



Fairfield County
**Health
Department**

R. Joseph Ebel RS, MS, MBA
Health Commissioner

BOARD OF HEALTH RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Fairfield County Health Department
Minutes of the Board of Health
April 8, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

MEETING LOCATION: Fairfield County Health Department (FCHD), 1550 Sheridan Dr., Ste. 100, Lancaster

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Michele Morrone at 5:00 p.m.

Board Members Present

Dr. Michele Morrone
Tina Anderson
Brian Oliver
Dr. Olivia Westhoven
Tina Childers – arrived at 5:30 p.m.

Board Members Absent

STAFF PRESENT

Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner; Mary Smith, WIC Director; Rachel Moresea, Environmental Health Director; Baylie Blevins, Health Promotion and Planning Director; Jamie Ehorn, Administrative Services Director; Gale Neville, Nursing Director

OTHERS PRESENT

N/A

A quorum was established. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes from the board meeting on March 11, 2026, were presented for approval. Two corrections were noted from the original emailed board packet. Tina Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes. Brian Oliver seconded. The minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

DAC Board Member Appointment

Dr. Michele Morrone, Board President, congratulated Dr. Olivia Westhoven on her board member appointment from the District Advisory Council (DAC) for a 5-year term.

DIVISION REPORTS

Environmental Health Report

Mrs. Moresea submitted a written report to the Board. Minimal progress has been made regarding the solid waste nuisance at 2985 Savage Hill Road. A court referral letter has been issued to the homeowner.

A certified letter will be sent to Mr. Hatten, property owner of 11789 Snyder Church Rd. NW, informing him that the Board of Health does not have the authority to issue additional orders and will not be taking action against the property owners residing at 11835 Snyder Church Rd. NW. This determination is based on guidance from the Fairfield County Prosecutor's Office. Mrs. Moresea will also communicate this decision to the property owners of 11835 Snyder Church Rd. NW.

Board member Brian Oliver noted that there have been several positive community posts regarding the Food Services Gold Medal Program.

Nursing Report

Gale Neville, Nursing Director, submitted a written report to the Board. She has hired a new nurse to fill the vacancy created by Shannon Mentzer's departure, with the new employee scheduled to begin on April 27. The department received a \$5,808 payment for the Complex Medical Help (CMH) Program on April 2, and an additional \$4,116 was billed on April 6.

WIC Report

Mary Smith, WIC Director, submitted a written report to the Board. March caseloads totaled 1,917 participants—1,128 in Lancaster and 789 in Pickerington—putting the program at 110% of the assigned caseload of 1,737. Implementation of the WIC food package changes, originally scheduled for April 6, has been delayed until April 10. WIC cards were not functioning at Walmart locations on Monday. No update has been received regarding the Farmer's Market coupons for this year, though changes are anticipated. The Fairfield County Health Department will continue to have a presence at the Farmer's Market to promote program services.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board entered Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee.

A motion was made by Tina Childers to enter Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee. Second Brian Oliver. A roll call vote was conducted:

Dr. Michele Morrone - Aye

Tina Childers - Aye

Tina Anderson - Aye

Brian Oliver - Aye
Dr. Olivia Westhoven - Aye

The Board entered Executive Session at 5:37 p.m.
The Board returned from Executive Session at 5:59 p.m.

A motion was made by Brian Oliver to return from Executive Session. Second, Tina Anderson. A roll call vote was conducted:

Dr. Michele Morrone - Aye
Tina Childers - Aye
Tina Anderson - Aye
Brian Oliver - Aye
Dr. Olivia Westhoven – Aye

PERSONNEL

Tina Childers made a motion to promote Baylie Blevins to the Deputy Health Commissioner position. Tina Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

BOARD REORGANIZATION

Election of Officers

Dr. Michele Morrone nominated Tina Childers as board president. Brian Oliver seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Dr. Michele Morrone nominated Brian Oliver as President Pro Tempore. Tina Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Planning and Promotion Report

Baylie Blevins, Health Promotion Director, submitted a written report to the Board. Grant programs have resumed conducting site visits, and the Integrated Harm Reduction grant visit is scheduled for Friday—marking the first site visit experience for staff. The team continues to promote the Healthy Brain campaign through billboards, social media, and other outreach efforts. The Retail Flexible Funding Model grant was renewed at \$19,000, an increase from last year's \$12,000 award.

Community Health Improvement Planning (CHIP) meetings have concluded, with increased community participation helping to better distribute responsibilities this cycle. The department's re-accreditation site visit is expected to be scheduled soon. In recognition of Public Health Week, staff have been celebrated with activities, giveaways, and encouraging messages. EMA's planner also created an informational video about the health department to share during the week. Yesterday, staff responded to a mercury incident involving damaged historical medical equipment transported to the Georgian; all tested areas were confirmed safe.

The Community Garden, established in 2024 through the Healthy Eating Active Living grant, continues to offer free plots for community members to grow their own produce. As of today, the garden plots are prepared and ready for the upcoming growing season.

Health Commissioner's Report

Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner, submitted a written report to the Board. He provided additional details regarding the recent mercury incident, which involved a large wall-mounted display case containing historical medical equipment that was being transported to the Georgian. Wiring has been completed and garage doors have been installed at the storage building; once the garage door openers arrive, shelving will be purchased and the relocation process can begin.

Mr. Ebel attended the Township Association meeting, where several positive comments were made about the health department. During the meeting, a Clearcreek Township trustee specifically complimented Food Safety Specialist Breanna Boudinot for her work.

Mrs. Blevins also shared that United Way is referencing the department's Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan as they establish their strategic priorities.

FINANCIAL REPORTS AND BILLS

Jamie Ehorn, Administrative Services Director, presented the financial reports and bill list to the Board for approval. There were no account transfers for the month of March. The department is currently utilizing 2025 Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) dollars and will transition to the 2026 allocation once those funds are exhausted. The County Auditor's Office recently completed a BWC true-up, which resulted in an additional premium due. This adjustment temporarily increased the fringe rate percentage; however, it is expected to stabilize over the next few months.

Brian Oliver made a motion to approve the financial report and bill list. Dr. Michele Morrone seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Moresea requested the approval of a Person in Charge (PIC) training fee of \$10 for food education services. Brian Oliver made a motion to approve the PIC fee. Tina Childers seconded the motion. Motion Passed by unanimous voice vote.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS:

A discussion was held regarding potential meeting time changes. Brian Oliver expressed his willingness to lead meetings during the instances when Tina Childers, the new Board President, is unavailable. The Board agreed to keep the current meeting day and time unchanged.

Dr. Michele Morrone thanked both Rachel Moresea and Baylie Blevins for stepping forward and applying for the Deputy Health Commissioner position, noting that they are both invaluable members of the health department.

Brian Oliver extended his appreciation to Dr. Michele Morrone for her leadership as Board President over the past year.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: May 13, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Fairfield County Health Department, 1550 Sheridan Drive, Ste. 100, Lancaster

ADJOURN The Board of Health Meeting adjourned on a motion by Brian Oliver. Dr. Michele Morrone seconded the motion at 6:07 p.m. Motion passed.

Approved:

Signature and date on file _____ Date: _____ Tina Childers, Board President

Signature and date on file _____ Date: _____ R. Joseph Ebel, Health Commissioner