

LUCAS COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT
Board of Health Meeting on August 27, 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 8:48 a.m. A Roll Call was taken of Board Members for attendance:

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

Excused: Paul Komisarek and Matthew Sapara

II. Introduction of Guests – Shannon Jones

Staff and Visitors: Shannon Jones, Kevin A. Pituch (LC Prosecutor), Angie Bauman, Kendra Sivilie, Scott Francis, Jen Gottschalk, Dr. Lawrence Monger, Sarah Velliquette, Keenen Fisher, Crystal Bonham-Hall (ONA), Ellen Gaietto (AFSCME), Jodi Vaughan, Amy Brown, Bryce Whitehead (UTMC Medical Student), Ronald Hashim, Marv Robon, Mary Apadaca, Jessica Steinman, and Adrianne Briner.

III. Oath of Allegiance: Dr. Donna Woodson & Susan Postal – Kevin Pituch

Kevin Pituch administered the Oath of Allegiance to Susan Postal and Dr. Donna Woodson, who will each serve another four-year term on the Toledo Regional Board of Health.

A. Environmental Health Committee – David Karmol

The Environmental Health Committee met on Thursday, August 20, 2026. The following items require Board of Health action:

David Karmol reported that the Environmental Health Committee recommended a 30-day suspension for Ricks' City Diner, to be held in advance and contingent upon the restaurant correcting and resolving all identified issues and critical violations. The restaurant had an individual serving as manager who failed to properly manage the establishment and comply with Health Department standards. The committee proposed the advance suspension to the full Board, allowing the restaurant an opportunity to address and correct all outstanding violations.

(Resolution 146-26) A motion was made by Dr. Johnathon Ross and seconded by Dr. Richard Munk to suspend the food service operation license for 30 days according to the Ohio Revised Code 3717.49 for Rick's City Diner, Rick Salem, license number NFRY-9LX5NU, at 5333 Monroe Street, Toledo, Ohio 43623.
Roll call vote. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

David Karmol reported that the Environmental Health Committee reviewed the proposed revocation of JoJo's Pizzeria's food service license following testimony regarding the owner/manager's refusal to allow a health inspector into the facility, leading to a Toledo Police escort. The committee recommended a 30-day suspension beginning in August, and at the end of the suspension a follow up inspection will be to confirm all violations have been corrected. The license holder may appeal the suspension in writing to the Board.

Counsel Robon, representing JoJo's Pizzeria and JoJo's Inc., stated that management has continued cleaning and correcting violations. He described the incident as stemming from a cultural misunderstanding involving lamb brought into the restaurant by the Muslim owner, which led to a disagreement with the inspector and police being called after entry was denied. While acknowledging some violations, he asked the Board to reduce the proposed 30-day suspension to 10 days with a \$1,000 weekly fine, citing the potential impact on employees and their families.

Jen explained that Health Inspector Amy Brown found lamb stored in buckets in the restaurant's cooler with the lungs and trachea exposed. Because the meat had crossed state lines, the Ohio Department of Agriculture directed the Health Department to dispose of it due to potential health risks. When the inspector returned with her supervisor, the owner denied entry and requested a warrant. Jen stated that Ohio law authorizes health inspectors to enter facilities and prohibits denial of access. She explained that the proposed action is to suspend the restaurant's food service license through the Ohio Department of Health, as the Ohio Department of Agriculture does not have that authority. The license holder's unpaid renewal fee also prevented the Health Department from pursuing action under its local code.

David noted that the facility has had continuous and repeat violations over a four-year period. Based on the evidence presented, the Environmental Health Committee unanimously supported the 30-day suspension. He stated that the proposed revocation prompted the facility to make the recent changes and emphasized the importance of respecting the food service license and Health Department requirements. David clarified that the intent is not to put the business out of operation, but to protect public health. The final decision regarding the suspension was left to the Board.

Counsel Robon reiterated his request that the Board consider imposing a fine along with a 10-day suspension rather than the proposed 30-day suspension.

Kevin Pituch stated that this was the first instance he was aware of where law enforcement had to be contacted to ensure the safety of a Health Department inspector. He noted that he was not aware of fines being imposed as an alternative to suspension or revocation. He emphasized that the Board members were free to make their own decisions when casting their votes.

Susan Postal suggested that funds be used to correct violations, provide training, and improve the restaurant while emphasizing compliance with the Health Department and investment in employees.

Amr stated that the Board must choose between suspension or revocation and emphasized that the owner's two businesses must be kept separate, particularly to prevent hazardous materials from being stored where food is prepared or served.

Robon argued that the proposed 30-day suspension was excessive and asked the Board to reduce it significantly. He noted the owner's substantial investment in renovating the building over the past four years and warned that future violations could result in full license revocation.

The Board viewed police body-camera footage documenting the incident in which Health Inspector Amy Brown was denied entry to the restaurant by the owner.

(Resolution 147-26) A motion was made by Dr. Richard Munk and seconded by Sonia Flunder-McNair to suspend the food service operation license for 30 days according to the Ohio Revised Code 3717.49 for JoJo's Pizzeria, JoJo's Inc., license number TDAN-A7MRSN, at 4336 Monroe Street, C1, Toledo, Ohio 43606. **Roll call vote.** Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Amr Elaskary stepped out of the meeting.

(Resolution 148-26) A motion was made by Dr. Donna Woodson and seconded by Barbara Sarantou to Approve the variance for 823 Clark Street, Holland, Ohio 43528. **Roll call vote.** Motion carried; 9 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 149-26) A motion was made by Dr. Richard Munk and seconded by Susan Postal to Approve the resolution to Dissolve the Recognition of Manager's Agreements and Change of Ownership Requests. **Roll call vote.** Motion carried; 9 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Amr Elaskary returned to the meeting.

(Resolution 150-26) A motion was made by Dr. Richard Munk and seconded by Susan Postal to Approve the resolution for the Immediate Suspension of a Food Service Operation license for refusal of entry and denial of access for inspection. **Roll call vote.** Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 151-26) A motion was made by Dr. Richard Munk and seconded by Susan Postal to Approve the resolution for Immediate Suspension of a Retail Food Establishment license for refusal of entry and denial of access for inspection. **Roll call vote.** Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 152-26) A motion was made by Susan Postal and seconded by Dr. Richard Munk to Approve the Environmental Health committee report. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

IV. Medical Director's Report – Angie Bauman,

Angie reported that the department is working on COVID standing orders and plans to revise the process when the next COVID vaccine becomes available, similar to the flu vaccine. Last year, there were delays in establishing the necessary resources. Updates will be provided as changes occur.

V. Prior Business/New Business/Health Commissioner's Update – Shannon Jones

Board Resolution Recognizing the Retirement of Mary Apodaca, Shots for Tots Public Health Nurse

Shannon recognized Mary Apodaca for her retirement after 11 years of service.

Mary reflected on her 11 years with the Health Department, beginning as a VFC nurse before moving to Shots for Tots. She appreciated the opportunities to participate in FEBE, EPI contact tracing, and the disaster response team, noting that these experiences contributed to her public health knowledge and motivation. She said it has been a pleasure working at the Health Department and witnessing the passion of her colleagues over the years.

(Resolution 145-26) A motion was made by Dr. Richard Munk and seconded by David Karmol to Approve a resolution of the Lucas County Regional Board of Health recognizing and honoring Mary Apodaca for 11 years of public health nursing service. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Proposed Revisions to the Board of Health Bylaws

Amr reviewed proposed bylaws changes, including updates to the agenda structure, committee meetings, and VP/Past President roles. The Board will consider whether to continue the current process or return to the previous format. Dr. Woodson discussed the handout provided to the Board.

Dr. Woodson emphasized that Strategic Planning should remain a standing committee because of its importance to the Board's direction and community health priorities.

Amr emphasized the need for clearer committee goals, better documentation, and more full-Board involvement. He stressed that Strategic Planning is important for accreditation and should remain a shared responsibility of the Board, while committee discussions should be more transparent and supported by meeting minutes.

Karim emphasized that strategy should be a responsibility of the entire Board. He suggested bringing strategic discussions to full Board meetings, tracking progress through key measures, and working with county partners to develop and advance broader public health strategies.

Motion: Dr. Woodson moved to approve the proposed revisions to the Board of Health Bylaws. The motion was seconded by Barb Sarantou. Following discussion, Dr. Woodson requested to withdraw the motion. There being no objection, the motion was withdrawn.

(Resolution 153-26) A motion was made by David Karmol and seconded by Barbara Sarantou to Approve the proposed revisions to the Board of Health Bylaws as amended at the July 23rd 2026 regular Board meeting. Motion carried; 8 Yeas, 2 Nays- Dr. Donna Woodson and Ted Kaczorowski abstained.

VI. Approval of Board of Health Meeting Minutes

(Resolution 144-26) A motion was made by Dr. Donna Woodson and seconded by Ted Kaczoroski to Approve the Minutes of July 23, 2026, Regular Board of Health Meeting. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

VII. Open Forum Discussion – Shannon Jones

Recap of the Great Health America (GHA) Event at the Toledo Club

Shannon shared a photo from a GHA media event featuring partners from Erie County, Sandusky Schools, SToledo City Council members.

Shannon reported that the pilot communities grant would provide \$32 million over two years to address childhood chronic diseases and food insecurity. The grant application was submitted several weeks ago, with a decision expected soon. Shannon clarified that the funding is not intended to add staff, but rather to support efforts addressing current needs in the community. Dr. Woodson described the meeting as very productive and praised the Deputy U.S. Surgeon General, the Toledo Blade article, and Karim's leadership.

Renovations update on future public health building at 1933 Spielbusch Avenue

Scott reported that construction is progressing on schedule, with framing, plumbing, drywall, and painting underway. Fiber has been installed and tested, and connections are being coordinated with Laibe. Staff visiting the building should wear hard hats. Directors have also begun reviewing their designated areas.

Scott stated that the move-in is expected during the first week of November, although some items may be moved in beforehand. Final approval will require sign-off on the flooring.

Amr emphasized the importance of maintaining an internal communication process with Karim and the other directors regarding the move.

Scott reported that directors have begun reviewing their areas and completing a spreadsheet identifying needed furniture and items to be moved. This information will be available for planning purposes.

Karim reported that the renovation remains on budget and on schedule for completion and move-in during the first week of November. Tina is assisting with expenses, and the construction manager is closely involved. Planning for the move is underway, with the Board and staff working together to minimize disruptions, particularly for Vital Statistics and other services requiring continued public access.

Karim noted that additional time will be needed for the move and closure to minimize foot traffic. The September Board meeting will be held at the Sylvania Township Municipal Building, while the October location is still being determined. Staff will assist with the move.

B. Personnel Committee – Barbara Sarantou

The Personnel Committee met on Thursday, August 20, 2026. The following items require Board of Health action:

(Resolution 154-26) On behalf of the committee, the motion to Approve the hiring of Keenen Fisher to the position of HR Specialist, effective August 4, 2026. This is a classified position, non-exempt, Non-Bargaining Unit, position with a compensation of \$33.00 per hour for 35 hours per week. If there is no objection, will take a voice vote. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 155-26) On behalf of the committee, the motion to Approve the notice of layoff for Natalie Haase, Health Educator, following the conclusion of the Traffic Safety Grant. Notice provided on July 31, 2026, with the final layoff action effective September 30, 2026. If there is no objection, will take a voice vote. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 156-26) A motion was made by Dr. Richard Munk and seconded by Ted Kaczorowski to Approve the Personnel committee report. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

C. Audit and Finance Committee – Amr Elaskary

The Audit and Finance Committee met on Thursday, August 20, 2026. The following items require Board of Health action:

(Resolution 157-26) On behalf of the committee, a motion to Approve the payment of the July 2026 vouchers has been moved and seconded. If there is no objection, will take a voice vote. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 158-26) On behalf of the committee, a motion to Approve the changes in revenue estimates and expense appropriations of \$3,007,793.97 for July 2026 has been moved and seconded. If there is no objection, will take a voice vote. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Grants

- \$176,400.00, continuation grant from Ohio Department of Health for Integrated Harm Reduction.
- \$10,000.00, continuation grant from Lucas County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board for SOS 4.0 Y2 Carryover.
- \$108,000.00 from Ohio Department of Children & Youth for Cribs for Kids and Safe Sleep.
- \$474,519.00 from Department of Health and Human Services for Healthy Start (requested carryover funds).

(Resolution 159-26) On behalf of the committee, a motion was made to apply and accept all grants listed above in July 2026 Audit Finance committee report. If there is no objection, will take a voice vote. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Contracts, Agreements, and/or MOU's

- No cost with Jerusalem Township Fire Department for Naloxone distribution.
- \$60,000.00 to fund employment of a linkage navigator.
- Pay Henry County Health Department \$60,000.00 to fund employment of a linkage navigator.
- Pay Crawford County Public Health \$60,000.00 to fund employment of a linkage navigator.
- \$2,000.00 from Lucas County Family and Children First Council for each lead screening conducted for \$60.00 each at Catholic Club and Toledo Day Nursery.
- No cost with Lucas County Family and Children First Council for parties to comply in all respects with the requirements of HIPAA and set forth each party's responsibilities and obligations with respect to safeguarding PHI.
- \$30,000.00 from Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County to purchase and install 3 Narcan vending machines.
- Brittany Loren Performance LLC, Glovation Circus to pay \$770.00 to provide face painting, balloons, and performer for 2026 Chalk the Walk event.
- Gold Star Market at no cost to reallocate remaining equipment funds to spend on marketing.
- Phoenix Earth Food Cooperation at no cost to reallocate remaining equipment funds to spend on marketing.
- Jay Clay at no cost to reallocate remaining equipment funds to spend on marketing.
- Reynolds Carryout at no cost to reallocate remaining funds to spend on marketing.
- Yarlou African Market at no cost to reallocate remaining equipment funds to spend on marketing.

(Resolution 160-26) On behalf of the committee, a motion was made to Approve the above listed contracts, agreements, and/or MOUs listed above in July 2026 Audit Finance committee report. If there is no objection, will take a voice vote. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 161-26) 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 \$1,918.08 for the month of July 2026. If there is no objection, will take a voice vote. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 162-26) A motion was made by David Karmol and seconded by Dr. Richard Munk to Approve the Audit and Finance committee report. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

D. Legal Update – Kevin Pituch

Legal report to be discussed in Executive Session.

E. Executive Session – Kevin Pituch

(Resolution 163-26) A motion was made by Dr. Richard Munk and seconded by Sue Postal 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 11:19 a.m. **Roll Call vote.** Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Sonia Flunder McNair left the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

(Resolution 164-26) A motion was made Susan Postal and seconded by Dr. Richard Munk to return to Regular Session of the Board of Health Meeting at 11:51 a.m. Motion carried; 9 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 165-26) A motion was made by Ted Kaczorowski and seconded by David Karmol to Approve the layoff and notice confirmation of Jill Burns, Nurse Practitioner, Disease Intervention Specialist, due to lack of funds. The effective date of the layoff shall be 14 days following delivery of the notice. **Roll Call Vote.** Motion carried; 9 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Upcoming Meetings:

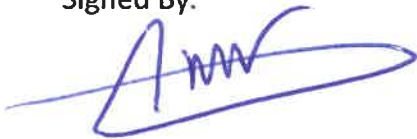
October 22, 2026 – TBD

November 19, 2026 – Health Department (New building)

December 17, 2026 – Health Department (New building)

(Resolution 166-26) A motion was made by Dr. Richard Munk and seconded by Dr. Donna Woodson to adjourn the meeting at 11:53 a.m. Motion carried; 9 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: 9/24/26

Date: 9/24/2026