

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING - November 7, 2025**

*(Rescheduled from October, 22, 2025)*

Meeting called to order by Dr. Gregory Hall, President of the Board at 9:06 a.m. in the office of the Board, 5550 Venture Drive, Parma, Ohio, on Friday November 7, 2025.

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

The Secretary called the roll:

Ayes: Dr. Hall, Mr. Wang, 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 Dr. Williams as late due to a schedule conflicts at the start of the meeting.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

The reading of the minutes of the September 24, 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. Williams, that the minutes be approved.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

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

BE IT RESOLVED to amend agenda items as highlighted on revised agenda.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Public Comments on Agenda Resolutions Only (three-minute maximum) – N/A.

Review of the Financial Statements. Dr. Williams joined the meeting during the review of the Financial Statements.

Joe McRae, Chief Administrative Officer, introduced Michael Pissini as the new Director of Finance. Michael shared his goal of bringing transparency and structure to CCBH by implementing modern financial practices, with an immediate focus on discovery and stabilization. He expressed enthusiasm for supporting the agency's work. Wedad Alhamwi, Deputy Director of Finance, welcomed Michael and reviewed the agency's financials, noting a strong cash reserve due to major revenue sources and a positive special revenue ending balance. She clarified that while special revenue funds currently show more cash than expenditures, this does not necessarily indicate a surplus. Board members raised questions about the surplus,

timing of funds, and potential impacts on grants. Michael explained that a full review of grant processes and reconciliation is needed, as some grants have remained on the books for years. He emphasized the need to transition to a single financial system and implement monthly status monitoring. The agency is currently operating across two systems and working with Cuyahoga County IT to access necessary data. Michael confirmed that the positive cash balance, now at \$1.8 million, likely reflects city contract revenue and possibly unspent COVID-related funds. He assured the Board that this issue will not affect future grant eligibility and will be addressed during the next audit. Board members expressed concerns about limited visibility into expenses and requested clearer, more systematic reporting. Michael committed to revamping the monthly financial packet to improve readability and transparency. The Board also suggested presenting financials in a way that aligns spending with public health programs, strategic priorities, and value to constituents, highlighting both grant and general revenue funds. Members agreed that this approach would better communicate CCBH's impact and reassure the public about how resources are allocated.

### Legislative Updates

John Mills, General Counsel, provided an update on Ohio House Bill 134, which proposes authorizing home kitchen registration for the sale of certain foods. He explained that the bill would allow largely unregulated home kitchens to operate outside traditional supervision and inspection, creating significant health risks. CCBH opposed the bill during the April committee meeting and submitted written testimony, citing concerns that licensing and inspections would fall under the Department of Agriculture while enforcement would remain with local health departments, leading to gaps in oversight. Mills noted that the Department of Agriculture may not have the capacity to manage the volume of sites, and compliance would be difficult to ensure. While proponents argue the bill would help small entrepreneurs enter the marketplace without high upfront costs, CCBH believes the risks outweigh the benefits. Mills also reported that tobacco-related litigation is ongoing, with the state's appeal now before the Ohio Supreme Court and expected to be resolved in 2026. Additionally, Dr. Roderick Harris confirmed that no recent outreach has occurred from the City of Cleveland regarding tobacco programs, though previous discussions stalled after initial contact.

### Committee Reports – Finance Committee

Mr. Wang summarized the Finance Committee minutes.

### Approval of Resolutions/Motions:

### REGULAR ACTIONS OF THE BOARD:

Alison Patrick, Youth Health and Wellness Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2025-104, which extends the current grant for one month. She noted that the next grant cycle will be competitive, with an RFP expected around July 2026. The upcoming application period began on October 27, with submissions due by November 21 for a December 1 start date. Martha Halko, Director of Population Health, explained that the district has decreased in size, which will likely result in reduced funding; however, it should still be sufficient to maintain program infrastructure. Alison added that the region is shrinking from 14 counties to 6 counties. Brandy Eaton, Director of Nursing and Clinical Service, clarified that the program focuses on comprehensive sex education.

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-104 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to accept additional 2024/2025 PREP grant funding from the Ohio Department of Administrative Services in an amount not to exceed \$29,000.00, and to revise the end date from October 31, 2025 to November 30, 2025. (Resolution 2024-116).

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Michele Benko, Maternal and Child Health Program Supervisor, presented the first of two grant extensions totaling \$56,550. A second extension for \$114,450 will be brought to the Board next month, bringing the total to \$171,000 for the period of October 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. These funds support programming that distributes safe sleep kits and provides safe sleep education to over 1,100 families in Cuyahoga County. Michele noted that the next round of funding will require a competitive application. In response to a question from Dr. Hall, Michele explained that the kits are purchased from Cribs for Kids, which shares the same name of the organization that funds the program. The funder requires purchases from this vendor and sets crib distribution targets, with the State facilitating the process.

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-105 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to accept additional 2024/2025 Cribs for Kids grant funding from the Ohio Department of Children and Youth in an amount not to exceed \$56,550.00, and to revise the end date from September 30, 2025 to December 31, 2025. (Resolution 2024-147).

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Nichelle Shaw, Healthy Communities Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2025-106, which represents the third year of a five-year funding cycle from the CDC. The funding remains level and supports a program aimed at improving health outcomes related to chronic disease among Black and Brown populations in the urban core.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-106 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to accept the 2025/2026 REACH grant funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from September 30, 2025 through September 29, 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$680,038.00.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Nichelle Shaw, Healthy Communities Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2025-107, which supports CCBH's partnership with the Cleveland Department of Public Health to complete the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) report and related activities. This

includes data analysis and coordinating community and partner meetings to establish priorities aligned with state requirements and Public Health Accreditation Board standards. The report, organized by social determinants of health, with most funds allocated to Strategy Solutions, Inc., the vendor selected through an RFP process. Martha Halko, Director of Population Health, noted that nine bids were received, and Strategy Solutions, based in Erie, PA, was chosen. The funds will be included in the 2026 budget, with CDPH contributing an additional \$10,000, bringing the total to \$50,000. CCBH will continue supporting the process to ensure community engagement, as the CHNA must be completed every three years.

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-107 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to accept the 2025 Cuyahoga County Community Health Assessment project funding from the Cleveland Department of Public Health from July 1, 2025 through January 31, 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Michele Benko, Maternal and Child Health Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2025-108 to support the Maternal and Infant Vitality Initiative (MIVI) grant. The funding will be used for an assessment process to determine an implementation project for the grant cycle. This will involve four sessions with the Center for Health Integrations (CHI) using a system modeling approach to identify and prioritize actionable strategies based on leverage points revealed through causal mapping and simulation modeling. Martha Halko, Director of Population Health, emphasized that the process will be evidence-based and inclusive, engaging community members systematically to develop a focused strategy. CCBH will partner with First Year Cleveland to identify gaps, and findings from the Community Health Needs Assessment will inform priorities and strategies.

It was moved by Ms. Rajki, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-108 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter into and execute a contract with the Case Western Reserve University Center for Community Health Integration under the 2025/2027 Maternal & Infant Vitality grant from August 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 in the amount not to exceed \$50,000.00.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Zach Levar, Deputy Director of Population Health, introduced Resolution 2025-109, which is an addendum to increase provider funding to their full award amounts.

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-109 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>
Cleveland Clinic Foundation (Resolution 2025-112 & CRC 2025-171)	\$ 69,000.00	\$ 164,500.00
University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center (Resolutions 2025-038 & 2025-073)	\$ 398,351.00	\$ 896,196.00

The Secretary counts the vote:

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

Mollie Evans, Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2025-110, which follows the Board's prior approval of CDC grant funds for the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) program. The resolution authorizes contracts with local partners to help achieve OD2A goals. HUMADAOP will provide peer support and harm reduction education in Spanish for Latino communities. The Sisters of Charity will offer crisis and recovery resources, including case management for individuals experiencing homelessness and substance use disorders. Thrive Behavioral Health Center will deliver peer navigation services in hospitals and operate a workforce development program for individuals in recovery. Thrive for Change will focus on targeted outreach, naloxone distribution, and harm reduction education in high-overdose areas. The Woodrow Project will manage six recovery houses for women who have overdosed and are court-ordered to remain in recovery housing.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-110 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter into and execute contracts with the following agencies under the 2025/2026 Overdose Data to Action grant from September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026:

	<u>Amount not to Exceed</u>
Hispanic Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program	\$ 145,400.00
Sisters of Charity	\$ 108,000.00
Thrive Behavioral Health Center	\$ 188,150.00
Thrive for Change	\$ 62,275.00
The Woodrow Project	\$ 178,728.00

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Brandy Eaton, Director of Nursing and Clinical Services, introduced Resolution 2025-111, which supports the STI Prevention grant focused on locating and following up on syphilis cases across six counties: Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Lorain, Geauga, Lake, and Medina. The resolution includes contracting with Better World Advertising (BWA) to run targeted congenital syphilis awareness ads using geofencing technology aimed at individuals purchasing pregnancy-related products. This initiative responds to a significant increase in congenital syphilis cases, rising from 10 cases with no stillbirths in 2024 to 19 cases and two stillbirths in 2025. Eaton explained that while providers typically test initially, additional testing—especially in the third trimester—is needed, as inconsistent care and psychosocial issues contribute to gaps in treatment. Board

members discussed enhancing public awareness through digital campaigns and website resources, and staff confirmed ongoing efforts, including media appearances and advisories. Eaton also noted that a Congenital Syphilis Review Board meets quarterly with representation from local health systems to address provider engagement.

It was moved by Ms. Rajki, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-111 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter into contract with Better World Advertising under the 2025/2026 STI Prevention grant from October 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026 in the amount not to exceed \$45,542.24.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Takisha Fuller, Deputy Director of Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics (ESI), introduced Resolution 2025-112, which provides federal funding for emergency preparedness and response to public health threats. This funding represents year two of a five-year cycle and remains level. Jana Rush, Director of ESI, noted that while the grant requires only a 7.7% match, the in-kind contribution from CCBH's general revenue fund continues to increase annually due to rising salary, fringe, and operating costs.

It was moved by Mr. Richards, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-112 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to accept the 2025/2026 Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant from Ohio Department of Health from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 in an amount of \$623,040.00 CCBH In-Kind Match is \$47,975.00.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Megan Conklin, Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2025-113, which addresses a homeowner's failed point-of-sale inspection requiring septic system replacement. The proposed variance allows the pipe to remain under a newer stone patio while replacing the remainder of the pipe beyond that point. A contractor inspected the pipe using a camera and confirmed it is in good working condition.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-113 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 34115 Fairmount Blvd., Hunting Valley, Ohio (PPN# 881-07-006).

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Rebecca Burke, Director of Organizational Development, introduced Resolution 2025-114, noting that the IRS has approved increases to both the maximum contribution limits and carryover amounts.

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-114 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Revise the CCBH Healthcare Flexible Spending Account (FSA) annual maximum employee contribution amount for health care from \$3,300.00 to \$3,400.00 and to increase the maximum carryover amount for 2026 to 2027 from \$660.00 to \$680.00 effective January 1, 2026.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

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

##### FIRST READING:

Amy Geiss, Deputy Director of Nursing and Clinical Services, introduced Resolution 2025-115 to add the RSV vaccine, ABRYSV0, to the CCBH Clinic fee schedule. Currently, the Vaccines for Children program provides this vaccine for pregnant women aged 18 and under. Brandy Eaton, Director of Nursing and Clinical Services, noted that the team is reviewing the process for establishing fees. Dr. Hall, Board President, suggested setting fees at the highest amount reimbursed by providers to ensure maximum cost recovery.

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Dr. Hall, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-115 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Amend the CCBH Provider Fees for clinical services as an emergency measure effective, November 7, 2025 (ref enclosed).

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Gerald Scott, Food Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2025-116 regarding Food Protection Program fees. A public meeting to review the fees will be held on December 9, typically attended by new operators or owners, where the process and fee structure will be explained. Matt Johnson, Director of Environmental Public Health, added that the department plans to increase the fee for expedited plan reviews to \$1,000. The standard review timeline is 30 days by law, while expedited reviews provide a three-business-day turnaround.

RESOLUTION 2025-116 To amend the Cuyahoga Board of Health's Food Protection Program Fees pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code Sections 3717.25 and 3717.45 effective January 1, 2026.

##### SECOND READING:

None

##### THIRD READING:

None

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Ms. Rajki, that the following RESOLUTION 2025-117 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.

*\*Updated vote on Resolution 2025-117 per November 19, 2025 amendment to the approval of the November 7, 2025 minutes.*

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

#### Reports/Presentations

##### (1) Infectious Disease Update

Blaise Soberano, Communicable Disease Investigator Program Manager, presented the Infectious Disease Update. Please see full attached report.

Monica Williams, Communicable Disease Team Supervisor, provided an overview of CCBH's intervention during the 2025–2026 respiratory illness season, which runs from September 28, 2025, through May 23, 2026. CCBH is actively monitoring trends in COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV and updating its surveillance dashboard to include hospitalization data for all three illnesses. Recent changes to Ohio Administrative Code now require reporting only COVID-19- and RSV-associated hospitalizations, rather than individual cases, to better assess the overall burden of respiratory illnesses, often referred to as the “Tripledemic.” These updates aim to improve public health response and community preparedness, and CCBH will share enhanced data visualizations soon.

Jana Rush, Director of Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics, reported that CCBH has re-launched Data Days, with the latest session focused on respiratory illnesses. The presentation is available on the Data Days webpage of the CCBH website. Takisha Fuller, Deputy Director, noted that vaccine timing remains confusing for the public, though Ohio continues to follow general recommendations. Board members discussed tracking demographics and vaccine status to assess whether changes in vaccine guidance correlate with hospitalizations or deaths. Fuller confirmed that CCBH has access to vaccine data for this analysis.

##### (2) Health Commissioner's Report

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

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



It was moved by Mr. Richards, 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, pending, litigation, promotion, discipline or compensation of a public employee, and to consider matters of collective bargaining.

The Secretary called the roll:

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

Executive Session began at 10:54 a.m.

Executive Session ended at 11:26 a.m.

Miscellaneous Business – None

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

The Secretary counts the vote:

Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

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Roderick L. Harris, Secretary

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Dr. Gregory L. Hall, President