

**Hamilton County General Health District
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH
August 10, 2026 – 4 p.m.
Minutes**

**Board of Health Agenda – Regular Meeting
1701 Patricia McCollum Way; Cincinnati, Ohio 45237**

August 10, 2026

1. Call to Order

At 4 p.m., Dan Meloy called to order the regular session of the Board of Health of Hamilton County General Health District followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll call of Members

Members Present:

- Dan Meloy - President
- Max Miller
- Mark Rosenberger

District Staff Present:

- Greg Kesterman, Health Commissioner
- Jackie Lindner, Assistant Health Commissioner
- Craig Davidson, Assistant Health Commissioner
- Nee Fong Chin, Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
- Stephen Feagins, M.D. Medical Director
- Greg Varner, Financial Officer
- Allison Babka, Public Information Officer

Guests Present:

- Howard Detmen, Village of Elmwood Place

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Clean Kitchen Awards

Assistant Health Commissioner Craig Davidson read the list of Clean Kitchen Award

recipients and congratulated them for their efforts to maintain a high level of sanitation and staff education.

5. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Rosenberger moved to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2026, Board of Health meeting.

Mr. Miller seconded the motion.

- Roll Call Vote – All Aye

6. Public Comment (2 minutes per participant) - None

7. Reports

a. Health Commissioner's Report

Health commissioner Greg Kesterman began his report by giving an overview of the U.S. Department of State's international delegation event that was hosted last week in Hamilton County. He stated that it was a great event and many members were impressed with the work Hamilton County is doing with their response to addiction.

Mr. Kesterman gave an overview of the strategic planning meeting. One of the items that was highlighted in this meeting was concern for revenue loss on birth and death certificates. Mr. Kesterman said he has reviewed these numbers with the team and stated the certificates continue to show high sales in both areas even with the move to the new location. The biggest driver in this is the level of customer service that the team provides their clients.

Mr. Miller asked how many of the certificates are done online compared to in-person?

Mr. Kesterman stated most birth certificates are online while most death certificates are purchased in person.

Mr. Kesterman reviewed usage graphs for the Overdose Prevention vending machine usage with the team, sharing that the machines were used 304 times in Q1 and 460 times in Q2 in 2026. He noted that the vending machines do not vend syringes.

Mr. Kesterman gave an overview of the lead hazard reduction program. He stated that the grant is used to remediate houses that contain lead and that seven homes were remediated last quarter. Mr. Kesterman said that he believes the new grant can fund the remediation of roughly 94 homes. He stated that there is a house they are currently remediating that was quoted at \$240,000 in repairs. If the funds are used, homeowners can apply for more funding,

Mr. Miller asked if the \$240,000 was the lowest price of the 3 bids they received on this single house?

Mr. Kesterman confirmed that this was the lowest bid. He further answered that there is a bid committee and they review bids to determine which contractor to go with, looking at price and quality of the contractor.

b. Medical Director's Report

Dr. Feagins began his report by providing an update on the cyclosporiasis outbreak. He stated that genomic sequencing will be used to traceback outbreaks of cyclosporiasis to possible sources and links to Hamilton County. Ohio has reported 1,244 laboratory confirmed cases so far with Hamilton County reporting 23 cases, he said. The U.S. imports a majority of lettuce during the months of May and June, and this is believed to be the source of the outbreak.

Dr. Feagins gave an overview on mosquito activity due to the heavy rains. He reported that the CDC has already announced an unusual early surge in West Nile virus activity. Dr. Feagins reported that Ohio Vector-borne disease surveillance shows that West Nile virus has been detected in mosquito pools across 10 Ohio counties (Hamilton County is not one of these). He said it is important to note that no human cases have been reported this season.

Dr. Feagins reported on kindergarten vaccination numbers for back-to-school season. He provided a list of vaccines that are required for school attendance in Ohio.

Dr. Feagins provided an update on measles outbreaks, saying that Ohio had three measles outbreaks so far in 2026. These took place in Ashtabula and Tuscarawas counties in July (four cases), Franklin County in February (seven cases), and Cuyahoga County in January (three cases).

Dr. Feagins reported there is a shortage of Bicillin, which is used for syphilis treatment. The shortage is expected to extend to the end of 2027. Dr. Feagins said there are about 100 doses available at the HCPH clinic, and staff are prioritizing pregnant females for these doses. Dr. Feagins reported that there were 183 new syphilis diagnoses in Hamilton County in Q1 and Q2 2026. Between 2024 and 2025 there was a 20% decrease in new cases.

Dr. Feagins gave an overview of common ticks that are found in Ohio and highlighted the lone star tick bite, explaining that it can cause humans to become allergic to red meat (Alpha-gal syndrome). This can cause severe abdominal pain and hives within 3-5 hours of consuming red meat, he said.

c. Department of Community Health Services

Assistant health commissioner Jackie Lindner shared employee accolades to start her report. She highlighted several projects being done by the staff and recognized them for their efforts.

Ms. Lindner reported that staff members participated in multiple community events throughout the summer months, including community clean-up events and Cincinnati Black Men's Wellness Day.

Ms. Lindner highlighted the past year's success in the maternal infant vitality initiative (MIVI), which experienced a significant increase in participants. This was made possible through HCPH's partnership with Cradle Cincinnati, she said.

Ms. Lindner wanted to revisit a previous question by the board on the reporting of HIV and syphilis data. She stated that this information is published quarterly on HCPH's website and she will share this information with the Board of Health each quarter. Additionally, the recommendation of the Board to include rate data is being incorporated in these reports.

d. Department of Environmental Health Services

Assistant health commissioner Craig Davidson opened his report by providing an overview of unpaid sewage treatment fees. He stated that there are 696 parcels that are being submitted with delinquent invoices, totaling just under \$200,000. He stated that payments are still coming in, so this number should come down some by the end of

the month when staff submit to the auditor's office. Mr. Miller asked what the cost to collect these fees was.

Mr. Davidson responded that there is a 25% late fee and a \$125 processing fee for late payment. He said that this covers the cost that they incur to collect payments.

Mr. Meloy asked if this number is going up each year.

Mr. Davidson stated that last year there were close to 600 properties that paid late.

Mr. Davidson gave an overview of the food service operation and retail food establishment fees. He stated that they are recommending a 2-3% increase in fees for most license categories. Mr. Davidson said that if the board approves the public hearing day and time, the information will be sent to the public via mail and newspaper.

Mr. Davidson gave a report on July's sewage discharge in Anderson Township, saying that everything is moving in the right direction and improvements are being made by the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD).

8. Finances

The July 2026 disbursement reports are included in the board packet.

Mr. Miller moved to approve the May monthly disbursements.

Mr. Rosenberger seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

9. New Business

a. Resolution A: Certification of Delinquent Sewage Fees

Mr. Rosenberger moved to adopt Resolution A: Certification of Delinquent Sewage Fees.

Mr. Miller seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

b. Food Service Operation and Retail Food Establishment Fees Public Hearing

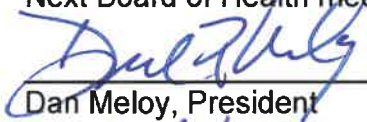
Mr. Miller made a motion to schedule a public hearing for the proposed food service operation and retail food establishment program fee adjustments at 3:45p.m. on September 14, 2026, at Hamilton County Public Health offices located at 1701 Patricia McCollum Way, Cincinnati, OH.

Mr. Rosenberger seconded the motion.
Roll Call Vote – All Aye

10. Adjournment

Mr. Rosenberger moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:42 p.m.
Mr. Miller seconded the motion
Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Next Board of Health meeting: September 14, 2026 at 4 p.m.



Dan Meloy, President

Greg Kesterman, Secretary
Health Commissioner. Adjournment