

Weber-Morgan Board of Health
Minutes of Meeting
August 24, 2026

The Weber-Morgan Board of Health held its regular meeting on August 24, 2026, in the Health Department Annex at 455 23rd Street. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. with Dr. Lee Schussman presiding.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lee Schussman	Ryan Barker
Ken Johnson	Vaughn Nickerson
Jed Burton	Frank Brown
Cheryle Allen	Sharon Bolos - Virtual
Bonnie Wahlen	Ali Martinez - Virtual

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Gina Butters	Tiffany Bears
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STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian Cowan	Lori Butters	Carina Moore
Scott Braeden	Summer Day	Amy Carter
Bryce Sherwood	Lekelsi Talbot	Vianey Alcaraz
Kirk Spolar	Jarelyn Cox	
Adriana Pruitt		

OTHERS PRESENT:

Courtlan Erickson

Welcome and Introductions – Dr. Lee Schussman

Dr. Lee Schussman calls the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomes those in attendance.

New Employee Introduction

Information Only

Brian Cowan introduced the department's newly assigned attorney, Courtlan Erickson, who has been assigned to the Weber-Morgan Health Department by the Weber County Attorney's Office. Courtlan Erickson shared that he has been with the Attorney's Office for approximately 11 years. Brian Cowan then introduced a new employee, Vianey Alcaraz, who recently joined the Nursing Department. Dr. Schussman welcomed Courtlan Erickson and Vianey Alcaraz and expressed appreciation for their contributions, noting that the department's success depends on its dedicated and hardworking staff.

Approval of Board of Health Minutes of June 22, 2026.

Motion Passes

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

Finance Work Group Member Appointment

Motion Passes

Dr. Lee Schussman discussed the appointment of members to the ad hoc Board of Health Finance Committee. The committee reviews the department's annual budget with administration and provides recommendations to the Board prior to formal budget approval. The committee typically meets in September to review the proposed budget in detail following notification of local tax revenue amounts from the county. Dr. Schussman noted that the committee should consist of approximately four to five members to avoid quorum concerns and opened the floor for volunteers or nominations. Brian Cowan explained that the committee would need to meet once before September 9 or 10 due to the limited timeframe for completing the budget review. The preferred meeting date is September 8, with September 4 as an alternate date. Brian Cowan stated the committee may establish its own meeting schedule, with additional dates considered if needed. Ken Johnson, Bonnie Wahlen, Cheryl Allen, Commissioner Sharon Bolos and Dr. Lee Schussman volunteered to serve and confirmed their willingness to participate. A **MOTION** is made by Frank Brown and **SECONDED** by Jed Burton to approve the Financial Committee Appointments. A roll call vote is taken. The **MOTION** passes unanimously.

Finance Report

Information Only

Adriana Pruitt presented the midyear budget update and reported that the department is currently projected to use approximately \$580,000 from fund balance for the year. At midyear, after accounting for federal grant revenue and expenditures, the department is showing approximately \$730,000 in fund balance use. Adriana Pruitt explained that grant revenue is received throughout the year, which can make the midyear deficit appear higher than the year-end projection. Other revenue and expenditure categories, including grants, salaries, and fees, are tracking close to the expected 50% midpoint. Adriana Pruitt asked the Board for input regarding the level of detail desired for the budget hearing summary and whether the current category-level and detailed information would be appropriate for the Finance Committee's review. Dr. Lee Schussman explained that the Finance Committee would review an overall budget summary and then examine the budget line by line. Dr. Lee Schussman stated that having detailed information is helpful for committee members to understand the budget. Adriana Pruitt stated that future budget materials would include both major categories and the detailed items within each category. Dr. Frank Brown suggested that budget presentations also include information about funding decisions, including what programs or services may be funded or reduced and potential impacts from changes in federal funding. Dr. Frank Brown noted that these decisions reflect the Board's priorities and values and would help members better understand the considerations behind the budget numbers. Adriana Pruitt agreed to provide this additional information. Brian Cowan thanked Dr. Frank Brown for the suggestion and noted that improving the Board's understanding and knowledge of Health Department operations was identified as a goal for future meetings.

WIC Program Presentation

Information Only

Jarelyn Cox presents an overview of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), including its history, eligibility requirements, services, and local participation. WIC began as a pilot program in 1972 and became permanent in 1975. The program provides supplemental nutritious foods to pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age five. WIC services include supplemental food benefits through an electronic benefits card, nutrition education, breastfeeding education and support, breast pumps, and referrals to community resources. Jarelyn states that nutritionists assist families with growth monitoring, nutrition goals, and other health-related questions. The program also employs breastfeeding peer counselors and has Laura Tafoya certified as an International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant. Jarelyn explains that participants generally qualify based on income at or below 185% of the federal poverty level or through participation in Medicaid, SNAP, or TANF, and the program serves Weber and Morgan counties, with some exceptions for neighboring counties. Jarelyn Cox states participants must provide proof of identity and documentation for infants, such as immunization records or hospital discharge papers. Participants must also have an identified nutrition risk, which may include being overweight or underweight, having gestational diabetes, consuming sugar-sweetened beverages, or not meeting dietary guidelines. Jarelyn Cox also highlighted the additional services and partnerships that help support WIC families. These include lead testing conducted alongside hemoglobin testing, referrals to the Healthy Homes program for lead remediation, and a partnership with the Utah Food Bank to provide diapers. Jarelyn Cox notified the board of the upcoming breastfeeding fair scheduled for September 9 and explained that the breastfeeding fair provides education and connects families with community resources. She continues to notify the board of grants from Walmart and Smith's that are used for incentives. Jarelyn Cox states that WIC has also recently been able to provide \$100 gift cards to families who narrowly exceed the income eligibility requirements for WIC. She notifies the board that the local WIC office is located on the first floor of the annex building, with services also provided in Morgan County two days each month. She noted that WIC programs operate in all 50 states, U.S. territories, tribal organizations, and select overseas locations serving military families. Jarelyn Cox reported that the local program serves approximately 4,000 individuals each month and about 6,500 annually. Approximately 1.15% of the local population participates in WIC, while an estimated 6.63% may be eligible. Services are provided in 16 languages through interpretation services and bilingual staff. The most common languages are English, Spanish, and American Sign Language. Jarelyn Cox reported that approximately 53% of local WIC participants live in Ogden City, followed by South Ogden and Roy. She emphasized that, despite "Women" being part of the program's name, all parents and guardians are welcome to participate, including fathers, grandparents with custody, and foster parents. Jarelyn Cox continues with an overview of funding for 2025; the local WIC program received approximately \$3.8 million in food benefit funding and \$1.27 million for operations, with additional local tax funding used when federal funds did not fully cover operational costs. She highlighted research demonstrating the positive impact of WIC, including improved nutrition among participating children, improved child health and development outcomes, and healthcare cost savings. Approximately \$2.48 in healthcare savings is associated with every dollar invested in WIC, while additional prenatal WIC spending is associated with Medicaid savings. Jarelyn encouraged Board members to share WIC information with eligible families and provided pass-along cards containing program contact information. During the discussion, Jarelyn clarified that children may participate in WIC through their fifth birthday. Ken Johnson mentioned the number of

eligible families who may not be participating in WIC. Jarelyn acknowledged that many eligible families remain unreached and described ongoing outreach efforts, including community events, targeted mailings, data-sharing partnerships with Medicaid and SNAP, and outreach through hospitals, healthcare providers, Weber State University, and OTEC. Jarelyn shared that recent outreach efforts involving Medicaid and SNAP data resulted in approximately 150 new families enrolling in WIC. Dr. Frank Brown discussed opportunities to strengthen outreach through hospitals and healthcare providers. Jarelyn noted that WIC information is included in hospital discharge packets and provided to pediatric, family medicine, and obstetric providers. Jarelyn Cox also noted that approximately 89% of WIC participants initiate breastfeeding, although breastfeeding duration among WIC participants tends to be lower than the general population. Dr. Frank Brown also discussed WIC funding and the impact of participation levels on future funding. Jarelyn Cox explained that WIC funding is based on participation numbers from two years prior, so increased enrollment does not result in an immediate increase in funding. Local tax dollars used for WIC support administrative and operational costs, including facility expenses and, depending on the year, staff time; they do not fund participant food benefits. Dr. Frank Brown expressed appreciation for the presentation and noted that it provided a valuable overview of the WIC program.

Director's Report

Information Only

Brian Cowan provided updates on federal vaccine recommendations, public health accreditation, disease surveillance, and an upcoming Overdose Awareness Day event. Brian Cowan informed the board of a federal executive order regarding childhood vaccine recommendations. Brian Cowan explained that the order provides recommendations that vaccination requirements remain under state authority. The department does not anticipate immediate changes to its programs but will continue to provide clients with accurate information and follow Utah requirements. Brian Cowan also discussed the federal recommendation regarding separating the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine into individual vaccines and noted concerns regarding additional barriers, costs, and potential impacts on vaccination rates. Brian Cowan reported that the department is nearing completion of the public health accreditation process and remains on track for accreditation by the end of the year. The remaining steps include virtual and in-person site visits, with Board members and community partners expected to participate in interviews regarding collaboration, community health assessments, and community health improvement efforts. Brian Cowan also provided an update on disease surveillance. Measles cases have declined statewide, with two cases reported in the Weber-Morgan Health District during the past year. The department continues to monitor measles activity and wastewater surveillance and remains prepared for potential cases with the start of the school year. Brian Cowan also reported increased West Nile virus activity. As of August 22, Utah had 15 confirmed human cases, including one in Weber County, and 1,050 positive mosquito pools statewide, including 58 in Weber County. The department will continue public education regarding mosquito-bite prevention, including use of insect repellent, wearing protective clothing, and avoiding outdoor exposure during peak mosquito activity. Brian Cowan reminded the Board of the upcoming Overdose Awareness Day event at the Ogden Botanical Gardens on August 31 from 7:00–9:00 p.m. The event will provide an opportunity for reflection, remembrance, and increased awareness of the impact of addiction and overdose in the community. Dr.

Frank Brown commended the Health Department's involvement in the community and noted the upcoming recognition associated with Overdose Awareness Day. Bryce Sherwood explained that the Purple Committee recognizes individuals who contribute to overdose awareness and education as "Purple Champions." Brian Cowan will be recognized as a Purple Champion for efforts related to overdose awareness, education, hope, recovery, and remembrance. Brian Cowan also acknowledged Bryce Sherwood's recent recognition by United Way as a community partner for his contributions to the community.

Chairs' Report

Information Only

Dr. Lee Schussman informed the Board members of efforts to improve communication, education, and awareness among Board members. Dr. Lee Schussman spoke about the plans to distribute a survey developed by the department's informaticist Kirk Spolar and Deputy Director Michela Harris to identify members' areas of interest and desired levels of involvement in Board activities. Dr. Lee Schussman explained that members will also continue receiving public health-related articles to support ongoing education and discussion. Dr. Lee Schussman encouraged Board members to submit relevant public health articles or information for distribution to the Board and emphasized that information can be shared while maintaining appropriate open meeting and communication requirements. Dr. Lee Schussman informed the Board that he also plans to meet monthly with the Officer to assist with agenda development and encouraged Board members to submit items for consideration. Dr. Lee Schussman notified the Board of including an information agenda item for Board Member Comments or Requests to allow members to raise public health-related concerns, questions, or requests. Jed Burton expressed appreciation for the public health articles being shared with the Board and noted their value in providing timely and accurate information.

Board Member Comments/Requests **No comments or requests.**

Information Only

The Meeting adjourns at 5:11 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on September 28, 2026.