

Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health

Minutes of January 13, 2026, regular meeting

The Wheeling - Ohio County Board of Health met on January 13, 2026, at 12:00pm in the City/County Building, Ohio County Commission conference room, Wheeling West Virginia.

Board members present were Dr. John Holloway, Elisabeth Slater, and Dr. Mathew Wood. The staff present included Howard Gamble, Administrator of the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department and County Health Officer Dr. William S. Przybysz.

The meeting was called to order by Board of Health Chairman Dr. John Holloway.

Minutes of November 18, 2025, regular meeting were distributed to members prior to the meeting. Minutes were approved by the Board

Dr. Przybysz gave an update to the Board on Project HOPE, including the upcoming Winter Walk, the upcoming Point In Time homeless count, and the current flu season.

The administrator gave a report on department programs and services. The administrator provided to Board members the organization chart of the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department. The chart is approved annually by the Board. The Board approved the organization chart.

The Board was reminded that one member will be coming up for appointment renewal in 2026. The appointment of Dr Mathew Wood, a county appointment, will expire in June. Request for either reappointment or appointment of a new member will need to be made following the Board May meeting.

The Board was provided with the September 2025 State Outbreak Report.

In late October the Wetzel-Tyler Health Department notified area health departments of a confirmed case of Pertussis. At this time two (2) cases have been identified. Since this report the WOCHD and the Brooke County Health Department have also been notified of probable cases of Pertussis. The WOCHD case was ruled out following our investigation and additional testing.

The Board was provided with the State Health Advisory #231 regarding the rising Pertussis cases in the mountain state. Of concern is the current number of cases, now at 126, which is the highest since 2010.

The Administrator provided Board members with the 2026 Food School Calendar. Over 30 schools are scheduled for 2026. The department is trying to limit the number of special or outside schools due to staffing and the need to maintain current inspections and duties.

Office Updates

The health department has relocated, temporarily, to the 2nd floor of the City/County Building for 4-6 months. The south wing of the 1st floor, which includes the health department, city finance and city water departments as well as the City Council chambers and City court room are all under construction.

The administrator provided the Board a WOCHD Holiday Schedule Policy. The policy was developed to reduce issues related to covered and not covered holidays for department staff. The Board approved the policy.

The Board was provided with an overview of the 2025 syringe service program. The department recorded 13,846 needles that were dispensed to clients, this is a decrease in needles from 2024. This also represented the number received, since the agencies program is a one for one exchange. Distribution has picked up with the Project HOPE program with 2,220 needles dispensed and collected in 2025. The total number of participants was 1,091. The department did reapply for its license through the WV Office of Health Facility, Licensure and Certification in November, however these have not been returned as of January 1, 2026.

The Board was provided with the WOCHD Financial Review, which included the November & December financials. The financials were approved.

Other

The administrator gave an update on several HR issues including recent/new resignations and hirings.

- WIC has had a resignation (employee seeking new employment) of a HHS Aide
- Health Department has had a resignation of a health inspector (employee going back to school) and nursing director (employee seeking new employment).
- Health Department has hired a temporary staff to assist the county with the transfer of data to the state HS Cloud system.
- Health Department is currently in the process of hiring a front office staff (Office Assistant 2) and just posted for a Sanitarian 1 and 2.
- Health Department will begin the process to post for a Nursing Director and evaluate the staff needs with the WIC program.

With no other business before the Board, the Board moved for adjournment. The next regular Board of Health meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2026.

SUBMITTED BY

William S. Przybysz, MD, Health Officer
March 10, 2026

APPROVED BY

John D Holloway, MD, Board Chairman
March 10, 2026