

## **Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health**

Minutes of March 10, 2026, regular meeting

The Wheeling - Ohio County Board of Health met on March 10, 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, Tom Tuttle, Erik Harris, Ty Thorngate and Dr. Mathew Wood. The staff present included Howard Gamble, Administrator of the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department, County Health Officer Dr. William S. Przybysz and Brian Lynch, Sanitarian 1.

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

Minutes of January 13, 2026, 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 volunteers, Project HOPE's Winter Walk, and the current flu season.

The administrator gave a report on department programs and services. On July 23rd the department is scheduled to have their annual State Compliance Review. This review focuses on several areas that are covered under the WV 64CSR73 Standards for Local Boards of Health. Most of the review covers environmental, clinical and Threat Preparedness areas of the department. A small portion of the review does pertain to direct action by the Board of Health regarding Community Health Needs. The administrator discussed some of the recent survey results from other LHDs in WV.

The Board was provided with the January and February 2026 State Outbreak Report. Influenza B has started to appear in our wastewater testing and reported cases from providers to the health department. Measles cases continue to rise across the US. South Carolina currently has the most cases, passing Texas for total cases for 2025 and 2026.

The department had discussions with the USDA regarding rabies cases. A new case was identified by the USDA around the Weirton area recently. This case along with a case on the Brooke/Ohio county line has raised a level of concern. The County Health Department offered assistance to the USDA.

The administrator updated the Board on the office renovations. According to news reports, most of the main construction is complete. Offices were repainted (some minor issues) and refloored. Staff are slowly moving items back into the office areas. The 1st floor is still under renovation (City space). The County would like us to expedite our move back to allow for the move of two other county offices.

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 hired a new health inspector/Sanitarian 1. David Brian Lynch was hired beginning in March. Brian will need to complete the required state training program.
- Health Department has hired a temporary staff to assist the county with the transfer of data to the state HS Cloud system. Greg Vargo was hired on an exempt status.
- Health Department has hired a new Office Assistant 2 for the department. Mykinzie Buchanan was hired in February.
- Health Department is in the process of hiring an additional clinical staff. The department posted for Nursing Director; however, no candidates were referred. The department reevaluated the situation and posted for a Nurse 2 and Nurse 3. The posting has not come down as of the Board meeting.

The administration discussed two bills that are presently before the WV Legislature that could have a potential impact on public health.

- H. B. 4463 - Relating to the Board of Sanitarians
- Senate Bill 44 - Relating to sale of homemade food items

The Board was provided with the WOCHD Financial Review, which included the January and February 2026 financials. The financials were approved.

The administrator presented to the Board two quotes that need approval. Both quotes were approved.

- New vaccine cooler monitors – National Equipment
- New front office desks and cabinets – Wheeling Office Supply

The department received notification from both PEIA and PERS regarding FY2027 budgeting.

- PEIA is planning a 3% increase on the non-state fund premiums.
- PERS announced that agency contributions will decrease from 9-7%.

With no other business before the Board, the Board moved for adjournment. The next regular Board of Health meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2026.

**SUBMITTED BY**

William S. Przybysz, MD, Health Officer  
May 19, 2026

**APPROVED BY**

John D Holloway, MD, Board Chairman  
May 19, 2026