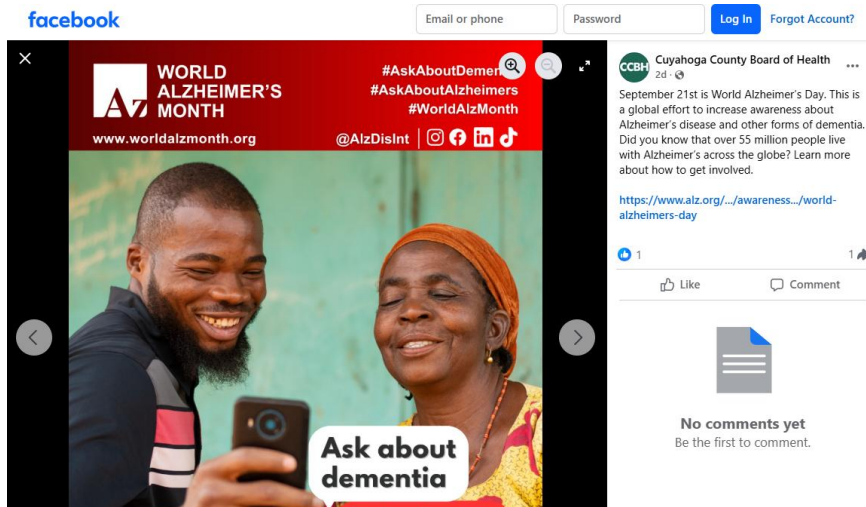
Epidemiologist Alexis Ipsaro developed a Fetal Infant Mortality Review annual report using 2023 data. It represents to first stand-alone report for the FIMR program. The report shows there were 88 fetal deaths in Cuyahoga County, or a fetal mortality rate of 6.9 per 1,000 live births plus fetal deaths. Demographic and cause data are also included as well as prevention recommendations. Final review by the program is underway. Per request of Child Fatality Review staff, Alexis also created an infographic related to abuse and neglect cases among child and infant deaths. This product was shared with CFR stakeholders this month.

### ***Data Days Stakeholder Survey***

A team of various ESI staff, including 3 Data Analytics team members – Sarah Szabo, Kenya Moyers, and Samantha Smith – created and launched a survey to inform CCBH Data Days event planning. The survey was sent to previous and potential attendees including staff and partners, and 44 responses were received. The information will guide upcoming scheduling, both the format of and topics for future sessions. Responsive to the stakeholder feedback, planning has started for the next CCBH Data Days event, anticipated to occur in October.

### ***World Alzheimer's Day Promotion***

Data Analyst Sarah Szabo identified and shared out information to support a social media post for World Alzheimer's Day, which is 9/21. World Alzheimer's Day reflects a global effort to increase awareness of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Promotion of the observance aligns with our Healthy Brain Initiative work. CCBH facebook post screenshot:



### ***HIV/STI Ryan White Program***

Epidemiologist Alisha Cassady gave a data presentation to the Ryan White Planning Council Quality Improvement (QI) Subcommittee on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The presentation was titled "Unmet Need in Region 3". Key data points included:

- Estimated to be 2,788 people with HIV in Region 3 who do not receive Ryan White or EHE services
- 42% Black/African American males
- 65% MSM risk category
- Unmet need highest in those who are transgender, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Black/African American, and 13-24 years old.

## September 2025 Health Commissioner's Report

### Health Commissioner (HC)

- **Conferences:** HC attended Day Two of the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners' Fall meeting.
- **Interviews:** HC served on interview panels for the Ryan White Grant Supervisor role, as well as for the Director of Finance finalists.
- **Speaking:** HC conducted a class lecture (incl. a case study discussion) for first-year physician assistant students at CWRU, titled *Community & Neighborhood Context: Social Disparities at their Source*.
- **Budget:** HC and Fiscal leadership held individual meetings with each of the CCBH service areas, in preparation of the agency's 2026 proposed budget.
- HC interviewed for (and was subsequently accepted into) the Ohio Black Child Development Institute's *Power Building Fellowship Program*.
- **Select Meetings:** 1) HC, Dr. Robert Brand, and E. Cleveland Public Library partners held a networking meeting with a Program Officer from the Cleveland Foundation to discuss funding priorities; 2) HC and Suzanne Hrusch met with the Administrator of the County's Office of Violence Prevention to begin planning for a series of joint gun safety events around the county; and 3) Cleveland Peacemakers' Board of Directors meeting; Interviewed numerous candidates for Cleveland Peacemakers' vacant Executive Director position.

### Nursing & Clinical Services (NCS)

- NCS' milk drop site successfully completed its annual site visit from the OhioHealth Mother's Milk Bank team. Statewide, our CCBH milk drop site has the second largest annual donation, with over 6,700 ounces of human milk.

### Environmental Public Health (EPH)

- The Ohio Department of Health conducted a successful site review for CCBH's Lead Program. The program remains in good standing!
- EPH leadership spearheaded a meeting with the City of East Cleveland (EC), the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the Cuyahoga Solid Waste District to address solid waste concerns at EC's transfer station.
- EPH has been asked by Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency to participate in the Water Pollution Control planning for the City of Broadview Heights.
- EPH was asked by the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission to participate in meetings focused on the Master Plan for the Village of Valley View (<https://www.countyplanning.us/projects/valley-view-master-plan/>). EPH Director, Matt Johnson, will be attending.

**CCBH Board Meeting  
September 24, 2025**

**Medical Director's Report Summary**  
*September 2025 Activities*

**Clinical Oversight and Support**

1. Civil surgeon services: Collaborating with Neighborhood Family Practice to facilitate permanent residency applications for refugee communities by processing I-693 documents and administering vaccines under our blanket civil surgeon authority. Ongoing.
2. Providing clinical consultation to staff on complex cases, protocols, and evidence-based practices. (ongoing)
3. Influenza Vaccine Planning – Reviewing upcoming guidance for 2025-2026 seasonal influenza vaccine recommendations.
4. COVID-19 Vaccine Planning – Reviewing upcoming guidance for 2025-2026 seasonal COVID vaccine recommendations.
5. Kava and Kratom Regulatory Monitoring – Monitoring the evolving legal situation involving businesses selling food and beverages containing kava and kratom, maintaining readiness to provide medical support as needed.

**Disease Surveillance and Response**

1. Identifying opportunities to streamline surveillance and response services, including optimization of testing and treatment protocols.
2. Coordinating between Neighborhood Family Practice and Cleveland Department of Public Health for positive measles case likely to post-vaccine reaction in a 12 month old.

**Media and Communications**

No reportable activities this period.

**Community Engagement and Education**

1. **Preventive Medicine Residency** – residents gain public health experience through board meeting participation, communications training, field visits with environmental health sanitarians, clinical site rotations, and active involvement in ongoing projects within the ESI service area.
2. **Public Affairs Discussion Group at CWRU** –presentation on measles resurgence and vaccination decline consequences. Led to connection with organization called Grandparents for Vaccines, which have been connected with CCBH to help strategize on messaging on vaccinations to fight misinformation/disinformation.
3. **CWRU MPH Program Teaching** – Transitioning to teach a semester-long Health Policy and Management course designed as an applied, practical curriculum for second-year students in the health policy concentration. The course emphasizes real-world policy applications and contextual relevance to prepare students for professional practice in health policy and management.



**Staff Development and Training**

1. **MPH Capstone Supervision for CCBH Staff** – Providing guidance and oversight for Master of Public Health capstone projects.
2. **Research Development and Dissemination** – Supporting staff interested in manuscript preparation and publication, including assistance with research methodology, data analysis, and findings dissemination.