



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
October 8, 2025, 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
Dr. Allen Shaw
Tina Anderson

Board Members Absent

Tina Childers

STAFF PRESENT

Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner; 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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

BOARD EDUCATION/FEATURED PRESENTATION:

Baylie Blevins and Rachel Moresea presented on Board of Health Education Modules. They reviewed the 2024 Educational Needs Assessment of Ohio Local Board of Health Members. This was a project they completed for their practicum. Their group created education modules that will be used to provide required continuing education training to Ohio Boards of Health members. The modules can be found on the Kent State University College of Public Health website or through a provided QR code. They will eventually be available on the Ohio Boards of Health website.

HEARINGS & VARIANCES

Rachel Moresea, Environmental Health Director, presented a variance from regulation OAC 3701-29-15 (II)(B) for 8744 Winchester-Southern Rd., Carroll for the length of the leach lines.

Brian Oliver made a motion to approve the variance from regulation OAC 3701-29-15 (II)(B) for 8744 Winchester-Southern Rd. Carroll. Tina Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

DIVISION REPORTS

Environmental Health Report

Mrs. Moresea provided a written report to the Board. Rushcreek Processing and Deli was shut down for two days due to a pest infestation. They performed a deep cleaning of the facility and were able to open back up. Currently working with the County Prosecutor to file an injunction on Chad Warthman, owner of Warthman Services LLC, and Elite Septic and Sewer. Both businesses are operating without being registered and not turning in required paperwork. Mrs. Moresea discussed the recent Food Safety Program audit and an action plan and training schedule moving forward. Shannon Good made progress cleaning up her property and was not sent to prosecution. Several solid waste nuisance properties were abated in September.

Pleasantview Dr. Update – There may be a way for the homeowner to connect to sanitary sewer. A meeting is scheduled with parties involved next week to discuss this option.

Nursing Report

Gale Neville, Nursing Director, provided a written report to the Board. Meetings continue with the Fairfield Community Health Center, and we are about ready to start sending them patients for immigration investigations. There were several reporting changes to the communicable disease reporting schedule effective October 1st. Nursing has held several offsite flu clinics out in the community.

WIC Report

Mary Smith, WIC Director, provided a written report to the Board. Ms. Smith was not present for this meeting. Mr. Ebel provided a WIC caseload update and discussed the government

shutdown. WIC continues to operate, but there are still unknowns related to the shutdown. WIC is open four days a week at the Pickerington location.

Planning and Promotion Report

Baylie Blevins, Health Promotion Director, provided a written report to the Board. FCHD held a car seat check event. We completed 9 car seat checks of which 86% were being misused in some way. Fairfield County Public Transit had car seats checked at this event. The Healthy Eating Active Living demonstration project was conducted on pedestrian safety, and we had positive feedback. There may potentially be some permanent changes including extending curbs using cones and the use of reflective paint. We received \$15k from the Fairfield County Foundation for Child/Family Injury Prevention Programming. The Cribs for Kids grant was extended to the end of 2025. We received a stipend for teen driving safety. Our CQI project on Vital Statistics processes determined the need for online ordering and payment of birth certificates. Online ordering was recently put in place, and we have had 34 people use the online system to date. We launched a new food complaint process online. It is live but has not yet been advertised. Our Intern, Eli, has been updating the employee resource manual and our public facing website. The Community Health Assessment should be finished by the end of the month. Domains 6 & 7 for re-accreditation will be complete by the end of the month. Three outside speakers are set up for staff training day.

Mrs. Blevins provided a draft of the FCHD quarterly newsletter for review.

Health Commissioner's Report

Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner, provided a written report to the Board. The 2024 final audit report was provided to the board for review. There were no findings reported. The Fund Balance policy created last year states that a recommendation to the board on carryover funds at the end of the year be provided at the November meeting. Mr. Ebel is recommending no transfer to the Capital Improvement Fund and 5% of general fund revenue or approximately \$105K to the Budget Stabilization Fund. The 2027 budget will be presented to the District Advisory Council (DAC) in March of 2026. Mr. Ebel to meet with the DAC president to discuss the increase in funding from the DAC and the City of Lancaster. The increase looks to be around 3%. The State of the County meeting was held in the newly renovated conference space in our building. The Veterans Administration office is moving into the 3rd hallway in our building. The garage project plans have been submitted to the City of Lancaster for approval. Construction may start around November. We are following two county residents who have been exposed to a measles case. County HR has not announced the health insurance premium increase for next year. Overdose Death data was provided 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.

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

PERSONNEL:

N/A

MEDICAL DIRECTOR COMMENTS: Flu season, get your vaccines.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS: Dr. Michele Morrone attended an Ohio Association of Boards of Health meeting in Delaware County. She discussed some items they are watching:

House Bill 28 - Eliminate the authority to levy replacement property tax levies

House Bill 137 - Permit tax authority to decline submitting certain levy to voters

House Bill 182 - Prohibit public water system from adding fluoride to its water

House Bill 406 - Enact the Farm-to-Consumer Access to Raw Milk Act

The Policy for Health Commissioner Evaluation was presented to the board. It is time to start the evaluation process for Mr. Ebel. Mr. Ebel is to provide his accomplishments to the board before the next meeting. The board will go into executive session at the next meeting to review results.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: November 12, 2025, 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. Allen Shaw. Tina Anderson seconded the motion at 5:12 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