

SALT LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
April 2, 2026 – 7:30 AM
County Government Center, N2-800
Minutes

Phone: 1-213-306-3065
Access Code: 2481 852 0873
Meeting Password: 0426

BOARD MEMBERS IN-PERSON:

Ben Helland	Kalina Duncan
Dr. Bill Cosgrove	Scott Brown
Mayor Karen Lang	Rusty Vetter
Dan Eckersley	

BOARD MEMBERS ONLINE:

Jorge Fierro	Jake Fitisemanu
Adonis Hardeman	Steve Chambers

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jenny Mayer-Glenn	Dr. Carol Osborn
Dr. Joe Mirci	Councilmember Suzanne Harrison

GUESTS/STAFF IN-PERSON:

Stacia Sidlow, Deputy Dist. Atty.	Andrew Driggs, EDO
Eric Peterson, EH	Stephanie Hart, EDO
Jeanette Montano, EDO	Heather Edwards, EDO
Doug Castillo, EDO	Ron Lund, EH
Kami Peterson, CS	Dan Moore, EH
Andrea George, PH	Amelia Self, PH
Dorothy Adams, EDO	Michelle McGaughey, PH
Nicholas Rupp, EDO	Shae Self
Franz Monroy	

GUESTS/STAFF ONLINE:

Gabe Moreno, EDO
Erin Litvack, Mayor's Office
Katherine Fife, Mayor's Office
Ellie Brownstein

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:

Franz Monroy, Salt Lake City resident, physician, and member of the Latino Physicians of Utah, requested that the Board of Health add an agenda item to a future meeting to discuss the proposed ICE detention facility on the west side. He expressed concerns about the facility's conditions and capacity

within a converted warehouse, potential health and safety risks for detainees, and the spread of infectious diseases within the facility and into the broader community.

He also noted concerns about locating the facility in a predominantly Latino community, including potential impacts on mental and physical health, fear of targeting, and the possibility that individuals may avoid seeking care. He urged the Board to have a thorough discussion and plan for public health implications if the facility is constructed.

Ellie Brownstein, a Salt Lake City resident and pediatrician, expressed concerns about the potential development of a detention facility in the community and requested further discussion prior to any action. She emphasized the potential harm to children, noting that detention settings may not meet appropriate standards for their care, including adequate medical services, staffing, and safe conditions.

She referenced guidance from pediatric and child welfare perspectives, highlighting that detention can cause significant trauma, including anxiety, depression, and long-term mental health effects, even with short stays. She also raised concerns about family separation, the vulnerability of asylum-seeking families, and the risk of communicable disease spreading in congregate settings, particularly given current outbreaks. She urged consideration of alternative approaches that better protect the health and well-being of children and families.

MINUTES:

Rusty Vetter, Chair, asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes from the March 5, 2026 Board of Health meeting. *A motion was made by Scott Brown, seconded by Dr. Bill Cosgrove, to approve the minutes from the March 5, 2026 Board of Health meeting.* The motion passed unanimously, indicating that all board members present voted “Aye.”

CHAIR’S REPORT:

Rusty Vetter, Chair, gave the report.

Chair Vetter reminded members of the upcoming Board of Health retreat scheduled at Red Butte Garden and encouraged completion of the pre-retreat questionnaire to support planning efforts.

An update was provided on the UALBOH Symposium, noting that registration has closed. Members who are attending will report back to the Board at a future meeting.

Chair Vetter thanked members who attended the Health Department’s Annual Meeting and acknowledged the successful event and award recipients.

No significant updates were reported from the Medical Advisory Committee. No coalition updates were provided.

Chair Vetter addressed a request to include discussion of the proposed ICE detention facility on the current meeting agenda. Due to time constraints, the item was deferred. Health Department staff were directed to gather information and return to a future meeting with a report outlining public health considerations and potential actions the Board could take in its advisory role. Chair Vetter noted public interest in the topic and anticipated a future discussion. Additional considerations raised included

potential impacts related to infectious disease transmission, community health, environmental factors, and social determinants of health.

Chair Vetter noted that a report is expected at the next meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Infectious Disease Update:

Annie George provided an update on current respiratory illnesses and the ongoing measles outbreak. She reported that COVID-19 hospitalizations remain moderate, with 148 hospitalizations and fewer than five deaths, and noted the emergence of a new Omicron-descendant variant (“BA.3.2 – Cicada”). Influenza activity remains elevated with 820 hospitalizations and 32 deaths, though the season is beginning to wind down. RSV continues to impact infants, with 346 hospitalizations and recommendations for monoclonal antibody treatment through mid-April.

She highlighted that the measles outbreak continues to be a significant concern. Statewide, there have been 559 total cases, including 362 in 2026, with 142 cases reported in the past three weeks. In Salt Lake County, there have been 62 total cases, with 57 occurring in 2026 and 8 hospitalizations. Breakthrough cases and cases with unknown vaccination status were also noted.

Annie reported on recent exposure events, including a case in an elementary school involving an unvaccinated student, which resulted in exposure to 23 unvaccinated children and notification to families and staff. She also noted a case at the University of Utah involving a vaccinated individual living in campus housing, with contact tracing and notifications being managed by the university.

She shared that Salt Lake County continues to see notable case activity compared to other jurisdictions and that case trends show ongoing transmission.

Finally, Annie provided an update on revised healthcare contact tracing guidance, noting that healthcare facilities will now trace exposures for individuals entering an area up to one hour after exposure, while other settings will continue using previous timeframes.

Overall, she emphasized continued monitoring of respiratory illnesses and ongoing efforts to address measles transmission in the community.

For a copy of the presented materials, please see Board of Health meeting folder.

Annual Meeting & Recognition:

Dorothy Adams thanked Board members for attending the Annual Meeting and noted the positive impact on staff. She shared plans to invite award recipients to a future meeting to present their work and recognized the attendance of former Executive Director Gary Edwards.

STI Roundtable & Partner Coordination:

Dorothy reported on a recent STI roundtable with community partners, describing it as valuable for understanding services, identifying gaps, and improving coordination. Follow-up discussions will occur internally and with the Medical Advisory Committee to determine next steps.

Opioid Plan Approval:

Dorothy shared that the County Council unanimously approved the opioid plan, which will strengthen coalition efforts and expand community resources, including naloxone distribution.

Conferences & Engagement:

Dorothy shared her participation in the Utah Public Health Association conference, highlighting the importance of communication and public education. She also noted upcoming and ongoing events, including the Environmental Health Division's Climate and Health Symposium and staff participation in a statewide food safety conference.

Home Visiting Program:

Dorothy recognized National Home Visiting Week and highlighted the department's nationally recognized program. She noted the implementation of a new, more cost-effective home visiting model (MESH), with continued monitoring of outcomes.

University of Utah Partnership:

Dorothy reported that the lease agreement with the University of Utah for the Salt Lake City clinic has been finalized, noting the presentation later on the agenda.

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH PARTNERSHIP UPDATES:

Jason Fox, Dave Meyers, and Lisa Smith updated the Board on the University of Utah services provided at the South Main Clinic and the Salt Lake Public Health Center, highlighting collaboration with the Salt Lake County Health Department and expanded services for the residents they serve.

They gave a PowerPoint presentation. Their slides included:

- Salt Lake County Health Department & University of Utah Collaboration
- Meet the Team
- Pediatrics
- Background
- Space Utilization Projects
- Space Utilization Project Findings
- Thank you
- Next Steps
- Photos
- South Main Clinic
- Pediatric Subspecialty
- City Clinic-Pediatric Specialty Clinics
- City Clinic -Clinics Offered
- Thank YOU

For a copy of the presented materials, please see Board of Health meeting folder.

SST COALITION OVERVIEW:

Michelle McGaughey, SLCoHD Emergency Bureau Preparedness Manager and Captain Tom Simons with Salt Lake City Emergency Management provided an overview of the Salt Lake, Summit, and Tooele Healthcare Coalition, including its focus areas, partnerships, and efforts to support community health and healthcare system readiness across the region. They gave a PowerPoint presentation. Their slides included:

- SST Healthcare Coalition
- Why This Matters (2)
- The Impact of Coordination
- In a Disaster
- What is the Healthcare Coalition
- Program Basics
- Who's at the Table
- Core Focus Areas
- Focus Area: Medical Surge
- Focus Area: Coordination
- Coalition in Action
- Why it Works
- Value to the Community
- Salt Lake County Context
- Current Priorities
- Why Coordination Matters in Salt Lake County
- In Summary
- Questions?

For a copy of presented materials, please see Board of Health meeting folder.

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