

LUCAS COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT
Board of Health Meeting on May 28, 2026
New Building, 1933 Spielbusch Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43604, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order and Roll Call – Amr Elaskary

Amr Elaskary, President, called the meeting to order at 8:44 a.m. A Roll Call was taken of Board Members for attendance:

Present: Amr Elaskary, David Karmol, Ted Kaczorowski, Matthew Sapara, Dr. Johnathon Ross, Richard Munk, MD, Cheryl Crowder, Susan Postal, Dr. Donna Woodson, and Barbara Sarantou, Sonia Flunder-McNair, and Paul Komisarek

II. Introduction of Guests – Karim Baroudi

Staff and Visitors: Karim Baroudi, Dr. Lawrence Monger, Shannon M. Jones, Angie Bauman, Wendy Davis, Tina Stokes, Kevin A. Pituch (LC Prosecutor), Brandon Palinski, Clark Allen, Scott Francis, Jen Gottschalk, Gillian Wilke (AFSCME), Crystal Bonham (ONA), Jessica Steinman, and Adrienne Briner.

III. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

The Board reviewed the addition of the HSTS City of Oregon E. coli Contract, which is valued at less than \$25,000 and involves surveying homes in coordination with the Ohio EPA.

The addition of the Ohio Department of Health Adult Immunization 317 Program Agreement.

Addition of Bylaws and Governance discussion.

IV. Approval of Board of Health Meeting Minutes

(Resolution 090-26) A motion was made by Dr. Richard Munk and seconded by Dr. Johnathon Ross to Approve the Minutes of April 23, 2026, Regular Board of Health Meeting as amended. Motion carried; 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

V. Medical Director's Report – Lawrence Monger, MD

Dr. Monger provided an update on hantavirus, which gained attention in 2025 following an outbreak aboard a cruise ship that departed from Argentina. The outbreak involved the Andes strain of hantavirus, a rare variant endemic to Argentina that is capable of person-to-person transmission, unlike most hantavirus strains. Typically, hantavirus is spread through exposure to aerosolized rodent urine or feces. The cruise ship outbreak resulted in 11 reported cases, and individuals who contracted the virus were repatriated to their home countries. Hantavirus has an estimated mortality rate of approximately 30%, and there is currently no specific treatment available beyond supportive and comfort care.

VI. Prior Business/New Business/Health Commissioner's Update – Karim Baroudi

A. Rising Departmental Healthcare Cost

Karim informed the Board about recent discussions with the County Commissioners regarding increases in health insurance costs. He emphasized the importance of transparency and keeping the Board informed about the financial challenges facing the organization. Karim also noted that he called an emergency meeting with all staff to discuss the rising costs and related financial concerns.

Karim reported that the County is facing significant increases in employee healthcare costs, resulting in a projected need to find an additional \$1 million by year-end. Because changes to employee healthcare contributions would require collective bargaining, any adjustments will be delayed until next year. He also reviewed information presented during the recent all-staff meeting regarding these financial challenges.

Karim stated that the department is working to avoid staff cuts by freezing non-essential spending, delaying hires, limiting overtime, and reducing travel-related expenses. Financial needs will be reassessed in June, with weekly reviews to monitor the situation. He emphasized that the department remains focused on its mission while addressing budget challenges.

B. Legislative Update: Impact of Abolishing Property Taxes in Ohio

A handout was provided to Board of Health members emphasizing the importance of educating the public about the need for property tax funding. It was noted that eliminating property taxes would have a significant negative impact on the Health Department and its ability to provide services.

Amr noted that, as a member of the County Commissioners Association, he understands the significant impact eliminating property taxes would have on local government staffing and funding. He shared that many agencies are opposing the proposal and encouraged Board members to advocate for maintaining property tax funding due to its importance in supporting public health services.

C. Great Health for America (GHA) Initiative in Toledo, Sylvania, and Sandusky

Karim reported that in late March he received a call from the CDC regarding the GHA Initiative. Following the discussion, representatives requested a visit to meet with officials from Sylvania Township, Toledo City Council, Dr. Jones, Chair of the Health Committee, and Karim. The meeting was subsequently arranged.

Karim reported that local officials were very receptive to the opportunity to bring additional funding to the region. Following a follow-up Zoom meeting, Toledo, Sylvania, and Sandusky were selected to receive a total of \$8 million in funding over two years, along with support from a public health officer. The initiative is designed as an outreach program and will operate through a nonprofit organization to facilitate collaboration across county lines.

Karim reported that a coalition of community partners, including schools, homeless shelters, and community health centers, is forming a nonprofit organization to support the initiative. Progress will be tracked through a data dashboard. While the funding will not be distributed directly to the Health Department, TLCHD will serve as a key partner in the effort. A contract is still pending, and one of the department's primary requests is support for data systems focused on children's health outcomes.

VII. Open Forum Discussion

A. Bylaws and Governance Discussion

Proposed changes to the Vice President role would include mentorship opportunities with the President, serving as a consultant to the President, and leading a separate initiative while in office. These changes are currently informal and will be documented and communicated once finalized.

The proposed changes will be presented at the July Board of Health meeting and voted on in August. Karim stated that the goal is to improve efficiency and Board operations. As part of the trial process, Dave Karmol will lead the July meeting and provide feedback before any bylaw changes are finalized.

B. Facilities and Fleet Discussion

Karim reported that the Spielbusch project remains on schedule, with weekly construction meetings and regular site walkthroughs. Asbestos abatement has been completed, and Scott has assumed oversight of projects previously managed by Dave Welch. He also noted that funding for the Spielbusch project is separate from the General Fund, so rising healthcare costs will not impact the facility project or demolition plans for the old Health Department building.

Karim reported that the project remains on budget, with construction bids coming in below projected costs. The bidding process has been completed, and final decisions are still under review. Scott remains in daily communication with construction staff as demolition work continues while renovation permits are pending. Karim also praised Lathrop, The Collaborative, and other project vendors for their excellent communication, customer service, and collaboration throughout the process.

C. Violence Reduction Committee Discussion

Sonia discussed efforts to develop community-based resources aimed at reducing violence and improving health outcomes for children and seniors by addressing social determinants of health. The initiative includes partnering with Community Health Workers, exploring nature-based health interventions, and utilizing outdoor spaces at the Spielbusch facility. Emerging data from the GHA project may help support and fund these efforts, and collaboration with local leaders, including Metroparks representatives, is being considered.

Discussion focused on using parks and green spaces to support community health, including the potential creation of a resource map of local park facilities. Concerns were raised about the condition and safety of some inner-city parks, highlighting the need for stronger partnerships to improve access and usability. Members also discussed opportunities to support parks near retirement communities and the importance of involving professionals who can promote holistic, nature-based approaches to health and wellness.

An action item was established to engage community partners and stakeholders, schedule meetings to discuss the initiative, and share ideas and potential participants who could contribute to the effort.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Personnel Committee – Barbara Sarantou

The Personnel Committee met on Thursday, May 21, 2026. The following items require Board of Health action:

(Resolution 091-26) A motion was made to Approve the creation, classification, and job description of the I.T. Supervisor, Non-Bargaining Unit, non-exempt, classified, salary level, E-5. Motion carried; 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 092-26) A motion was made to Approve the formal abolishment of the Chief of Staff position from the agency's action position roster. Motion carried; 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 093-26) A motion was made to Approve the Personnel committee report. Motion carried; 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

B. Environmental Health Committee – David Karmol

The Environmental Health Committee met on Thursday, May 21, 2026. The following items require Board of Health action:

(Resolution 094-26) A motion was made to Approve a Resolution to deny the request for an extension to connect to the accessible sanitary sewerage system due to the household sewage treatment system (HSTS) having failed and created a public health nuisance. The property located at 5316 Secor Road, Toledo, Ohio 43623 (Parcel ID 2203051) has accessibility to the available sanitary sewerage system in accordance with Ohio Administrative Code 3701-29-06(1)(1)(2) and is required to connect. Roll call vote. Motion carried; 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 095-26) A motion was made to approve the Environmental Health committee report. Motion carried; 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

C. Audit and Finance Committee – Amr Elaskary

The Audit and Finance Committee met on Thursday, May 21, 2026. The following items require Board of Health action:

(Resolution 096-26) A motion was made to approve the payment of the April 2026 vouchers. Motion carried; 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 097-26) A motion was made to approve the changes in revenue estimates and expense appropriations of \$1,189,460.00 for April 2026. Motion carried; 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Grants

- \$93,500.00, continuous grant from Ohio Department of Public Safety for Traffic Safety Grant.
- Additional funding of \$25,000.00, continuous grant from Ohio Department of Health for Regional Prevention and Linkage to Care Collaborative.
- \$173,027.00, continuation grant from the University of Toledo Medical Center for UT Syringe Access Program.
- \$2,720,575.00, continuation grant from Department of Health for Women, Infants, and Children.
- \$291,300.00 from Ohio Department of Health for Reproductive Health Program.

(Resolution 098-26) A motion was made to apply and accept all grants listed above. Motion carried; 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Contracts, Agreements, and/or MOU's

- Equitas Health Toledo \$35,000.00 to provide HIV prevention services.
- The University of Toledo Medical Center \$37,000.00 to provide HIV prevention services.
- Toledo Jeep Fest Corporation \$250.00 for a vendor table at the event.
- Toledo Mud Hens Baseball Club, Inc. \$5,500.00 to provide a vendor table for the 2026 baseball season.
- The Healing Place of Supportive Partnership \$190,000.00 to provide integrated behavioral health services to the Healthy Start Home Visitation Program.
- Forward Consultants \$55,000.00 to provide quality improvement, data management, reporting, and evaluation services.
- Toledo Sign \$33,674.11 to manufacture and install the signage at 1933 Spielbusch.
- Ohio CAT \$8,102.00 for generator maintenance at 635 N. Erie and at 1933 Spielbusch Avenue.
- Charles E. Harris \$138,125.00 to perform annual audit for calendar year 2025 through 2026.
- Receive various amounts from Ohio Department of Health based on MAC time study.
- The Ohio Department of Health Adult Immunization 317 Program, no financial implication.

(Resolution 099-26) A motion was made to enter into all Contracts, Agreements, and/or MOUs listed above in April 2026 Audit Finance committee report. Motion carried; 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 100-26) A motion was made to Approve the write-off of uncollectable amounts that are for dates of service at least 180 days or older. Total amount as amended \$1,182.61 for the month of April 2026. Motion carried; 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 101-26) A motion was made to approve the Audit and Finance committee report. Motion carried; 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

IX. Legal Update – Kevin Pituch

Legal report to be discussed in Executive Session.

X. Executive Session – Kevin Pituch

(Resolution 102-26) A motion was made by Dr. Richard Munk and seconded by Dr. Donna Woodson to enter into Executive Session pursuant to ORC 121.22 section (G)(3). Conferences with an attorney of the public body as well as section (G)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official at 10:25 a.m. **Roll Call vote.** Motion carried; 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 103-26) A motion was made Dr. Johnathon Ross and seconded by Dr. Richard Munk to return to Regular Session of the Board of Health Meeting at 11:48 a.m. **Roll call vote** . Motion carried; 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 104-26) A motion was made to Approve a \$3,000.00 lump sum bonus for Health Commissioner, Karim Baroudi, in recognition of his annual evaluation. Motion carried; 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

XI. Public Health in the News – Karim Baroudi

Upcoming Meetings:

July 23, 2026 (TBD)

August 27, 2026 (TBD)

September 24, 2026 (TBD)

(Resolution 105-26) A motion was made by Dr. Richard Munk and seconded by Matthew Sapara to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. Motion carried; 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Signed By:



Amr Elaskary, CPA, CFE, President
Lucas County Regional Board of Health



Karim Baroudi, MPH, REHS
Secretary to the Board of Health

Date: 6/25/26

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