

# LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

## Board of Health Meeting Minutes for September 25, 2025

### Board Members Present

Chanan Brown, Chair <i>Representing a resident living in the City of Helena</i>	Mike McGuire, Vice Chair <i>Representing a consumer of public health services</i>	Dr. Anastasia Nast <i>Representing practicing physician</i>	Tom Rolfe <i>Representing the County Commission</i>	Sherri Ohs-Mosley <i>Representing a resident living in the county</i>
Mayor Kelly Harris <i>Representing East Helena City Council</i>				

### Staff Present

Drenda Niemann	Fred Sargeson	Mary Sparks	Julie Bir	Carin McClain
Amber Johnson	Beth Norberg	Jay Plant	Adam Maes	

### Guests

Nico Hash
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### Members Absent

Rex Weltz <i>Representing Helena Public Schools Superintendent</i>	Lisa Kaufman, Hearings Officer <i>Representing science and environmental health expertise</i>	Melinda Reed <i>Representing the Helena City Commission</i>		
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Category	Agenda Item
Call to order	The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
Review of Agenda	No revisions were made
Minutes	The minutes were reviewed and approved with no changes
Governance Functions – Board Training	#3- Director Drenda Niemann and Environmental Health Program Supervisor, Beth Norberg, provided a detailed presentation that began with the overview of variance procedures and board authority under Montana Code Title 50. The presentation provided education on common reasons why a variance has been requested, explained the responsibilities of the applicants, Lewis and Clark Public Health sanitarians, and the Board of Health.

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	<p>Beth Norberg dove deeper into the board training by explaining the process of the variance hearing, whether in front of the entire board or the hearings officer and the necessary criteria needed to grant a variance.</p> <p>In closing, Beth provided an overview of the trends from the variances heard by the board over this past year and updated the board on the LCPH septic inventory project that is underway. The project will help develop a real picture of septic systems around the county.</p>
Action Item	<p><b>#4-</b> Jay Plant, Sanitarian with Lewis and Clark Public Health, provided an overview of the variance request submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Wetzel. This request had previously been reviewed by Hearings Officer, Lisa Kaufman, on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Plant summarized the variance details, including the findings of fact and Ms. Kaufmann's recommendation for approval.</p> <p>Board members engaged in a thoughtful discussion regarding the 11 criteria, the evidence these criteria have been met, and considered the potential impact on neighboring properties should the variance be granted.</p> <p>Chairman Chanan Brown called for a motion. Commissioner Rolfe moved to ratify the variance request recommendation to approve, and the motion was seconded by Mayor Kelly Harris. The vote was unanimous in favor of approving the variance.</p> <p><b>#5-</b> The Chair reminded the board of last month's discussion regarding the potential drafting of a resolution to urge congressional representatives to continue federal funding for various public health programs.</p> <p>Drenda Niemann presented a draft resolution for the board's consideration. After review, the board agreed to incorporate minor edits suggested by Dr. Nast.</p> <p>The Chair called for a motion to adopt the resolution. Mayor Kelly Harris moved to approve the resolution, and the motion was seconded by Vice Chair, Mike McGuire. The board voted unanimously in favor of adoption.</p>
Alignment with LCPH Strategic Initiatives- <i><b>Improve health across the lifespan</b></i>	<p><b>#6-</b> Mary Sparks, Child &amp; Family Health Supervisor, provided the board with an update on the WIC program. She introduced staff members and highlighted key accomplishments from her team.</p> <p>Mary also informed the board of challenges related to the new digital WIC Shopper app but expressed optimism that improvements would be in place by the next farmers market season.</p> <p><b>#7-</b> Carin McClain, Tobacco Prevention Specialist, joined the meeting to provide updates on the Healthy Communities Coalition. She also brought attention to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Clean Indoor Air Act and expressed how vital this act has been to improving the health of our community.</p>
Alignment with LCPH Strategic Initiatives- infrastructure	<p><b>#8-</b> As a follow-up to the September meeting, where the Chair suggested exploring alternative communication platforms, Sandy Whittington and Fred Sargeson provided a demonstration of Monday.com.</p>

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	<p>The board expressed interest in the platform and informally agreed it could serve as a useful space for hosting board education materials and community event calendars.</p> <p>Nico Hash, County Attorney, advised the board to exercise caution regarding the type of content discussed and shared on the platform to avoid mistakenly creating a forum and violating open meeting laws.</p>
Announcements	<p>At last month's meeting, Vice Chair Mike McGuire inquired about the number of individuals screened for cancer through the LCPH Breast &amp; Cervical program. Drenda Niemann reported today that 62 individuals had been screened in the last year. She noted that this number reflects a decrease compared to previous years.</p> <p>Dr. Nast asked whether the reduction in screenings was related to decreased funding. Ms. Niemann explained that while reduced funding is a contributing factor, other elements, such as increased screening options available to individuals, also play a role.</p> <p>The board continued discussing funding challenges and federal reductions. Commissioner Tom Rolfe remarked that while federal funding is declining, states have resources available and will need to develop new strategies to support vital public health programs.</p> <p>Lewis and Clark Public Health Operations Manager, Fred Sargeson noted that Top Gun Autobody has acknowledged LCPH Suicide Prevention team as Helena Heros.</p>
Public Comment	No public comment on items not listed on the agenda.
Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 3:08pm