

Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health

Minutes of July 14, 2026, regular meeting

The Wheeling - Ohio County Board of Health met on July 14, 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, Erik Harris, Ty Thorngate 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 Board of Health elected Dr. John Holloway as Board of Health Chairperson for FY 26-27. The meeting was called to order by Board of Health Chairman Dr. John Holloway.

Minutes of May 19, 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 new volunteers, and the current Lyme Disease situation. Dr. Przybysz gave led a short discussion on the City of Wheeling's announcement for a Homeless Taskforce and some updates regarding the Life Hub. Dr. Przybysz also gave the Board an update on the ongoing Cyclosporiasis outbreak.

The administrator gave a report on department programs and services. The administrator discussed with the Board the annual Community Health Needs Assessment Priority Health Needs Plan. The department conducted a required Community Needs Assessment in 2024 (required every 5 years). The Community Needs Assessment resulted in a Community Health Improvement Plan (required every 5 years), which was approved by the Board in 2025. The Board is required to establish an annual plan to address the priority health needs. A draft plan was presented to the Board for review and approval. The Board approved the plan.

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 Ohio County Commission reappointed Mathew Wood, D.O., to the Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health during their June 2, 2026, meeting. The department is waiting on the official written notification from the County.

The Board was provided with the May and June 2026 State Outbreak Report as well as an update report on the state and national Cyclosporiasis outbreak. As of July 10th, Ohio County had two (2) reported cases. Cases were also reported in Hancock (11) and Brooke (6). Most of the state's cases are in the central/western portion of the state.

The Board was updated on the Free Community Medical Outreach Clinic which will be held at WesBanco Arena in Wheeling on August 21-22 from 6am-6pm and on August 23 from 1pm-6pm. Samaritan's Purse is partnering with Newbridge Church to offer free medical services including medical care and screenings, dental cleanings, extractions, and fillings, and eye exams and eyeglass production. These free services are offered on a first-come, first-served basis to clinic patients. Individuals should arrive early to ensure their place in line. A maximum of two services can be provided in one clinic day. Patients may choose either medical-dental or medical-vision appointments. No ID or insurance is required at this free clinic. All providers are licensed medical professionals, including but not limited to dentists, dental hygienists, optometrists, opticians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physicians, and physician assistants. The health department is involved in this community outreach assisting with medical waste collection and the participation of our WIC program at the clinic.

The administrator gave a short update on changes with the WV Division of Personnel. HB5441 passed the WV Legislature this past session and changed some of the areas of WVDOP. Most notable:

- The DOP Board was eliminated; all power of the Board is now with the Director of the WVDOP.
- WV DOP is creating positions for Threat Preparedness staff. Regional TP and County TP job descriptions will be developed for local health departments to use.
- WV DOP will be doing HD visits this year. Ohio County's visit is set for Aug 6th
- Office Assistant positions will be getting an overhaul from the WVDOP. The health department has one staff member in this job title. Changes could include a pay increase.

The department is investigating and testing more animals and specimens for rabies. The Board has been provided with a January-July 2026 Rabies Surveillance Report from the State Health Department. In our area the number of positive raccoon rabies cases has increased (3 current cases). Most of the rabies cases are in the eastern panhandle and Mineral County areas of the state.

The administrator provided a short update on changes to the sanitarian training program. The State Health Department cannot provide local sanitarian training any more. The WV Board of Sanitarians has partnered with the WV School of Public Health to conduct the training.

The department responded to the June 22nd flooding in the Elm Grove area of Wheeling. The department offered free flood related vaccinations (Tetanus and Hepatitis A) on June 23 and 24 at the Elm Terrace Shopping Center.

The Board was provided with the WOCHD Financial Review, which included the May & June 2026 financials. The financials were approved.

The WOCHD received a new FY27 BRIM invoice (quarterly) on 5/26/26. The department's premium has increased by \$1423 due to two factors. The department's general liability amount increased due to our payroll increase (not due to more people working but due to the amount we are paying in salaries). The department's Med Mal policy increased due to annual rate increases.

With no other business before the Board, the Board moved for adjournment. The next regular Board of Health meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2026.

SUBMITTED BY

William S. Przybysz, MD, Health Officer
September 8, 2026

APPROVED BY

John D Holloway, MD, Board Chairman
September 8, 2026