



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  
January 14, 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  
Dr. Allen Shaw

**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; Dr. Steven Kapetansky, Medical Director;

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Carrie Woody and guest

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The meeting minutes from the board meeting on December 10, 2025, were presented for approval. Brian Oliver made a motion to approve the minutes. Tina Childers seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**BOARD EDUCATION/FEATURED PRESENTATION**

The 2025 Public Health Guardian award was presented to Carrie Woody, Service Safety Director for the City of Lancaster. A proclamation was read by Board President, Dr. Michele Morrone.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

N/A

### **HEARINGS & VARIANCES**

Rachel Moresea, Environmental Health Director, presented resolution 2026-01 which outlines persons authorized to act pursuant to ORC 3717.29(C)(I) and 3717.49(B)(I) as it relates to Retail Food Establishments and Food Service Operations enforcement license requirements. This resolution was recommended by the state during their previous food survey.

**Brian Oliver made a motion to approve resolution 2026-01. Tina Childers seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.**

Mrs. Moresea presented resolution 2026-02 which changes the temporary food operation license fee from \$30.00 per day to \$28.00 per day as an emergency and effective immediately.

**Tina Childers made a motion to approve resolution 2026-02. Dr. Allen Shaw seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.**

### **DIVISION REPORTS**

#### **Environmental Health Report**

Mrs. Moresea provided a written report to the Board.

Mrs. Moresea presented an agreement between FCHD, Berne Township and Tina Tufts (property owner of 3045 Savage Hill Road NE). The agreement allows the three parties to work collectively to abate the nuisance conditions existing at the Savage Hill property.

Mrs. Moresea has not heard from Will Birchfield of Elite Septic or Chad Warthman of Warthman Services regarding the denial of their 2026 registrations.

#### **Nursing Report**

Gale Neville, Nursing Director, provided a written report to the Board. Shannon Mentzer has been helping with Help Me Grow visits due to the retirement of their Help Me Grow nurse. Flu vaccine has been pre-ordered for the fall of 2026. Training for the Get Vaccinated grant was provided to several school nurses in the area at a meeting last night.

#### **WIC Report**

Mary Smith, WIC Director, provided a written report to the Board. The report is being presented in a new format that includes charts for appointment types, caseload by clinic and

sign ins by Township. Pocket talks are used to translate different languages and are working well at the WIC Pickerington location. The pocket talk can register the language being spoken. The State has provided WIC forms in several different languages for clients.

### **Planning and Promotion Report**

Baylie Blevins, Health Promotion Director, provided a written report to the Board. Fatal crashes are down significantly from last year. In 2025 there were 10 less fatal crashes than in 2024. We are now able to give out 2 in 1 convertible car seats through the Ohio Buckles Buckeyes program. The seats are adjustable into a booster seat, allowing longer use. We officially submitted our reaccreditation application. There were 111 documents which will need reviewed by the Public Health Accreditation Board. Once reviewed, we will be allowed to correct documents, if needed. The Healthy Brain Initiative grant starts soon.

### **Health Commissioner's Report**

Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner, provided a written report to the Board. We closed out 2025 with an increase of \$672,000 across all funds. We are waiting for Rural Health Transformation opportunities to be issued to determine if we can apply for this new federal funding. Mr. Ebel and Mrs. Blevins continue to look for additional funding sources. Only one non-intern employee left FCHD in 2025 and three new employees were added. Two employees will be retiring in 2026. Mr. Ebel attended the Fairfield County Township Association meeting in December; the meeting had a good turnout. Kane Learning was chosen to help with the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and our Strategic Plan. Meetings with employees and the Board will take place in 2026 after CHIP priorities are identified. An annual cash flow chart was provided to the board starting from the year 2018-2027 (forecasted).

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS AND BILLS**

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

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

Mrs. Ehorn presented resolution 2026-03, permanent cash transfer to the Budget Stabilization Fund to the board for approval.

**Tina Childers made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-03. Dr. Allen Shaw seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.**

Mr. Ebel presented the proposed 2027 budget to the board for review and comments. The HEAL grant was removed as it was not awarded for 2026. Expenses are rolled up to higher categories now, which allows for budgeting at a higher level. The proposed budget shows an overall cashflow of \$-15,000. The new property tax law changes expand the powers of the

Budget Commission. The Budget Commission may review and adjust tax rates when collections exceed justifiable needs.

**MEDICAL DIRECTOR COMMENTS:** Flu cases are on the rise. Wash your hands to help prevent illness. There is a national shortage of Tamiflu. Dr. Kapetansky thanked Mrs. Neville for working through a challenging Tuberculosis case.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS:**

N/A

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** February 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. Tina Anderson seconded the motion at 5:11 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