

Public Health Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2025

5:30-7:30 PM



Members Present: Elma Blum, LoraLynn Lord, Emily Estes, Laurie Schacht, Chad Williams, Kevin Fischer, Marla Sanger, Sandra Brown, Kimberly Dauphin, Kurt Truong, Mark Collier, Paul Childers, Robert Ferrier, Scott Johnson, Michael Watkins, Tracey Fernandez, Councilor Wil Fuentes (ex-officio), Alan Melnick (ex-officio)

Members Absent: Ashley Mariscal, Franklin Johnson, Tyler Clary, Breein Scarlett-Fiser

Staff: Jeff Harbison, Gerry Preston, Andrea Pruett, Danette York, Brianna da Silva Bhatia, Mallori Berry, Maggie Palomaki, Miles Lawson

Public Guests: Ken Lund

Welcome and call to order

Chair Sandra Brown opened the meeting and completed a roll call of the PHAC members.

Introduced Jeannine Mills-Goodling as our new Clark County educational community member on PHAC. She will serve through 9/30/2027.

PHAC Business

- April 22, 2025, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Health recruitment update

- Introduced Danette York as our new Deputy Director with Clark County Public Health.

Public Comment

- None

Language Access voicemail inboxes

- In January 2025, CCPH launched a new process for receiving and responding to phone calls from community members who speak Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese and Chuukese. When community members call Clark County Public Health's main number, they are prompted to select a language.
- Callers who select English are routed to the main menu of our phone tree, whereas callers who select a language other than English are routed to a voicemail box, where they are asked to leave a detailed message. These voicemails are sent via email to the Public Health Communications team, who uses an online program to translate and transcribe the voicemail and triage the call to the appropriate program for response.
- All calls are entered into our tracking system, with an English transcription of the call and the caller's contact information. Program staff are then tasked with using an interpreter to return the phone call within 3 business days. Staff will receive automated reminders if the call is not returned and closed in our tracking system within three to five days.
- Within the first five months of use, we have received and returned twelve calls, and all have been in Spanish. Eight programs have responded to the calls, and all calls have been closed within two business days.
- We will continue to promote this new application to the community with flyers and social media.



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Prenatal care update

- Clark County Board of Health and public health staff will be hosting a meeting on 6/9/25 to discuss Medicaid access to prenatal care challenges in Clark County in preparation for the 2026 leg session. The invitation has extended to the state healthcare authority, state department of health, our legislative delegation, our congressional representative.

Public Health in Action

- Benthic algal mats
 - Maggie Palomaki, environmental health specialist in our recreational water program, shared the presentation she provided to the Board of Health on 5/21/25.



5.27.25 Slide
deck.pdf

Budget update

- Still a lot of moving parts related to the 2026 budget:
 - Governor Ferguson signed the 2025-27 State biennial budget late last Tuesday (May 20) but included a number of line-item vetoes.
 - We are still unaware of how the line-item vetoes will be addressed.
 - Our best current information is to expect a ~7% reduction to FPHS allocations. However, this is generalized guidance, and we are still unsure if this will grow related to changes to the State budget or how the 7% reduction would be applied to LHJs.
 - We continue advocating for local control over how the FPHS reductions are to be decided.
- Initial projected baseline deficit was \$2.0M-\$2.2M.
- \$400K additional deficit related to the transition of Solid Waste to Public Works; related primarily to indirects paid by Solid Waste to Public Health.
- Medical Examiner's Office is seeing a \$72K increase in indirects to Public Health (2025 vs 2026).
- Managers did a fantastic job trimming controllable (supplies, services, travel) budgets by \$700K.
- The new CBA includes the 2026 COLA calculated with July 1, 2025 CPI data, which means the cost of the 2026 COLA is not in the 2026 budget.
 - While we will still incur the costs, this is a budget savings of roughly \$420,000.
- Investment interest revenue budget has grown by \$250,000.
- Current NET 2026 budget deficit is \$1.16M.
- 7% of current FPHS allocation for CCPH is ~\$490,000, which would leave a deficit of \$1.65M
- Impact of EPH fee adjustment would address some of the deficit.
 - 1:1s with individual Board of Health members, June 16
 - Board of Health work session, July 9
- Current 9 vacant positions held for potential elimination
- Indirect cost pool Adjustment
 - (3) HAE Epidemiologist positions
 - (2) Dept IS Coordinator positions
- We will have additional data and information to share at our June PHAC meeting.

PHAC Updates

- PHAC Member/Community Updates

- *Laurie Schacht*: The YWCA is offering eviction prevention funding for those experiencing domestic violence or for those losing their homes.
- The next two BOH/PHAC retreats have been scheduled for 7/31/25 and 9/18/25. Both meetings will take place at the Public Service Center building from 9:00am-12:00pm in suite 680. Invitations have been emailed out to BOH councilors, PHAC members and our Public Health leadership team.

Closing

The next PHAC meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2025, from 5:30-7:30 and will be held *virtually*.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:48pm.



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