



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
February 11, 2026, at 4:00 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 4:00 p.m.

Board Members Present

Brian Oliver
Dr. Michele Morrone
Tina Anderson
Tina Childers

Board Members Absent

Dr. Allen Shaw

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; Dr. Steven Kapetansky, Medical Director; Jennifer Valentine, Environmental Health Specialist

OTHERS PRESENT

Paula Snoke
Scott Hatten

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes from the board meeting on January 14, 2026, were presented for approval. Brian Oliver made a motion to approve the minutes. Tina Anderson seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paula Snoke addressed the board regarding her neighbor's sewage running on her property located at 3450 Stepath Mound. FCHD has accepted an application from the neighbor for the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Grant (WPCLF) to assist with the repair, which Mrs. Snoke alleges is fraudulent. She states the neighbor does not occupy the residence and should not qualify for the WPCLF grant. Mrs. Snoke provided a letter to the board.

Rachel Moresea, Environmental Health Director, notified the board that the WPCLF project was sent out for bid yesterday. The EPA stated that if FCHD followed the same requirements with all other applicants then we would be okay to proceed with the project.

Dr. Michele Morrone, Board President, suggested Mrs. Snoke take her information to the county prosecutor and ask them to investigate the situation or contact the state auditor to file a fraud complaint.

Mrs. Moresea stated that FCHD will create a Standard Operating Procedure for future WPCLF projects.

Scott Hatten the owner of the property located at 11789 Snyder Church Rd, Baltimore, read a letter to the board stating that he would like the homeowners of the neighboring property located at 11835 Snyder Church Road, Baltimore, to remove sewage components from their sewage system that are located on his property. The system has been moved, but some components are still on his property.

Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner, stated that tile and gravel are the components that remain on Mr. Hatten's property. The components are no longer a part of a functioning septic system. Jennifer Valentine, Environmental Health Specialist, will contact the county prosecutor for a legal opinion on this issue.

BOARD EDUCATION/FEATURED PRESENTATION

Healthy Brain Initiative Grant presented by Baylie Blevins included the following topics:

- About the program
- Where Does This Fit In Public Health?
- Public Health Interventions in Dementia
- How will FCHD use this program?
- Implementing the Road Map
- Major Deliverables
- After-Implementation Evaluation
- Next Steps

Mrs. Blevins took training last year in Chicago with the Alzheimer's Association. The Alzheimer's Association contacted FCHD to apply for this funding. Sixty local health departments applied for

the grant. The main objectives will be to collect data and provide a framework to help put in place tools for prevention, lifestyle modifications, early detections, and stigma.

HEARINGS & VARIANCES

Rachel Moresea, Environmental Health Director, presented a variance request for 13458 King Road, Thornville for the well isolation distance requirements per OAC 3701-28-07.

Brian Oliver made a motion to approve the variance for 13458 King Road, Thornville. Tina Childers seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Moresea presented a variance request for 228 Coonpath Road for a distance requirement to the property line per OAC 3701-29-06 (3)(a). This is a WPCLF project and the original tank location is going to be too deep.

Tina Childers made a motion to approve the variance for 228 Coonpath Road. Brian Oliver seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

DIVISION REPORTS

Environmental Health Report

Mrs. Moresea provided a written report and a written update to the board.

The vending machine in the mall is now up and running and licensed.

Rushcreek Processing and Deli did not show up for a scheduled enforcement meeting. The notification was mailed. FCHD receives complaints each week about this facility. Breanna Boudinot, Environmental Health Specialist, has spent 24 hours over the last year conducting inspections on this property. Mrs. Moresea would like to provide the owner with a 20-day notice and schedule an enforcement hearing during the next board meeting.

Texas Roadhouse is experiencing a second round of cockroach infestation; They are getting treatment for pests every two weeks. FCHD conducts monthly checks on the facility. During the last inspection there were six critical violations. Most of the critical violations have been corrected since that inspection.

Three more nuisance properties were abated since the original report was issued.

Nursing Report

Gale Neville, Nursing Director, provided a written report to the Board. Mrs. Neville and her team are trying to come up with new ideas to get out in the community this year. They will be participating in a health fair in Canal Winchester in March. There was a norovirus outbreak at a

Long-Term Care facility, with over 30 people sick, since the Communicable Disease report was issued.

Immunization rates around the state were discussed.

We have two interns, one is studying social work and working on a customer service survey, the other is studying epidemiology and working on an overdose data dashboard.

WIC Report

Mary Smith, WIC Director, provided a written report to the Board. New data was provided in her report for the Pickerington Clinic location.

Planning and Promotion Report

Baylie Blevins, Health Promotion Director, provided a written report to the Board. A draft copy of the Annual Report was provided to the board. FCHD is next in line to be reviewed for re-accreditation. Mrs. Blevins has been working to update our website for the new ADA requirements.

Health Commissioner's Report

Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner, provided a written report to the Board. Construction has started on the garage out back. The DAC meeting is scheduled for March 26th at the Levacy Center. We received one application for a physician board member. Mr. Mauger filed a notice of request from the court, Erie County court accepted the request, but doesn't state what he is asking for. Belmont County denied the notice. PEP, our liability insurance company, has assigned outside counsel to handle this situation.

Discussed overdose chart included in Mr. Ebel's report.

FINANCIAL REPORTS AND BILLS

Jamie Ehorn, Administrative Services Director provided financial reports and a bill list to the Board for approval.

Tina Childers made a motion to approve the financial report and bill list. Tina Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

The 2027 budget was presented to the board for approval.

Tina Childers made a motion to approve the 2027 budget. Brian Oliver seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

A reminder will be sent to DAC members two weeks prior to the March DAC Meeting. The reminder will include a copy of the annual report and the 2027 budget.

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 Dr. Michele Morrone to enter Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee. Second, Tina Childers.

A roll call vote was conducted:

Dr. Michele Morrone - Aye

Tina Childers - Aye

Brian Oliver - Aye

Tina Anderson – Aye

The Board entered Executive Session at 5:30 p.m.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 5:39 p.m.

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

Dr. Michele Morrone - Aye

Tina Childers - Aye

Brian Oliver - Aye

Tina Anderson – Aye

Personnel:

A contract amendment for Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner, was presented to the board for approval.

Brian Oliver made a motion to approve the amendment to the Health Commissioner’s contract. Tina Childers seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

A Deputy Health Commissioner position description was presented to the board. This is a new position and would need approval to create the position and post. The target start date is the first of June. The position is one pay grade higher than a director’s position. That would be a 10% pay increase if a director was hired internally.

Tina Childers made a motion to approve and post internally the deputy health commissioner position, after reviewed by County Human Resources. Once a new Health Commissioner is hired, the Deputy Health Commissioner position will be vacated and will remain vacant until

necessary in the future. Brian Oliver seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

A hiring committee will be established to interview the deputy health commissioner candidates.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR COMMENTS:

n/a

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS:

Brian Oliver wants to start the discussion in the future regarding adding another nursing position; Mrs. Neville will put a proposal together.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: March 11, 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 Tina Childers. Dr. Michele Morrone seconded the motion at 5:57 p.m. Motion passed.

Approved:

Signature and date on file _____ Date: _____ Dr. Michele Morrone, Board President

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