

Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health

Minutes of November 18, 2025, regular meeting

The Wheeling - Ohio County Board of Health met on November 18, 2025, 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, Tom Tuttle, Dr. Mathew Wood and Erik Harris. 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.

A public presentation was given by Howard Karnell and Dave Palmer, representing WesBanco Arena. A new CIA exemption request was made by the presenters for 2 events in 2026. The Board approved, on a 3-2 vote, the motion to allow smoking on the outside deck of WesBanco for two one-day events. A letter will be sent to the facility.

Elisabeth Slater, Esq.	No
Tom Tuttle, R.Ph.	Yes
Mathew J Wood, D.O.	Yes
Erik Harris	Yes
John D Holloway, M.D.	No

Minutes of September 9, 2025, regular meeting were distributed to members prior to the meeting. Board of Health Chairman, Dr. Holloway, requested the minutes be corrected to reflect the voting that the Board did during the July 8th regular meeting. Both sets of minutes were approved by the Board

Dr. Przybysz gave an update to the Board on Project HOPE, including the upcoming Winter Walk, the current flu season and the local health officers training that was held by the State Health Department in Charleston.

The administrator gave a report on department programs and services. The Board of Health was presented a draft 2026 meeting schedule. The Board of Health meeting calendar was approved.

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 most recent WV Vectorborne Disease Surveillance & WV Animal Rabies documents. Of concern is the high rate of Lyme Disease that is being reported throughout the state, but especially in Ohio County. In addition, a positive raccoon was identified on the Brooke and Ohio County border in October.

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.

Needle Exchange/Harm Reduction services have picked up with our HOPE program. The department did reapply for the three current licenses with the State. In addition, a new license was applied for to provide services from the health department's new mobile clinic.

One of the department's WIC vehicles was damaged by a deer on October 28th. The incident was reported to the department's insurance carrier and has had a repair estimate completed. Work on the vehicle will happen in the next 2-3 weeks.

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

An audit selection committee meet and selected Ferrari & Associates, PLLC for the department's annual audit for FY25 and FY26. The department received 5 bids for the annual audit. The audit selection committee met on October 31st and scored all the audits. Ferrari received the highest score. The Board approved the selection.

The administrator requested the Board approve a day off on December 26, 2025. This will provide staff with a full day off. The request was approved.

On December 17th the WOCHD will hold an all-staff training. This training will involve all staff and provide an in-service on driving safety, staff updates and a safety committee meeting.

Faith Gandy was introduced to the Board. Faith is the new regional epidemiologist. Faith is a Washington County PA native. She is a graduate of Marshall University, College of Health Professions, with a Bachelor of Health Science degree and a Master of Public Health degree. Gandy worked for Cabell-Huntington Health Department as an Infection Prevention Coordinator/Educator and Epidemiologist. She also completed a graduate internship at the CHHD with their epidemiology program. Faith started her role as Regional Epidemiologist on October 16th.

With no other business before the Board, the Board moved for adjournment. The next regular Board of Health meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2026.

SUBMITTED BY

William S. Przybysz, MD, Health Officer
January 13, 2026

APPROVED BY

John D Holloway, MD, Board Chairman
January 13, 2026