



# Washtenaw County Board of Health

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## Minutes

July 23, 2021, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM  
555 Towner St., Room 2102B, Ypsilanti, MI 48198  
Zoom Meeting

**Present:** James Carty, Gina Dahlem, Leon Golson, Neel Hajra, Justin Hodge, Carrie Rheingans, Katie Scott, Kathleen Stroud, Morghan Williams Boydston  
**Absent:** Elisabeth Vanderpool  
**Staff:** Jimena Loveluck, Jennifer Brassow, Adam Paberzs, Kristen Schweighofer, Ruth Kraut, Juan Marquez, Russell O'Brien  
**Guests:** Maria Militzer, Marta Larson, Diana K

### 1. Call to Order

Justin Hodge called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

Roll-call check-in.

### 2. Public Comment

Diana K spoke about the lack of before and after school care at Ann Arbor Public Schools. She asked that some of the COVID funding be used for transportation to childcare facilities.

### 3. Board Member Response to Public Comment

Katie Scott responded that she recognizes the need for before and after school care. Work is being done with the school board to come up with solutions. She thanked Diana for attending the meeting and commenting because she does think this is a public health issue.

Carrie Rheingans thanked Diana for her comments. She said there is public engagement going on about how the American Rescue Plan Act funds might be spent in the community and encouraged Diana and other private daycare centers to fill out the Washtenaw Rescue Plan survey. Carrie commented that this is an equity issue as well as a public health issue.

### 4. Approval of Agenda (Action)

*Motion by K. Stroud, seconded by N. Hajra, to approve the agenda.  
Motion approved unanimously with a roll-call vote.*

### 5. Approval of June 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes (Action)

*Motion by K. Stroud, seconded by G. Dahlem, to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2021 meeting.  
Motion approved unanimously with a roll-call vote.*

### 6. Executive Committee Report from June 17, 2021

Board members received the Executive Committee minutes.  
No discussion about the report.



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### 7. Community Voices and Health for All Report

Marta Larson shared that Jimena Loveluck has been invited to the next Community Voices (CV) meeting to talk about COVID testing, rates, and vaccines by community that they represent. CV is interested in outreach to immigrant communities and how they can help the Health Department (HD) be more effective in that area. Marta said they are interested to hear about by-laws discussions and if they will be amended to offer CV a seat or voting seat on the Board of Health (BOH). It was suggested to develop a policy about providing interpretation services when community members are invited to share feedback and their first language is not English. Another suggestion was made about providing all the BOH meeting materials online so that members of the community may access them. Maria Militzer provided an update on vaccine clinics in the Latinx community organized in collaboration with the HD and Packard Health. Four clinics were organized in the last 3 weeks with over 100 people vaccinated. CV would like to know about attendance at the other vaccine clinics in the community organized by the HD to assess and compare the effectiveness. Maria asked about the progress that is happening in reaching community members and stakeholders in efforts to obtain input on priorities for communities to invest in public health activities. They would like to know so they could contribute to these activities in any way possible.

Justin Hodge said that the Executive Committee will be looking at the bylaws and reporting back to the BOH on the discussion. He also said there is a plan going forward to have a staff member provide interpretation services, but that a policy would also be explored.

### 8. WCHD FY2022 Budget – Jennifer Brassow

Jennifer Brassow presented the fiscal year 2022 (FY2022) draft budget. Board members received the presentation through email. The presentation consisted of 2021/2022 Gross/Net Budget Pass Through Items, Items of Impact (State appropriation changes and Personnel changes), 2021/2022 By Function Budget View, Revenue adjustments, Expense adjustments, Noteworthy Items, and Next steps.

- Prepare Cover Memo/Resolution for Board of Commissioners (BOC) 8/13/2021
- Ways & Means 9/1/2021
- BOC 9/15/2021

#### Questions and Comments:

The HD stepped in to fill a gap in family planning services when a change was made at the federal level that prevented Planned Parenthood from receiving Title X funding. Planned Parenthood is very interested in going back to being the Title X provider. The HD has not been able to build the systems internally because of COVID-19 and it is a better path to turn family planning services back to the State so that they can partner with Planned Parenthood.

Kathleen Stroud asked about the timeline for Planned Parenthood to receive funding for Title X services. Jimena Loveluck replied a federal rule change could take place by the end of the year making Planned Parenthood eligible to receive the funds.

Carrie Rheingans asked about the process for future budget amendments and do they have to wait for BOH approval. Jennifer replied that typically, only significant programming or staffing changes go to the BOH for approval. Smaller adjustments go directly to the BOC. Justin Hodge said this could be discussed further when discussing changes to the bylaws and a special meeting could be called if changes need immediate approval.



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Justin Hodge asked how the work being done by community health workers (CHW) being added through the Washtenaw Health Plan (WHP) will differ from other CHWs. Jennifer replied that they will be partially paid through a grant and will be working in the Livingston County area.

*Motion by K. Stroud, seconded by M. Williams Boydston, to approve the FY2022 budget.  
Motion approved unanimously with a roll-call vote.*

### 9. Governance in Action for Public Health Training – Review and Discussion

Board members discussed the first 5 modules of the Governance in Action for Public Health Training they completed online. These modules include Public Health: A Primer Parts A and B, Operating As a Board of Health, Financing Public Health, and Contributing to Health Equity.

Comments and questions:

James Carty commented that there is a tremendous lack of knowledge in the public about what the BOH does, especially concerning equity. He was left thinking about what the BOH can do about it. Justin Hodge replied that he feels the BOH can do more to be helpful to the HD and increase community engagement. He would like board members to think about ways they can be more active and involved if the HD has requests.

Gina Dahlem said that funding determines what can be done since health departments are chronically underfunded. She asked what the next steps are in obtaining additional funding and how can board members help to support the HD in obtaining them.

Neel Hajra suggested reconsidering the way BOH meetings are formatted and run. He appreciates all the education provided by HD staff, but doesn't know if that learning has been reinvested in advancing the HD. It would be great to focus more where the BOH can make a difference.

Justin Hodge mentioned the subcommittee formed to look at what a bigger investment in public health would look like and said there could be more of this being done. Subcommittees taking on various projects in between meetings could be one model. Carrie Rheingans said she agrees and thinks the BOH could be doing more. There are resources to help with scheduling and other items that won't take HD staff away from doing public health work in the community. James Carty suggested the BOH Appeals Subcommittee could be a model for the way the BOH could in theory do more and take some pressure off staff.

Morghan Williams Boydston asked if the board should be at an action point or still at a learning point. Until inequities are addressed, the BOH will be fighting an uphill battle. She would also love to have more in depth discussions about the modules rather than just a general discussion. Justin replied that the August meeting will be dedicated to more in-depth discussion about the modules. James suggested identifying specific points for discussion on the agenda so that board members can be better prepared.

### 10. BOC Liaison Report

Katie Scott shared that the Public Health millage is not going forward in November. A letter and resolution were written asking county administration to work with the HD about how to prioritize American Rescue Plan funding. The Washtenaw Rescue Plan survey link was shared with board members.



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## 11. Old Business

- **Update on Title X Family Planning**

The update was covered during the WCHD FY2022 Budget discussion. The HD will not be providing Title X Family Planning services.

## 12. New Business

- **Return to Broader In-Person Services**

Jimena Loveluck provided an update on return to in person services. The HD worked with Community Mental Health (CMH) and the 555 Towner building is now open to the public. All precautions have been put into place that are required through OSHA emergency rules. All clinical areas, 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Towner, require masks regardless of vaccination status. More in-person services like WIC are being provided and non-COVID work is ramping back up. Looking at August to start adding more services for the mobile clinic RV. Jimena is also working with County Administration on a plan for what things will look like in September.

- **Federal Legislation**

Jimena Loveluck sent board members an advocacy opportunity through the American Public Health Association (APHA) for the Public Health Infrastructure Saves Lives Act.

Carrie Rheingans said that the Social Determinants Accelerator Act of 2021 caught her attention. She asked about the process for the BOH to endorse bills. Justin replied that board members can work with staff to create a resolution or create one on their own and it would be added to New Business on the next agenda. Any resolutions passed by the BOH can be sent along to the BOC requesting they pass it as well.

## 13. Adjournment

*Motion by K. Stroud, seconded by G. Dahlem, to adjourn the meeting.*

*Motion approved unanimously.*

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.

Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien