



COUNTY OF DUTCHESS
BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 21st, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Dutchess County Board of Health was held virtually on Microsoft Teams and at the Dutchess County Department of Health (DOH), 85 Civic Center Plaza – Suite 106, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 on the above date.

PRESENT: Jeanean Aming, Psych. NP
Amy Cocina, MD
Alexander Cohen, MD
John Fallon, NP
Doug McHoul, Legislative Rep.
David McNary, Vice President
Melissa Nelson-Perron, MD, President

DOH STAFF: Livia Santiago-Rosado, MD,MPH, FACEP, DOH Commissioner
Anthony Ruggiero, MPA, Assistant Commissioner
Jenean M. Williams-Green

PRESENTATION: William Beale, Commissioner of Emergency Response

ABSENT: Rachana Tyagi, MD
Laura Fil, MD

Public: Jennifer Kaehler Yaple

CALL TO ORDER: David McNary called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

DECLARATION OF A QUORUM – A quorum was declared.

MINUTES: The minutes for June 18, 2025, were approved with no corrections. The motion was made by David McNary, seconded by John Fallon and approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Doug McHoul to move “New Business” to the top of the agenda, seconded by Dr. Cohen, approved unanimously.

Presentation by William Beale, Commissioner of Emergency Response

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES: Dutchess County Board of Health Update – August 21, 2025

The presentation along with the following reports will be emailed to Board members:

- Emergency Medical Services 2nd Quarter Report 2025
- Supplemental Quarter Data Report 2025

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Doug McHoul pointed out that since Commissioner Beale's appointment, his first-quarter report has highlighted the seriousness of the ambulance service issue, gaining attention from both political sides. The current budget was based on recommendations from previous leadership and received full legislative support. Although the Department of Emergency Response has shared data, the legislature has not received an update since the second quarter. That upcoming update will be critical for shaping next year's budget.

David McNary asked when funding for the next fiscal year begins. Budget preparations are currently underway. The County Executive will submit the proposed budget in October, and the Legislature will review, amend, and vote on it during November and December.

The Board of Health talked about and agreed to draft a letter of support and review it at the next meeting. Can communicate via WhatsApp.

They briefly discussed using WhatsApp to stay connected and communicate between meetings.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Anthony Ruggiero provided an update on behalf of Dr. Santiago on the following:

- **Mobile Health Unit (MHU):** The board was updated on the Mobile Health Unit (MHU), which has been active and doing community outreach. Recently, it was at Walmart for a successful week of tabling and is now set up at the fair all week. Public health staff are sharing information on topics like sexual health, rabies, and other health issues. The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is also there. Their booth, located near the pig races, had a fun carnival theme with games to engage kids and families. The MHU is also being used as a base for health inspectors checking food, bathrooms, and other fair facilities.
- **Cooking Class Collaboration:** Health educators are working on developing cooking classes with the Town of Poughkeepsie, the Poughkeepsie Farm Project, Spackenkill and Poughkeepsie School Districts for middle schoolers.
- **CDC Update:** While it's not final, It's expected that the CDC will only approve the next COVID vaccine for people 65 and older or those with pre-existing conditions. This could mean insurance won't cover it for others. The current budget uses FEMA funding to support the CDC program, but the President's 2026 budget suggests cutting that funding by more than half.
- **PHEP Funding Update:** Although the last budget reconciliation extended PHEP funding for this year, the President's FY2026 budget request proposed an over 50% cut to this funding. This funding supports federal (CDC, FEMA), state and local programs.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: No Report...

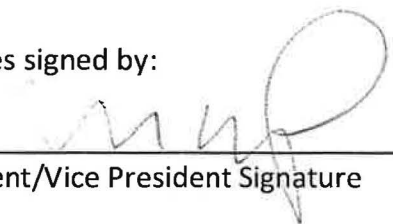
NEW BUSINESS: The American Lung Association will give a presentation about the county's high asthma rates and possible links to the incinerator at the September 18th BOH meeting. They're also exploring how asthma might affect school attendance. The Waste Management Division can't attend the September meeting but will come to a meeting at a later date (maybe the October meeting). A vote on the incinerator will happen next year.

A community member shared her concern about limited pain management options in the county, noting the impact of reduced access to prescribed narcotics on people living with chronic pain. Her comments highlighted the need for more compassionate and comprehensive care.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: The next meeting will be on **Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 4:00 pm**

A motion was made by Doug McHoul to adjourn the meeting, seconded by John Fallon, and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Minutes signed by:



President/Vice President Signature

Jenean M. Williams-Green
Recording Secretary Signature

2025 EXECUTIVE POSITIONS FOR THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Dr. Melissa Nelson-Perron – President
David McNary – Vice President