

LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Board of Health Meeting Minutes for February 26, 2026

Board Members Present

Chanan Brown, Chair <i>Representing a resident living in Helena</i>	Mike McGuire, Vice Chair <i>Representing a consumer of 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>
Ben Rigby <i>Representing the City Commission</i>	Lisa Kaufman, Hearings Officer <i>Representing science, environmental health expertise</i>			

Staff Present

Drenda Niemann	Fred Sargeson	Nina Heinzinger	Beth Norberg	Sarah Sandau
Sandy Whittington	Shelly Maag			

Guests

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Members Absent

Rex Weltz <i>Representing Helena Public Schools Superintendent</i>	Mayor Kelly Harris <i>Representing East Helena City Council</i>			
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Category	Agenda Item
Call to order	The Chair called the meeting to order
Review of Agenda	Agenda was accepted with no changes
Minutes	The January 22, 2026 minutes were adopted as written.
Action Items	<p>#3- The Chair turned the floor over to Lisa Kaufman, the Board’s Hearings Officer, to present the findings for the variance hearing relating to 7160 Trout Creek requested by the property owner, Mr. Allen. The Hearings Officer recommended approval of the variance request with five conditions. The Board voted unanimously to uphold the recommendation.</p> <p>#4- The Hearings Officer then presented findings from the variance hearing for 2449 West Shore Drive requested by the property owner, Mr. Gillette. The findings led to Board discussion regarding the stalled Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) land septic system process</p>

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	<p>for the surrounding area, as well as the legal implications of the variance should the property transfer ownership.</p> <p>Beth Norberg, Environmental Health Supervisor, was present to provide additional details about the variance. The recommendation for approval was amended to add a third condition requiring the variance to be added to the deed. The vote was unanimous.</p> <p>#5- Director Drenda Niemann presented a review of the Media Policy for the Board of Health, which is designed to ensure the Board speaks in a unified voice. The Board voted unanimously to affirm the existing policy.</p> <p>#6- Drenda Niemann also presented a new Advocacy Policy, which provides guidance on appropriate advocacy activities. It was noted that Nicho Hash, Deputy County Attorney, had reviewed the policy language to ensure there were no conflicts with county policy or laws. After discussion, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the policy.</p>
<p>Alignment with LCPH Strategic Initiatives- <i>safe and healthy environment</i></p>	<p>#7- Sarah Sandau, Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Coordinator, presented an overview of (PHEP) frameworks, highlighting partnerships, administrative preparedness, and workforce capacity. She explained the differences between public health emergency preparedness and disaster emergency services teams, and outlined annual deliverables including outreach, plans, training, and exercises.</p>
<p>Action Items Cont'd</p>	<p>#8- Sarah Sandau presented the Communicable Disease Response Plan, describing its purpose, scope, and who it serves. She noted the plan is updated annually to meet PHEP deliverable requirements. The Board voted unanimously to adopt the plan.</p> <p>#9- Sarah Sandau also presented the Specimen Transport Plan, providing an overview of its purpose and the populations it serves. The Board voted unanimously to adopt the plan.</p>
<p>Alignment with LCPH Strategic Initiatives- <i>health across the lifespan</i></p>	<p>#10- The 2025 Communicable Disease Report was presented by Shelly Maag (Public Health Nurse Supervisor), Nina Heinzinger (Licensed Establishment Supervisor), and Val Stacey (Epidemiologist).</p> <p>Val provided a robust, interactive overview of the LCPH Communicable Disease Dashboard found on the public facing website, including trends and statistics for 2025. The Board engaged in an in-depth discussion regarding the dashboard, collected data, and current disease levels.</p> <p>Shelly led the discussion on Pertussis case data, the importance of vaccination, and the challenges associated with diagnosing and investigating cases.</p> <p>Nina reviewed increasing rabies cases and ongoing outreach with local providers.</p>
<p>Announcements</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>No public present to comment</p>
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 2:59</p>