



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
March 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

Dr. Michele Morrone
Tina Anderson
Tina Childers
Dr. Allen Shaw

Board Members Absent

Brian Oliver

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

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 February 11, 2026, were presented for approval. Tina Childers made a motion to approve the minutes. Tina Anderson seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

BOARD EDUCATION/FEATURED PRESENTATION

An overview of the Ohio Open Meetings Act was provided to the board as education and reference materials. The information was obtained from the 2025 Sunshine Law manual.

The following topics were included:

- What is a “public body”?
- What is a “meeting”?
- What is “discussion” or “deliberation” of public business?
- What are the duties of a public body if the Open Meetings Act applies?
- What are the requirements for an “executive session”?

HEARINGS & VARIANCES

Rachel Moresea, Environmental Health Director, presented a variance request for 5056 Beaver Dr. NE, Thornville for well distance requirements per OAC 3701-28-07. The site is a gravel lot surrounding the Walnut Township Safe Room/tornado shelter for the community. Water testing came back negative for bacteria, but there is gravel around the shelter which requires them to have a variance.

Tina Childers made a motion to approve the variance for 5056 Beaver Dr. NE, Thornville. Dr. Michele Morrone seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Moresea is requesting approval of resolution 2026-05 which allows her to apply for, accept, and enter into a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund agreement. The award agreement increased from \$150,000 to \$200,000 this year.

Tina Childers made a motion to approve the resolution 2026-05. Dr. Allen Shaw seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Moresea is requesting authorization for the payment of a solid waste cleanup at the property located at 280 McGrery Road. The cleanup is estimated to cost around \$13,000. The expense would be paid by FCHD and will be assessed to the homeowner’s property taxes

Tina Childers would like to know if there is an approved septic system for both houses on the property.

Dr. Allen Shaw made a motion to authorize payment of a solid waste cleanup, pending a court order, and assessing the costs to the property taxes for 280 McGrery Road. Tina Childers seconded the motion.

Mrs. Moresea will research and create a policy for solid waste cleanups in the future.

DIVISION REPORTS

Environmental Health Report

Mrs. Moresea provided a written report to the board. As of today, eight facilities have not paid for their food license which was due on March 2, 2026. A few facilities paid late and are being assessed late charges. National Environmental Public Health Internship Program lost its funding, which was passed through the CDC. Last year, this funding allowed us to hire a summer intern to assist in the food and mosquito control programs. Mrs. Moresea provided an update regarding the tile and gravel components that remain on Scott Hatten's property. The County Prosecutor has been contacted, and we are waiting on a legal opinion, it may be sometime in April when we receive a response.

Nursing Report

Gale Neville, Nursing Director, provided a written report to the Board. Shannon Mentzer, public health nurse, has resigned. Her position has been posted and interviews have been scheduled. We are waiting to hear back regarding the Help Me Grow nursing budget and if they would provide funding for an additional nurse.

WIC Report

Mary Smith, WIC Director, provided a written report to the Board. Dietetic interns from the University of Akron and Ohio University are scheduled to come in over the next several months to complete rotation hours. On April 6th, new WIC food packages will become available. Future benefits already loaded on cards could be zeroed out. This could be a challenge until all new food packages are loaded.

Planning and Promotion Report

Baylie Blevins, Health Promotion Director, provided a written report to the Board. In February, we presented our findings from the Healthy Brain Initiative landscape assessment. So far, we have completed 27 tobacco retailer compliance checks, with 7 retailers selling to minors. The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) reviewed our reaccreditation application and only provided feedback on 6 documents out of 119. The 6 documents will get revised and resubmitted this month. The Community Health Improvement Program (CHIP) meeting went well, and we received a lot of good feedback. Income and poverty were chosen as a CHIP priority. Breakfast was provided to employees for employee appreciation week.

Health Commissioner's Report

Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner, provided a written report to the Board. ODH WIC sent out a midyear survey regarding the current funding allocation. We responded that we need additional funding. The PHEP grant will have flat funding again for FY27. The Deputy Health Commissioner position was posted and we have 2 candidates. Tina Childers and Tina Anderson will be on the interview committee. Mr. Ebel will schedule the interviews. Strategic planning will begin in May. The garage floor is being prepped for concrete, then electrical will need completed after. The District Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for March 26th, at 7:00 pm at the Levacy Center. The Child Fatality Review (CFR) meeting was held with 20-25 people

attending, including law enforcement and fire department personnel. Thirteen CFR cases were reviewed, two of those were unsafe sleep deaths.

Dr. Kapetansky asked if we could partner with Fairfield Medical Center on Tobacco Cessation. Mrs. Blevins stated that she would look into it.

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 Annual Appropriation resolution 2026-04 was presented to the board for approval.

Dr. Allen Show made a motion to approve resolution 2026-04. Dr. Michele Morrone seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Personnel:

Resignation of Shannon Mentzer, Public Health Nurse, last day 3/20/2026.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR COMMENTS:

Vaccinate against the measles.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS:

N/A

NEXT BOARD MEETING: April 8, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

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

District Advisory Council Meeting: March 26, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Levacy Center.

ADJOURN The Board of Health Meeting adjourned on a motion by Tina Childers. Dr. Allen Shaw seconded the motion at 4:56 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