



# Washtenaw County Board of Health

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## Minutes

August 27, 2021, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM  
555 Towner St., Room 2102B, Ypsilanti, MI 48198  
Zoom Meeting

**Present:** Gina Dahlem, Leon Golson, Justin Hodge, Carrie Rheingans, Katie Scott, Kathleen Stroud  
**Absent:** James Carty, Neel Hajra, Elisabeth Vanderpool, Morghan Williams Boydston  
**Staff:** Jimena Loveluck, Juan Marquez, Kristen Schweighoefer, Russell O'Brien  
**Guests:** Maria Militzer, Marta Larson, Charo Ledon, Doug Jones, Linda Lupi, Tom DeKeyser, Katie Lynn Barwig, DotsonC, Holly Heaviland

### 1. Call to Order

Justin Hodge called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

Roll-call check-in.

### 2. Public Comment

None.

### 3. Board Member Response to Public Comment

None.

### 4. Approval of Agenda (Action)

*Motion by C. Rheingans, seconded by K. Stroud, to discuss adding an additional item to the agenda.  
Motion approved unanimously with a roll-call vote.*

*Motion by G. Dahlem, seconded by K. Stroud, to approve the agenda with the addition of COVID-19 School Guidance Discussion.*

*Motion approved unanimously with a roll-call vote.*

### 5. COVID-19 School Guidance Discussion

Carrie Rheingans mentioned an email sent to Board of Health (BOH) members asking about the Health Department (HD) following other counties in the state in issuing a K-12 mask mandate in schools. Almost all schools in Washtenaw County (WC) have mask mandates for students unable to be vaccinated at this time, but there are some schools without mandates. The HD guidance issued earlier in the week stated that a mask mandate would be considered if the level of community transmission reached the level of high according to the CDC transmission map. That high level was reached this week, so Carrie asked if a mask mandate could be issued. Jimena Loveluck replied that WC did move into high transmission on Tuesday according to the CDC COVID-19 tracker, so a public health order is being considered. The HD is currently assessing and reviewing the policies adopted by school districts and they do have the authority to adopt mask requirements. Most schools have adopted K-12 mask requirements. The HD supports and recommends universal masking for K-12 and if an order were issued, it would follow the CDC and MDHHS recommendations.

Kathy Stroud read an email that she sent to Jimena Loveluck and Justin Hodge about a proposed resolution.  
"Washtenaw County Board of Health hereby recommends that students, faculty and visitors to Washtenaw County



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schools be required to wear face coverings for the purpose of reducing the possibility of spreading illness due to COVID-19, variants and other influenzas.” She also mentioned several other counties in Michigan that have ordered a mask mandate. Carrie Rheingans suggested using “viruses” instead of “influenzas” and everyone agreed.

“Washtenaw County Board of Health hereby recommends that students, faculty and visitors to Washtenaw County schools be required to wear face coverings for the purpose of reducing the possibility of spreading illness due to COVID-19, variants and other viruses.”

*Motion by K. Stroud, seconded by C. Rheingans to approve the resolution as stated above.*

*Motion approved unanimously with a roll-call vote.*

### **6. Approval of July 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes (Action)**

*Motion by K. Stroud, seconded by L. Golson, to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2021 meeting.*

*Motion approved unanimously with a roll-call vote.*

### **7. Executive Committee Report from July 8, 2021**

Board members received the Executive Committee minutes.

No discussion about the report.

### **8. Community Voices and Health for All Report**

Charo Ledon, Community Voices, asked what the HD is doing to increase vaccination rates in different communities. They would like to know what plans are in place to have more vaccine clinics in the community. During their last meeting, it was suggested that a more direct link between Community Voices and HD leadership should be created. This would be more beneficial and productive in terms of decision making, planning, and service delivery. Maria Militzer asked about activities the BOH has been carrying out to engage community stakeholders in the American Rescue Plan efforts. She also reported that there have been 12 community-based vaccine clinics in the last 2 months, vaccinating over 260 residents.

Justin Hodge clarified that the responsibility to engage the community on the American Rescue Plan is on the Board of Commissioners (BOC). They have an online/paper survey that has been running for 2 months, every commissioner did at least one town hall, and they are all available via phone and email. Jimena Loveluck responded to vaccination effort questions. A lot of the effort is working with community partners, using census tract data to prioritize areas with lower vaccination rates, using the mobile RV, and using community health workers (CHW) and vaccine ambassadors to do outreach and promotion. Work requirements and full FDA approval of the Pfizer vaccine have also led to people coming to the HD to get vaccinated. Starting the Tuesday after Labor Day, an additional evening clinic will be added from 5-7pm every Tuesday. Assistance from the State can also be requested to support vaccination efforts. The vendors are registered as vaccine providers so they can do everything themselves without someone from the HD having to be there to provide clinical oversight. There are many more vaccine providers now, so the HD won't necessarily have to respond to the huge demand like at the beginning of the year. There are private medical practices, community health centers, and more pharmacies administering COVID-19 vaccines so the HD can continue to focus on equity strategies.

There was discussion about BOH bylaw changes to add a Community Voices member as a voting member. Carrie Rheingans suggested the Community Voices group could propose language changes to the bylaws. Charo Ledon said she will ask at the next meeting if they want to come up with some language and she is glad that the BOH is thinking



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about it. Justin Hodge said it is the intention to resolve all bylaw changes by the end of the year and the discussion will start at the September meeting. Jimena added that any community member can apply to vacancies on the BOH.

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

Board members discussed the Governance in Action for Public Health training they recently completed. The discussion included the remaining modules: Partnerships to Improve Health Outcomes, Supporting Population Health through Policy and Advocacy, and Emergency Preparedness and Response.

Comments and questions:

Carrie Rheingans commented that it is very important to have continued conversations about 2 of the topics, Partnerships to Improve Health Outcomes and Supporting Population Health through Policy and Advocacy.

Leon Golson remarked that as a board they need to try and continue to establish partnerships within the community, particularly with individuals or groups that may not be typical.

Gina Dahlem said there were a lot of questions and further discussion by all board members at a retreat would be helpful. There are many different steps, priorities, and issues that the board wants to tackle. She would like to have an action meeting and strategize on priorities.

Carrie Rheingans discussed the role of the BOH in going out into the community to form partnerships. She suggested hosting community engagement meetings out in different areas of the county and forming a Community Outreach Subcommittee. There is a limit to how much policy the BOH can do, but board members can undertake advocacy. She mentioned establishing a process to look at state level bills and local ordinances to decide if the BOH wants to take a position publicly.

Justin Hodge commented that the BOH does need to take time thinking about what it looks like to engage in policy advocacy, would love to take a closer look at what the State is doing and make statements or take action related to that. He said the BOH needs to have the retreat that was originally planned where the training is the only thing on the agenda.

Katie Scott mentioned community changes and how that is reflected on the BOH's makeup. She suggested a trigger in the bylaws to look at the changes and if they are reflected in the BOH's makeup. Katie also said that there could be some unintended negative impacts of advocacy so that is something to think about as well.

### 10. BOC Liaison Report

Katie Scott shared that the meetings for the American Rescue Plan are ongoing and the first major vote on some of the funding will be at the first meeting in September. The packet will be available some time today for public viewing.

Carrie Rheingans asked when the redistricting of county commissioners is happening. Katie directed Carrie to Larry Kestenbaum for questions related to redistricting.



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## 11. Old Business

- **Title X Family Planning**

Jimena Loveluck shared that the HD would not continue its plan to implement Title X services, but they have been working with Planned Parenthood and the State about collaborative efforts to ensure accessibility to these services. Two different options were discussed, offering some level of family planning services through the mobile RV unit, and offering services at the HD clinic.

- **WCHD FY22 Budget at BOC**

Reminder that the HD will be going to the first BOC meeting in September to ask for approval of the FY2022 budget.

## 12. New Business

- **COVID-19 Vaccine Additional/Booster Doses Planning**

Jimena Loveluck talked about what the HD is doing to prepare for booster doses. Additional doses have already started for immunocompromised individuals. Part of the messaging is that people should consult their primary care provider to decide about vaccination and additional doses. The immunization committee from the CDC will be meeting early next week and more information on the guidance for boosters will be available. It is anticipated that the recommendation will be booster doses after 8 months from the second dose.

- **Michigan Association of Local Public Health (MALPH)**

Jimena Loveluck shared that she was nominated to be the president-elect of MALPH. The vote will take place at their September meeting. The term would be President Elect for 1 year, President for 1 year, and Past President for 1 year.

## 13. Adjournment

*Motion by C. Rheingans, seconded by G. Dahlem, to adjourn the meeting.*

*Motion approved unanimously.*

Meeting adjourned at 10:34 AM.

Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien