

**Weber-Morgan Board of Health
Minutes of Meeting
September 22, 2025**

The Weber-Morgan Board of Health held its regular meeting on September 22, 2025, in the Health Department Annex at 455 23rd Street. The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m. with Angela Choberka presiding.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Angela Choberka	Ken Johnson	Bonnie Wahlen - Virtual
Cheryle Allen	Neal Berube	
Sharon Bolos	Vaughn Nickerson	

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Frank Brown	Lee Schussman
Gina Butters	Ali Martinez
Kevin Eastman	Tiffany Bears

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian Cowan	Michela Harris	Bryce Sherwood
Scott Braeden	Ryan Klinge	Sean Hansen
Amy Carter	Lekelsi Talbot	Sherrie Waters
Adriana Pruitt	Jarelyn Cox	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lauren Thomas
Jerika Mays

Welcome and Introductions – Angela Choberka

Angela Choberka calls the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. and welcomes those in attendance.

Approval of Board of Health Minutes of August 25, 2025.

Motion Passes

A **MOTION** is made by Bonnie Wahlen and **SECONDED** by Sharon Bolos to approve the minutes as written. The **MOTION** passes unanimously.

Emission Regulation

Motion Passes

Sherrie Waters discusses the public notice and comment period for the new Emission Regulation. Informs the board that the official hearing was held on September 10th, 2025, and had no attendees, but received one positive email comment. The last official day to comment was September 19, 2025. A **MOTION** is made by **Sharon Bolos** and **SECONDED** by **Cheryle Allen** to adopt the new Emissions Regulation. The **MOTION** passes unanimously.

Seager Clinic Funding Request

Motion Passes

Brian Cowan introduces a proposed partnership with the Seager Memorial Clinic. The request involves the Health Department providing \$10,000 annually for three years to

support mental health services at the clinic. Brian emphasizes the role Seager Memorial Clinic plays in serving the underserved population, particularly in areas where the Health Department lacks direct services—like dental care. Rather than compete, the department aims to support community partners like Seager. Brian states the partnership aligns with the department's Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan, both of which identify mental health and access to services as significant needs in the community. Brian introduced **Jerika Mays**, Executive Director of the Seager Memorial Clinic, thanked the board, and provided an overview of the clinic's work in offering free medical, dental, vision, mental health, and pharmacy services to uninsured or underinsured individuals, with the assistance of physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, and pre-med students, totaling over 80 volunteers. Jerika informs the board of a growing need for mental health counseling, and Seager Memorial Clinic is requesting a three-year partnership with the Weber-Morgan Health Department to help expand access to free mental health counseling services for uninsured individuals. The proposal asks the Health Department to become one of ten "pillar donors" by committing \$10,000 per year for three years (a total of \$30,000). This funding would support a coalition led by Seager Memorial Clinic in partnership with Weber Human Services and Family Counseling Service of Northern Utah, with support from the Ogden School District and the Health Department. The counseling services would be offered to two target groups: uninsured adults and youth in transition. Youth in transition was clarified to mean individuals aged 15–26 undergoing developmental changes as they move toward independence and shifting from child to adult healthcare systems. Services would be delivered at Seager's new clinic and/or at partner sites. The total program goal is \$100,000 per year from multiple supporting agencies, with each mental health counseling partner receiving \$50,000 annually for services. These funds would cover patient sessions until the cap is reached. All services, including counseling, are offered at no cost to patients. Board members raised questions about the cost difference between providers. Weber Human Services charges \$175 per session, while Family Counseling charges \$120, and suggested exploring more cost-similar providers. There were also questions about whether the program duplicates services already covered by Medicaid or CHIP. Jerika clarified that it targets those who are uninsured and face barriers to accessing care. The program includes annual reporting on patient outcomes and donor impact and is designed as a pilot with long-term sustainability in mind. Bonnie Wahlen questioned whether a budget arrangement had been made. Brian Cowan informed the board that the first year of funding would come from the existing health fund balance, not new tax dollars, and that additional years would be covered through grants, salary savings, or interest earnings, and the Weber-Morgan Fund balance. Morgan County would not be asked for additional funding, as contributions are already determined through an interlocal agreement. A motion was made to approve the funding contingent upon rate alignment between providers or finding a lower-cost alternative. There was also a call to delay the decision by one month to allow for further review of materials, given the limited time board members had to read them. Jerika emphasized the sustainability of the program through a coalition funding model, with several other private and nonprofit funders already committed or being solicited. Some members voiced concern about setting a precedent for future funding requests, while others supported moving forward, noting the program's alignment with public health goals and the relatively low cost compared to the broader health department budget. A **MOTION** is made by **Neal Berube** and **SECONDED** by **Sharon Bolos** with the contingency on rate parity or alternative provider selection. Roll Call vote was taken and all were in favor with the exception of **Cheryle Allen** with a nay. The **MOTION** passes.

Accreditation

Motion Passes

Sean Hansen provided an update on the health department's accreditation process following feedback from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The Board is now being asked to decide whether to pursue full accreditation, the Pathways option, or neither. Sean explains that Accreditation demonstrates that the department meets national public health standards. He states the benefits include improved performance management, stronger community engagement, better emergency response capacity, and greater accountability. He continues to inform the board that if approved, Accreditation is an annual process with an \$8,400 yearly fee and a first-time registration fee of \$21,000. The department has already completed 96% of the required documentation and may receive a \$500 discount if a decision is made before February 2026. He explains that Pathways is another option and a one-time program (no ongoing requirements) with two tracks. The department has 97% of documentation completed for Track 1 and 100% for Track 2. He states that Choosing Pathways could result in a \$1,200 discount on accreditation fees for the first two years if pursued later. Sean Hansen informs the board that the department has completed the required readiness assessment as proposed by last year's board. Sean mentions that several Utah health departments are already accredited, and Summit County is in progress. Sean states the goal is to ensure the board has all the necessary information before making a decision.

Brian Cowan presented the request to include funding for national public health accreditation in the 2026 budget. He noted that while the department has long followed accreditation standards, it has not officially pursued the credential. Accreditation would provide a formal structure, help communicate trust and professionalism to the community, and support consistent improvement, which is particularly significant given the significant staff turnover that has occurred post-COVID. Brian informs the board that the funds for the initial cost are available through the Public Health Infrastructure Grant, which expires in 2027. Board members discussed financial concerns, long-term value, potential benefits in recruitment and credibility, and the possibility of delayed or conditional support, but agreed that the process itself provides measurable value to the department and the community. A **MOTION** is made by **Bonnie Wahlen** and **SECONDED** by **Ken Johnson** to proceed with full accreditation. The **MOTION** passes unanimously.

Approval of 2025/2026 Budget

Motion Passes

Adriana Pruitt, the lead accountant, presented the proposed 2026 budget and an update on the projected 2025 year-end financials. She explained that the department expects to use \$125,000 from the fund balance in 2025, a decrease from earlier estimates due to salary savings. For 2026, the requested budget would use \$310,000 from the fund balance, plus an additional \$82,000 in additional requests—such as capital improvements, staff advancement, and requested opioid settlement funds—bringing the potential total to \$392,000. She also estimated a 4% increase for cost-of-living adjustments and performance pay, which could raise the budget need to approximately \$650,000, with about 10% of total salary increases offset by grants. The current fund balance of \$7.4 million is about 46% of annual revenue—above the recommended 25–35% range. Brian shared that 2025 marked the first year of implementing a new approach to budget management in collaboration with the Weber County Comptroller's Office. Historically, the department budgeted with a planned deficit of \$400K–\$600K to help manage the fund balance, which has consistently increased beyond the department's target reserve level. Brian informs the board that mid-year budget

adjustments were made to account for salary savings, penalty revenues that were typically budgeted at \$0, and interest earnings on the fund balance. These adjustments allowed for better alignment between projected and actual spending, ultimately reducing the projected deficit to approximately \$125,000 instead of further increasing the fund balance. Adriana added that previous 2025 budget reports showed a projected year-end deficit near \$600K, which was later revised to \$400K after a \$150K budget adjustment. With updated figures reflecting salary savings, the actual end of year deficit is significantly lower than originally anticipated. The new process improves financial accuracy and gives a clearer picture of how available funds are being used. The board supports the idea of 5-year forecasting for the health fund and emphasizes the importance of having a sufficient balance. A **MOTION** is made by **Ken Johnson** and **SECONDED** by **Vaughn Nickerson** to approve the 2025/2026 Budget as presented. The **MOTION** passes unanimously.

Director's Report

Information Only

Brian Cowan provided an update on measles activity across the state, noting that no cases have been reported in Weber County to date. Ongoing coordination with schools continues, including training efforts to support disease prevention and response. Brian also highlighted that seasonal flu vaccines are currently available through drive-through clinics, offering a convenient option for community members on September 26, 2025, and October 10, 2025, from 10 am to 2 pm. Lekelsi Talbot emphasized that COVID-19 vaccines remain available at the health department however, the Weber-Morgan Health Department is waiting on clarity from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) on guidance for future vaccination efforts and eligibility. Brian reminds the board to complete the online open meeting training.

Chair's Report- Angela Choberka

Information Only

Angela Choberka thanks everyone for their participation in the meeting.

The Annual Meeting adjourns at 5:48 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on October 27, 2025.