

SALT LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
February 5, 2026 – 7:30 AM
County Government Center, N2-800
Minutes

Phone: 1-213-306-3065
Access Code: 2487 834 7873
Meeting Password: 0226

BOARD MEMBERS IN-PERSON:

Dr. Bill Cosgrove	Scott Brown
Kalina Duncan	Rusty Vetter
Dan Eckersley	Dr. Carol Osborn
Steve Chambers	Jenny Mayer-Glenn
Dr. Joe Mirci	Jorge Fierro

BOARD MEMBERS ONLINE:

Councilmember Suzanne Harrison	Mayor Karen Lang
--------------------------------	------------------

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Adonis Hardeman	Jake Fitisemanu
-----------------	-----------------

GUESTS/STAFF IN-PERSON:

Stacia Sidlow, Deputy Dist. Atty.	Andrew Driggs, EDO
Mayor Bennion	Eric Peterson, EH
Jeanette Montano, EDO	Heather Edwards, EDO
Doug Castillo, EDO	Daryl Herrschaft, UHPP
Nicholas Rupp, EDO	

GUESTS/STAFF ONLINE:

Gabe Moreno, EDO	Amelia Self, PH
Fox 13 News	Kami Peterson, CS
Darrin Sluga, CH	

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:30 AM by Rusty Vetter, Chair of the Salt Lake County Board of Health.

CITIZEN PUBLIC COMMENT:

Comments are limited to three minutes unless otherwise approved by the Salt Lake County Board of Health. There were no public comments.

MINUTES:

Rusty Vetter, Chair, asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2025, Board of Health meeting. *A motion was made by Dr. Joe Mirci, seconded by Steve Chambers, to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2025, Board of Health meeting.* The motion passed unanimously, indicating that all board members present voted “Aye.”

CHAIR’S REPORT:

Rusty Vetter, Chair, informed the Board that Blake Namelka resigned from the Board and a potential replacement has been identified.

The Board had a brief discussion about local coalitions and member involvement. Dr. Osborn and Steve Chambers shared their existing connections with local coalitions. Dan Eckersley and Dr. Joe Mirci expressed interest in connecting with their local coalitions and requested assistance, as their previous outreach efforts have not yet resulted in a connection.

Rusty noted that Stephanie had included a list of important dates and opportunities for Board members to attend and participate in Health Department activities.

Rusty also informed the Board that the Fiscal Subcommittee consists of members of the Executive Committee and will be meeting next month.

He thanked those who were able to attend the Legislative Breakfast in January.

Rusty mentioned the need to appoint an additional representative to the UALBOH Steering Committee to represent the Salt Lake County Board of Health. Dr. Bill Cosgrove currently serves as one of the UALBOH Steering Committee members and briefly discussed the time commitment.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

During the Director’s Report, Dorothy invited Annie George to provide an epidemiology update.

Epidemiology Update:

Annie George, Epidemiology Supervisor, provided an update on respiratory illness activity and measles in Salt Lake County. She reported that COVID-19 activity has remained relatively low this season, with 125 hospitalizations and fewer than five deaths since October. RSV cases have been lower than typical earlier in the season but have recently begun increasing, while influenza has had the largest impact, with over 600 hospitalizations reported this season.

Annie also provided an update on measles activity, noting 251 cases statewide and 25 cases in Salt Lake County, with most local cases occurring in 2026. She discussed response efforts, including coordination with healthcare facilities for contact tracing, posting public exposure locations on the state measles website, and piloting a risk-based approach for school exclusions in collaboration with local school districts.

Please see documentation in the Board of Health meeting folder for a copy of Annie’s presentation.

Legislative Engagement:

Dorothy Adams, Executive Director, thanked those who attended the January Legislative Breakfast, noting the value of maintaining relationships with legislators. Legislators were also reminded that the Health Department is available as a resource during the legislative session.

Clinical Services Update:

Dorothy informed the Board that the TB clinic relocation at the Salt Lake Public Health Center has been completed, and the clinic is now operational in the downstairs space. The University of Utah Population Health and Pediatrics program will begin providing services at the 610 S 200 E location in March and plans to present to the Board at a future meeting.

Substance Use Prevention:

The Substance Use Prevention Program conducted community presentations to share results from the SHARPS survey, with approximately 150 coalition members and community partners attending the event.

Tobacco Compliance and Enforcement:

Preliminary 2025 data indicates that underage tobacco sales decreased from nearly 11% to approximately 3%, reflecting ongoing education and compliance efforts with retailers. The department also prevailed in a Third District Court case related to enforcement actions for underage tobacco sales, clarifying retailer liability.

Program Recognition:

The Lead Poisoning Prevention Program was recognized by the CDC as one of 15 highlighted success stories nationwide for its work identifying and reducing sources of lead exposure.

The department's Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) grant program was also recognized as a top national performer among 40 local sites for its work addressing opioid overdose prevention.

Infectious Disease Monitoring:

The Director noted that the increase in mpox cases reported in December has subsided, and no additional cases are currently being observed.

Strategic Planning and Performance Management:

The department is currently identifying 2026 strategic priorities, aligning division-level work with the department's five-year goals. A performance management system is also being developed to track strategies, outcomes, and progress across the department.

Accreditation:

Preparation has begun for public health reaccreditation in 2028, with efforts focused on ensuring documentation, systems, and processes are aligned with accreditation standards.

UALBOH STEERING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE:

Rusty Vetter, Chair, asked for a motion to appoint Kalina Duncan to the Utah Association of Local Boards of Health Steering Committee. *A motion was made by Scott Brown, seconded by Dr. Bill*

Cosgrove, to appoint Kalina Duncan to the Utah Association of Local Boards of Health Steering Committee. The motion passed unanimously, indicating that all board members present voted “Aye.”

UTAH HEALTH POLICY PROJECT:

Daryl Herrschaft, Director of Take Care Utah, presented an overview of the organization and its work helping individuals enroll in health insurance. Take Care Utah, a program of the Utah Health Policy Project, provides application assistance and can act as an authorized representative to help individuals complete the process. In 2024, the program assisted more than 11,000 people with applications and helped over 9,800 obtain coverage, an approval rate of approximately 86 percent. Staff also help clients understand their benefits, connect with primary care providers, and identify alternative resources such as sliding scale clinics if they are not approved.

The program employs about 20 health access assisters and works with community partners across Northern Utah, including Salt Lake City School District community learning centers, The Road Home, and the Huntsman Crisis Care Center. In 2025, partnerships in Salt Lake County resulted in approximately 4,300 applications for individuals seeking coverage. Take Care Utah also works closely with individuals involved in the criminal justice system, including partnerships with legal defense vendors and programs at the Salt Lake County Jail. Daryl also discussed upcoming policy changes that may increase workload, including potential Medicaid work requirements and more frequent eligibility reviews.

Funding for the program comes from state grants, health care organizations, the University of Utah, Molina Healthcare, and the Salt Lake County Health Department. Dorothy Adams noted that SLCoHD partnered with Take Care Utah after seeing an increase in uninsured individuals at outreach events and clinics. Through this partnership, the department is using grant funding to connect residents to insurance coverage and track referrals from Health Department services to ensure more individuals can access health care.

Please see documentation in the Board of Health meeting folder for a copy of the presentation.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Nicholas Rupp, Communications Director, gave an update on current bills being tracked by the Salt Lake County Health Department. Nicholas stated SLCoHD has not taken positions on any tracked bills. Nicholas highlighted 11 of the 45 bills being tracked.

- HB 88 Public Assistance Amendments (Rep. Lee)
- HB 152 Educational Vaccine Exemption Amendments (Rep. Lee)
- HB 179 Milk Amendments (Rep. Chevrier)
- HB 265 Non-Nicotine Inhalation Product Amendments (Rep. Thompson)
- HB 283 Raw Milk Amendments (Rep. Kohler)
- HB 379 Childcare Provider Food Preparation Amendments (Rep. Miller)
- HB 385 Nicotine Sales Amendments (Rep. Dailey-Provost)
- HB 388 Public Health Hazard Amendments (Rep. Shepherd)

- HB 399 Primary and Secondary Education Amendments (Rep. Lee)
- SB 210 Nicotine Amendments (Sen. Plumb)
- SB 217 Local Food Amendments (Sen. Cullimore)

Councilmember Suzanne Harrison stated the County Council has taken an opposed position to HB 88 (public assistance amendments).

Board members discussed concerns related to unpasteurized milk, including potential public health risks, lack of consumer awareness if sold in regular grocery settings, and the potential costs to public health for outbreak response and contact tracing. Dorothy Adams clarified that while the Salt Lake County Health Department does not regulate raw milk production, which falls under the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, public health agencies are responsible for responding to outbreaks. An example was shared where a previous raw milk outbreak response cost approximately \$50,000 and required hundreds of staff hours.

A motion was made by Kalina Duncan, seconded by Dr. Joe Mirci, to oppose SB 217. The motion passed unanimously, indicating that all board members present voted “Aye.” Scott Brown, Dr. Carol Osborn, Adonis Hardeman, and Jake Fitisemanu were not present for the vote.

A motion was made by Dan Eckersley, seconded by Dr. Joe Mirci, that all other pending or proposed legislation allowing raw milk to be available for wider public purchase than is currently permitted include requirements for clear and explicit labeling, prominent signage, and obvious separation from pasteurized products to prevent consumers from inadvertently purchasing raw milk. Jorge Fierro voted in opposition to the motion. Scott Brown, Dr. Carol Osborn, Adonis Hardeman, and Jake Fitisemanu were not present for the vote. All others voted “Aye.” The motion passed.

Summary: The Salt Lake County Board of Health publicly opposed SB 217, and also passed a motion that if other proposed legislation allows raw milk to be available for wider public purchase than is currently allowed, the raw milk products must have clear, explicit labeling, signage, and obvious separation from pasteurized products so consumers do not accidentally purchase raw milk when seeking a pasteurized product.

Please see documentation in the Board of Health meeting folder for a copy of the bills discussed.

2026 BUDGET UPDATE:

This agenda item was not addressed due to time constraints.

Rusty Vetter, Chair, adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:00 AM.