

SALT LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
September 3, 2026 – 7:30 AM
County Government Center, N2-800
Minutes

Phone: 1-213-306-3065
Access Code: 2493 171 5373
Meeting Password: 0926

BOARD MEMBERS IN-PERSON:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ONLINE:

Councilmember Suzanne Harrison	Adonis Hardeman
Mayor Karen Lang	

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ben Helland	Dan Eckersley
Jake Fitisemanu	

GUESTS/STAFF IN-PERSON:

Stacia Sidlow, Deputy Dist. Atty.	Stephanie Hart, EDO
Erin Mapes, EDO	Hayley Shaffer, EH
Matthias Neville, EH	Kami Peterson, CS
Patrick Smith, EDO	Dorothy Adams, EDO
Dan Moore, EH	Ron Lund, EH
Heather Edwards, EDO	Nicholas Rupp, EDO

GUESTS/STAFF ONLINE:

Erin Litvack, Mayor's Office	Kelly Colopy, Human Services
Katherine Fife, Mayor's Office	Gabe Moreno, EDO
Jeff Smart, CH	Michelle McGaughey, PH
Doug Castillo, EDO	Amelia Self, PH
Luca Rieger	

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:

There were no public comments.

MINUTES:

Rusty Vetter, Chair, asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes from the August 6, 2026, Board of Health meeting. *Dr. Joe Mirci made a motion, seconded by Scott Brown, to approve the*

minutes from the August 6, 2026, Board of Health meeting. The motion passed unanimously, indicating that all Board members present voted “Aye.”

CHAIR’S REPORT:

Chair Vetter provided an update on the Board subcommittee discussed at the previous meeting. The subcommittee is intended to help advance priorities identified during the Board retreat. Due to the meeting agenda, further discussion was postponed until the next meeting. Board members interested in serving on the subcommittee were asked to contact Stephanie.

Chair Vetter also reviewed the process for the closed session scheduled at the end of the meeting. He noted that the closed session would not be open to the public and that Board members participating virtually had received a separate meeting invitation. Following the closed session, the Board would reconvene briefly to adjourn the meeting.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Dorothy Adams, Executive Director, gave the Director’s report.

Community Resource Fair

Adams reported that the community resource fair previously scheduled at the City Clinic was postponed due to anticipated weather conditions and rescheduled for a later date.

Influenza and COVID-19 Vaccines

Adams provided an update on vaccine availability. Flu vaccine is currently available, and the Health Department expects to receive the updated COVID-19 vaccine in September. The Department also anticipates receiving some free flu vaccine from the state but does not expect to receive free COVID-19 vaccine. Adams noted that the Department will explore opportunities for community funding or partnerships to help provide COVID-19 vaccine to individuals who may otherwise be unable to afford it.

Public Charge Rule and WIC

Adams discussed changes to the public charge rule and potential impacts on WIC participants. She explained that WIC benefits received on or after September 18 may be considered as one factor when determining public charge status for certain green card applicants, including consideration of benefits received by dependent family members. Health Department staff are being provided information so they can respond to questions from WIC participants.

Board members discussed concerns that immigration enforcement activity and fear surrounding government facilities may discourage individuals from applying for benefits or accessing WIC services. Adams noted that the Department is already seeing some individuals avoid WIC services because of these concerns. The Board also discussed developing informational materials for community partners and clinic clients.

West Nile Virus

Adams reported increased West Nile virus activity, with particular concern for people experiencing homelessness. Epidemiology and Environmental Health staff developed prevention packets for

distribution through the encampment abatement program and municipal and nonprofit partners. The packets include insect repellent towelettes and mosquito nets.

At the time of the report, Salt Lake County had 10 reported West Nile virus cases, including eight neuroinvasive cases and two non-neuroinvasive cases. Nine of the 10 cases were reported during August, and mosquito surveillance had shown unusually high levels of positive mosquito pools. Board members discussed continued public outreach and media messaging related to mosquito protection and prevention.

Respiratory Disease Surveillance

Adams reported that surveillance systems were showing increases in COVID-19 activity, including increased wastewater detection, as well as increasing influenza activity and some hospitalizations. The Board discussed the updated COVID-19 vaccine and circulating variants. Adams stated that the Department would continue its vaccination messaging, including emphasizing vaccination for older and vulnerable populations.

Pool Inspections

Adams reported that the summer pool season concluded with more than 1,000 inspections conducted throughout the county. She recognized Environmental Health staff for their work to maintain pool safety and noted that the county had not experienced a cryptosporidium outbreak during the season.

Mercury Response

Adams reported that the Department's response team worked with the Environmental Protection Agency to remediate two homes contaminated by mercury after mercury being moved by a family was accidentally spilled.

STI and Immunization Roundtables

Adams announced a follow-up STI Roundtable scheduled for September 23 and an Immunization Roundtable planned for October. The Immunization Roundtable will bring community partners together to identify areas of the county where additional coordinated efforts may be needed to improve immunization rates, with particular attention to measles/MMR vaccination.

Board members discussed participation in the roundtables and opportunities to include additional community partners. Adams explained that the county roundtables are intended to help participating organizations understand each other's work, coordinate efforts, reduce unnecessary duplication, and identify shared goals.

MMR Immunization Rates

Adams reported that immunization rates generally remain above 90 percent in high schools, although some charter schools are lower. The Department is seeing declining MMR vaccination rates among some elementary-age children. Adams noted concern that continued declines could increase the risk of outbreaks as those students move into middle and high school environments. The Department and its partners will continue looking at ways to provide information that helps families make informed immunization decisions.

HEALTH REGULATION #1, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING:

Ron Lund, Division Director and Hayley Shaffer, Environmental Health Supervisor, updated the Board on Health Regulation #1, Solid Waste Management and Permitting, and asked the Board to open the regulation for a thirty (30) day public comment period and assign a hearing officer. Proposed revisions included removing pre-demolition permitting requirements, exempting certain mobile cleaners from hauler requirements, and changing infectious medical waste hauler fees from a tonnage-based fee to an annual fee. *Scott Brown made a motion, seconded by Jorge Fierro, to open Health Regulation #1, Solid Waste Management and Permitting for a thirty (30) day public comment period and to appoint Kalina Duncan as hearing officer.* The motion passed unanimously, indicating that all Board members present voted “Aye.”

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

HEALTH REGULATION #22, VEHICLE EMISSIONS CONTROL PROGRAM:

Dan Moore, Enforcement Coordinator, and Matthias Neville, Environmental Health Bureau Manager, updated the Board on Health Regulation #22, Vehicle Emissions Control Program, and asked the Board to open the regulation for a thirty (30) day public comment period and assign a hearing officer. Proposed revisions included removing two-speed idle testing consistent with state requirements, discontinuing heavy-duty diesel testing, and revising the enforcement penalty schedule to better align with other Utah emissions counties. *Kalina Duncan made a motion, seconded by Dr. William Cosgrove, to open Health Regulation #22, Vehicle Emissions Control Program, for a thirty (30) day public comment period and to appoint Scott Brown as hearing officer.* The motion passed unanimously, indicating that all Board members present voted “Aye.”

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

Health Regulation Review Process

The Board discussed the process for prioritizing Health Department regulations for review. Staff explained that revisions may be prompted by Board, Executive Director, or Mayor’s Office priorities; the amount of time since a regulation was last reviewed; recurring issues identified by staff; or concerns raised by the community. The Department’s goal is to review regulations approximately every three years.

Board members requested periodic updates on regulations under review. Staff noted that the housing regulation is currently being revised and that a proposed update to Regulation #38 related to immunization records in daycare settings is also being evaluated. Staff clarified that approval of Health Department regulations falls within the authority of the Board of Health.

FEE SCHEDULE:

Adams reviewed the Health Department’s process for updating fees. Proposed fees are first reviewed by the County Revenue Review Committee, which evaluates the methodology used to calculate the fees but does not approve them. Proposed fees then come to the Board of Health for approval before moving to the County Council, generally as part of the Department’s budget. Fee calculations consider

staff time, travel, administrative costs, comparisons with peer counties and other local health departments, and feedback from affected industries.

Adams reviewed proposed fee changes, including new or increased fees associated with Environmental Health programs, school cafeteria inspections, food establishments and events, chemically contaminated properties, and other services. She explained that increases are primarily intended to more accurately recover the Department's costs for providing those services.

Kalina Duncan made a motion, seconded by Dr. William Cosgrove, to approve the proposed fee changes for the Salt Lake County Health Department Services. The motion passed unanimously, indicating that all Board members present voted "Aye."

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

2027 BUDGET:

Patrick Smith, Health Department Fiscal Manager, presented an overview of the proposed 2027 Health Department budget. Smith reviewed major revenue and expenditure adjustments, including one-time grant funding, program adjustments, vacant position reductions, utility costs, and changes to WIC budget assumptions. The proposed budget reflects an overall reduction of approximately 4.5 FTEs and approximately \$2 million less in requested County funding.

The Board discussed the impact of proposed expenditure reductions on programs and services. Staff clarified that the WIC adjustment does not represent a reduction in base WIC funding or services and that several other reductions reflect efficiencies, reduced utilization, or alignment of budgeted amounts with actual program needs.

Due to time constraints, the remainder of the presentation and discussion was deferred to the Board of Health meeting on October 1, 2026. Board members requested additional time to review the budget materials prior to that meeting.

For a copy of the presented material, please see documentation in the Board of Health meeting folder.

CLOSED SESSION:

Rusty Vetter, Chair, asked for a motion to enter a closed meeting for a strategy session to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation pursuant to Utah Code § 52-4-205(1)(c). *Dr. William Cosgrove made a motion, seconded by Jorge Fierro, to enter into a closed session. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously. Jake Fitisemanu, Dan Eckersley, and Dr. Carol Osborn were not present for the vote. The Board entered a closed meeting.*

RECONVENE AND ADJOURN

The Board reconvened in open session, and Rusty Vetter, Chair, adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:35 AM.