

Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health

Minutes of July 8, 2025, regular meeting

The Wheeling - Ohio County Board of Health met on May 13, 2025, at 12:00pm in the City/County Building, health department conference room, Wheeling West Virginia.

Board members present were Dr. John Holloway, Elisabeth Slater, Tom Tuttle, Ty Thorngate, 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. Others present include Howard Karnell, WesBanco Arena, Wheeling City Council Member Dave Palmer and Eric Ayers, Wheeling Intelligencer/News Register.

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

Representative from the WesBanco Arena, Howard Karnell & Dave Palmer (Wheeling City Councilman/Auditorium Board Member), addressed the Board regarding permission/exemption from the County Clean Air Regulation to hold a special function on the property. A motion was made and second to provide the temporary exemption. The Board approved, on a 4-2 vote, the motion to allow smoking on the outside deck of WesBanco for a one-day event. 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
Ty Thorngate	Yes

The Board of Health elected Dr. John Holloway as Board of Health Chairperson for FY 25-26.

Minutes of May 13, 2025, regular meeting were distributed to members prior to the meeting. Minutes were approved.

Board of Health members Tom Tuttle and Dr. John Holloway were reappointed to the Board of Health by the Ohio County Commission (June 3rd meeting) and City of Wheeling (June 3rd meeting).

Dr. Przybysz gave an update on the department's flood response as well as updates on Project HOPE activities.

The Administrator requested that the Board provide a reaffirming vote on the Board of Health Immunization Statement that was approved on June 13, 2025. The Board approved the request.

The administrator gave a report on department programs and services.

The Board was updated on recent changes in WV Reportable Disease Rule. The State Health Department notified providers, including county health departments, that updates had occurred to the WV Reportable Disease Rule 64CSR-7. These included:

- *Candida auris* (*C.auris*) has been added as a Category II Condition that should be reported to the local health department within 24 hours.
- Alpha-gal Syndrome (AGS) has been added as a Category V Condition that should be reported to the state Bureau for Public Health within one week of diagnosis.
- SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) related deaths are now only reportable in an individual less than 18 years of age. Pediatric COVID-19 related deaths are a Category IV Condition that should be reported to the local health department within one week.
- Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM) is now a Category II Condition that should be reported to the local health department within 24 hours.
- SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), laboratory evidence of acute infection by polymerase chain reaction is now only reportable through electronic laboratory reporting to the West Virginia Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WVEDSS).
- Updated language from Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae to Carbapenem-Resistant Organisms and Carbapenemase-Producing Organisms. Carbapenem-Resistant and/or Carbapenemase-Producing Organisms (*Enterobacteriaceae*, *Acinetobacter baumannii*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*) remain a Category IV Condition that should be reported to the local health department within one week.

The Board was provided with a copy of the most recent 2025 Outbreak Report for West Virginia.

The health department has been notified, on 7/1/2025, by the State Health Department that two federal funding programs are currently on hold due to a lack of secured federal funding. The two programs are the WIC Lead Testing program and the Health Department's IAP (immunization program funding). The department has been advised to suspend any activities related to the grant until further notice. In addition, grant agreements for threat preparedness and infrastructure have not been received by the department.

The administrator gave an update on the Department's Summer 2025 Flood Response. The health department responded to the recent flooding activity that occurred on 6/14/25, along Rt 40 in the Triadelphia and Valley Grove area of the County. The health department was supported by the health departments in the northern panhandle. Several vaccination centers (from 6/16-6/27/25) were set up including in Resbecks parking lot, at UMC in Triadelphia, Valley Grove Volunteer Fire Department and a mobile vaccinator. As of 7/2/25 the department had administered over 1720 Tdap and Hep A vaccinations. Vaccinations continue to be offered to the community. Several permitted operations were affected by the flooding including food, hotel/motel, campground and manufacture home operations. Inspections and reopening continue for affected operations.

Department temporary move was put on hold due to delays in the current construction and the city's and county's response to the recent flooding in the County.

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

The Board was provided with a PowerPoint presentation from the State Health Department that was presented to county health departments on June 5th. The presentation is an overview of WV's Public Health system.

Following the health department's annual evaluation of the services provided by the WOCHD, three deficiencies were identified. These included:

- Community Health Needs - 5.1.1.d. The board shall establish an annual plan to address the priority health needs that define a role for the local health department in the programmatic or policy activities.
- Environmental Health - 5.1.3.b.7.a. The LHD reviews applications, conducts site visits, and issues permits for the installation of water wells.
- Environmental Health - 5.1.3.c. The LHD shall report environmental health data electronically in a format or system specified by the Bureau - HS CLOUD.
- An Improvement Plan was created for each deficiency.
- The Community Health Needs area lacked a plan to address the priority health needs that were identified in our 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment. A draft plan was presented to the Board for review and approval. The Board needs to approve the plan.

The WV Public Health Annual Conference for Fall 2025 is September 17-19 at Oglebay. Staff from the department will attend and encourage Board members to attend as well. Agendas will be coming out shortly.

The administrator gave a short Legal Update regarding Scenic Sites Venue. An administrative law judge hearing was dismissed due to an incorrect filing by the attorney representing Scenic Sites/Lloyd Klages. The department and OCPAs office will now need to start over with any potential legal action. A letter was sent to both the owner of the property, Klages Properties LLC, and the current tenant, Scenic Sites Venue LLC, regarding the need to have the cabins under permit and inspected by the County Health Department. The deadline is July 11th. The OCPAs office will re-file a Magistrate hearing on behalf of the county health department for the correct parties regarding obstruction charges.

The Board of Health held a discussion on the Project HOPE Program. The program will continue under the authority of the county health department.

The Board of Health did not have an Executive Session.

With no other business before the Board, the Board moved for adjournment. The next regular Board of Health meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2025.

SUBMITTED BY

William S. Przybysz, MD, Health Officer
November 18, 2025

APPROVED BY

John D Holloway, MD, Board Chairman
November 18, 2025