

# LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

## Board of Health Meeting Minutes for June 27, 2025

<u>Board Members Present</u>				
Chair, Brie MacLaurin <i>Representing a consumer of health services</i>	Chanan Brown <i>Representing a resident living in the City of Helena</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>
Lisa Kaufman, Hearings Officer <i>Representing science, environmental health expertise</i>				
<u>Staff Present</u>				
Drenda Niemann	Fred Sargeson	Melissa Baker	Carin McClain	Julie Bir
Amber Johnson	Sandy Whittington			
<u>Guests</u>				
<u>Members Absent</u>				
Rex Weltz <i>Representing Helena Public Schools Superintendent</i>	Mayor Kelly Harris <i>Representing East Helena City Council</i>			

Category	Agenda Item
Call to order	Chair, Brie MacLaurin called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m., and a quorum was established.
Review of Agenda	Agenda 1- No changes were made to the agenda
Minutes	Agenda 2- The Board approved the minutes from the May 22, 2025 meeting.
Action Item- Board Officer Position Vote	Agenda 3- Chair Brie MacLaurin announced that her term as Chair, along with the Vice Chair position currently held by Dr. Bedell, has come to an end. Brie nominated Chanan Brown to serve as the new Chair. There were no other nominations and so a vote was called and passed unanimously.

Category	Agenda Item
	<p>Brie opened the floor for nominations for the Vice Chair position. As no motions were made, the board agreed to postpone the vote until after the new member appointments are finalized in the coming week. It was noted that seven applications are currently under review.</p> <p>The Chair continued the nominations by recommending that Lisa Kaufman remain in her role as the board's Hearings Officer. Sherri Ohs-Mosley seconded the motion, and the vote passed unanimously.</p> <p>The board then moved on to discuss the appointment of a representative to the Water Quality Protection District (WQPD) Board from among the Board of Health members. A discussion followed regarding the role and the responsibilities involved.</p> <p>Sherri Ohs-Mosley expressed interest and stated she would reach out to the WQPD supervisor Jennifer McBroom for more information. Melinda Reed offered to consider the position if nobody else is available.</p>
<p>Alignment with LCPH Strategic Initiatives-</p> <p><b><i>Health across the lifespan</i></b></p>	<p>Agenda 4 – Julie Bir, Prevention and Behavioral Health Program Supervisor, introduced Melissa Baker, Breast and Cervical Health Program Coordinator. Melissa Baker presented on the breast and cervical cancer screening program which provides free screenings for uninsured or underinsured women. The program also assists women who have been diagnosed through the screening program to register for a special Medicaid program and assistance with scheduling appointments.</p> <p>The Prevention team continued updating with Carin McClain, Tobacco Prevention Specialist, providing an overview of the Tobacco and Cessation program. Carin highlighted the growing middle school vape epidemic and her program to collect and recycle vapes from schools which provides her opportunities to connect with school principals and staff. The group discussed the challenges of enforcing the age restriction for purchasing vapes and overcoming the stigma that vaping is cool and not harmful. Carin wrapped up her presentation noting her work with the Montana Clean Indoor Air Act violations.</p>



Category	Agenda Item
Alignment with LCPH Strategic Initiatives- <b>Public health infrastructure</b>	<p>Agenda 5 - Drenda began the review of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Community (21 C) survey results with a brief look at the results for Montana's public health departments, with Lewis and Clark County scoring above average in 9 of 12 categories compared to similar-sized jurisdictions and the state as a whole. The assessment evaluated foundational public health services and capabilities across the state. While LCPH showed strengths in areas like maternal child health and chronic disease prevention, opportunities for growth were identified in emergency preparedness and community partnership development.</p> <p>Agenda 6- Drenda provided a brief update on PHAB annual report that was recently submitted. It was noted that LCPH has room for improvement on collaborating with community partners and evaluating strategies to improve access to healthcare. LCPH will be working closely with St. Peter's Health and Many Rivers Whole Health to evaluate access to the Mobile Crisis Response Team and the crisis stabilization facility. Drenda noted she submitted the LCPH Community Health Assessment, which was completed last December, as documentation of meeting domain requirements. Additional details can be found in the meeting packet.</p>
Board Training	Agenda 7 – Oversight was especially fitting for this meeting, as Drenda emphasized that part of the board's oversight role includes evaluating and providing feedback on her leadership of the health department.
Announcements	Drenda provided an update on a recent exposure incident in Helena involving a contagious out-of-town visitor who frequented multiple businesses on June 15. She commended the team for activating public health protocols within an hour of receiving the notification from the state health department. The board reviewed the response efforts, including public communication strategies and vaccination protocols.
Public Comment	No public comment was received, and the board voted unanimously to close the session and begin Drenda's annual performance appraisal.
Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 pm.

  
Chanan Brown, Chairperson

  
Drenda Niemann, Secretary

