

LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Board of Health Meeting Minutes for August 28, 2025

Board Members Present

Chair, Chanan Brown <i>Representing a resident living in the City of Helena</i>	Vice Chair, Mike McGuire <i>Representing a consumer of health services</i>	Melinda Reed <i>Representing the City Commission</i>	Tom Rolfe <i>Representing the County Commission</i>	Sherri Ohs-Mosley <i>Representing a resident living in the county</i> BoH representative to the WQPD board
Lisa Kaufman, Hearings Officer <i>Representing science, environmental health expertise</i>	Dr. Anastasia Nast <i>Representing practicing physician</i>	Mayor Kelly Harris <i>Representing East Helena City Council</i>		

Staff Present

Drenda Niemann	Fred Sargeson	Steve Thennis	Heather Parmer	Mary Sparks
Sandy Whittington				

Guests

Members Absent

Rex Weltz <i>Representing Helena Public Schools Superintendent</i>				
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Category	Agenda Item
Call to order	Chair, Chanan Brown called the meeting to order at 1:0 p.m., and a quorum was established.
Review of Agenda	Agenda item #7 -communications update, was removed from the agenda due to an illness
Minutes	Agenda 2- The Board approved the minutes from the June 26, 2025 meeting.
Introductions	Agenda 3- Chanan led the introductions, with board members Mike McGuire sharing his background and Dr. Ana Nast highlighting her current work in Helena.

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	Director Drenda Niemann then introduced new employees Steve Thennis, Lead Education Sanitarian, and Fred Sargeson, LCPH Operations Manager. Drenda continued by announcing that Heather Parmer was selected as Employee of the Quarter. She shared how valuable Heather is to the team in her role as Finance Coordinator. Sandy Whittington added that she nominated Heather because of her level-headedness, easygoing nature, and supportive attitude.
Action Item- Board Officer Position Vote	Agenda 4- The Chair announced two open board officer positions: Vice Chair and a representative for the Water Quality Protection District (WQPD). He noted prior conversations with Mike McGuire regarding the Vice Chair role and with Sherri Oh-Mosley regarding the WQPD position. Chanan opened the floor for nominations. Commissioner Rolfe nominated Mike McGuire for Vice Chair, with a second from Mayor Kelly Harris. Senator Dunwell offered well wishes from the public side. The vote was unanimous in favor of McGuire. The Chair then opened nominations for the WQPD representative. Commissioner Rolfe nominated Sherri Oh-Mosley, seconded by Mayor Kelly Harris. Sheri shared her background and experience related to water quality. The vote was unanimous in her favor.
Alignment with LCPH Strategic Initiatives- <i>Health across the lifespan</i>	Agenda 5 – Home Visting update was kicked off by Mark Sparks, Child and Family Health Supervisor. Mary presented a slideshow highlighting Grow Together, one of four programs offered through LCPH Home Visiting. The discussion focused on the loss of funding for the Universal Home Visiting program, which is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2025, unless new funding is secured. Mary noted that many organizations are competing for the same limited resources, and the outlook for continued funding is uncertain. Commissioner Rolfe asked how much funding would be needed to sustain the program for another year. Drenda Niemann responded that approximately \$100,000 would be required. Considering the immanent shutdown, it was decided that remaining grant funds would be best used to support the community by hosting a baby shower for expectant mothers in November. Mary and her team have been actively securing sponsors and donations to make the event meaningful. She also expressed hope that the event will raise awareness about the value of the Universal Home Visiting program and potentially attract a financial lifeline. The board closed the conversation with cheers of the amazing program and the people involved with Home Visiting.
Alignment with LCPH Strategic Initiatives- <i>Public health infrastructure</i>	Agenda 6- Drenda provided an overview of the FY25 year-end financials. She reported total revenue of \$2.6 million, which fell short of the projected \$2.9 million. Operational expenses totaled \$1.4 million, exceeding the \$1.3 million budget by 10%. The fiscal year ended with a \$1.83 million cash balance, equating to a 145-day reserve. This reserve is expected to help buffer potential federal funding cuts in future years. The board jumped into discussions around the uncertainty of federal funding. Almost 40% of LCPH programs are federally funded, reductions could have significant impacts. Drenda noted the Cancer Control Program has already been reduced to a half-time position, raising

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	concerns about the department's ability to serve uninsured and underinsured individuals, especially if projected Medicaid cuts occur at both the federal and state levels.
Alignment with LCPH Strategic Initiatives- <i>Public health infrastructure</i>	Agenda 7- Communications update was postponed.
Board Training	Agenda 8 – Drenda presented an online board training highlighting the Determinants of Health as part of the continuing education needed for the board. The board shared discussions regarding its role in prioritizing these determinants for the community.
Announcements	Drenda announced the 2025 CHIP has been finalized and posted to the website for review, as well as she encouraged the board to engage in coalitions who are implementing the work outlined in the CHIP. Chanan shared thoughts with the board on better ways for the board to communicate instead of emails. He asked for feedback on how everyone prefers to communicate. It was almost unanimous not to create a TEAMS channel. Drenda shared that some at LCPH are experimenting with Monday.com as an option. Sandy Whittington shared a few noteworthy features of Monday.com. It was agreed that a demonstration for the board would be on the September agenda.
Public Comment	State Senator Mary Ann Dunwell provided public comment earlier in the meeting where she acknowledged Heather Parmer's valuable commitment, offered well wishes to the new board members, and commented on the importance of WQPD's work. The Senator also asked the board to consider writing a letter to the appropriate congressional delegates regarding the budget shortfalls and necessity of certain programs.
Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 pm.

Chanan Brown, Chairperson

Drenda Niemann, Secretary