



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  
May 13, 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 Brian Oliver at 4:00 p.m.

**Board Members Present**

Dr. Michele Morrone  
Dr. Olivia Westhoven  
Tina Anderson  
Brian Oliver  
Tina Childers – arrived at 5:20 p.m.

**Board Members Absent**

**STAFF PRESENT**

Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner; Mary Smith, WIC Director; Rachel Moresea, Environmental Health Director; Baylie Blevins, Deputy Health Commissioner; Jamie Ehorn, Administrative Services Director; Gale Neville, Nursing Director; Dr. Steven Kapetansky, Medical Director; McCray Wooten, Environmental Health Specialist-in-Training; Ashley Mason, Public Health Nurse

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Bill Hoy  
Jevin Williams  
Leighann Adams – Fairfield County Dog Warden

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The meeting minutes from the board meeting on April 8, 2026, were presented for approval. A correction to the meeting time from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. was noted. The minutes were approved, with the abovementioned change, by unanimous voice vote.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Bill Hoy and Jevin Williams addressed the board and asked for an update and a time frame of having their neighbor's property connected to public sewer. The neighbor will need to go through the City of Lancaster to make the connection and will work with FCHD on funding assistance. Request for bids will be sent out soon and will be due back within 2 weeks. Mr. Williams requested they be kept updated on progress. Mrs. Moresea estimates work will be started within the next 3 months.

## **INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF**

Ashley Mason was introduced as the new Public Health Nurse, Immunization Coordinator.

## **FEATURED PRESENTATION**

Rachel Moresea provided a featured presentation on Rabies. Her presentation covered the following:

- What is rabies
- Rabies Transmission Rates in Fairfield County
- Health District vs. State Authority
- How the Rabies program operates
- What are our options

Mrs. Moresea worked with the prosecutor's office on rabies enforcement options moving forward:

1. Renew the current rabies policy
2. Keep the policy as-is
3. Rescind the current policy.

Mrs. Moresea will email the Board of Health (BOH) a copy of the current rabies policy. Discussion will be tabled until the current policy is reviewed.

## **HEARINGS AND VARIANCES**

McCray Wooten presented a variance for the property located at 5399 Alder Rd. NE, Thornville, for distance requirements for a well. This property is new construction on a small lot on Fairfield Beach. The well location is a little too close to the edge of the roadway (requires 25', measures 17'). The property has public sewer, but not water.

Dr. Michele Morrone made a motion to approve the variance at 5399 Alder Rd., NE, Thornville. Seconded by Dr. Olivia Westhoven. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

## **DIVISION REPORTS**

### **Environmental Health Report**

Mrs. Moresea submitted a written report to the Board. The property owner of 2985 Savage Hill Rd. was sent a court referral letter and has since made progress with the property cleanup. The property owner is making an informal request for FCHD to help pay for a dumpster to assist with the cleanup. Mrs. Moresea will initiate discussion with Berne Township regarding the

cleanup, and she will put a policy in place regarding the use of nuisance funds in these types of situations.

Several applications were received for the open Environmental Health Specialist position and interviews will begin soon. We hired an intern for the mosquito program who became available after Hocking County's grant was denied.

### **Nursing Report**

Gale Neville, Nursing Director, submitted a written report to the Board. Mrs. Neville has been working with Ohio Department of Health to schedule their mobile unit for our use at the Fairfield County Fair for a vaccine clinic. The clinic will run Monday-Thursday. Our Community Health Worker Program has been active for a year.

Immunizations clinics are down everywhere. Mrs. Neville is working to streamline vaccines and get the same stock for both Vaccines for Children (VFC) and private purchase vaccines.

### **WIC Report**

Mary Smith, WIC Director, submitted a written report to the Board. An Ohio University Dietetic Intern started Monday. She will update our nutrition education modules and help to improve the WIC newsletter. The WIC FY27 grant increased to \$689,000.

### **Planning and Promotion Report**

Baylie Blevins, Deputy Health Commissioner, submitted a written report to the Board. Grant site visits are done for all grants that end in June. Our reaccreditation site visit is scheduled for June 29<sup>th</sup> for half a day. At least one board member will need to attend the site visit. Client feedback survey results are included in Mrs. Blevins' board report, and they have all been positive. FCHD is receiving the red triangle award from the YMCA. Dr. Morrone likes what Mrs. Blevins is doing with the PHAB education being provided to staff. Professional development hours for April include the all-staff strategic planning meeting and several conferences.

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

Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner, submitted a written report to the Board. Mr. Ebel and Mrs. Blevins attended the Public Health Combined Conference. Mr. Ebel attended an Accreditation Celebration event. The Workforce grant has additional funding that will extend the grant into 2027. The storage garage is complete, shelving is installed, and staff are starting to move items to the garage.

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS AND BILLS**

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

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

### **MEDICAL DIRECTOR COMMENTS:**

We have reached the end of RSV season.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS:**

N/A

**2026-2029 STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE:**

Michelle White and Natalie Johns from Kane Learning updated the BOH on the process and results of the Strategic Planning Staff Work Session that took place on April 21, 2026. The following items were accomplished:

- Reviewed the Strategic Planning Process
- Discussed Mission, Vision, and Values
- Reviewed Current State
- Completed a SWOT Analysis
- Identified Critical Issues
- Determined Strategic Priorities and Actions.

Four strategic priorities were identified:

1. Increase Access to Care Through Improved Programs and Services
2. Improve Internal Communication and Organizational Alignment
3. Sustain Public Health Infrastructure and Build Resiliency for the Future
4. Strength Continuous Quality Improvement, Workforce Development and Operational Excellence

There was discussion on including the BOH in strategic planning priorities, infrastructure and/or alignment and workforce development.

Next steps, partner with leadership team and flush out action items. Provide another update and craft the strategic plan. A tracker system tool will be provided to FCHD that can be used to track updates on the plan and report to the board.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** June 10, 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 Dr. Michele Morrone. Dr. Olivia Westhoven seconded the motion at 5:50 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