



**COUNTY OF DUTCHESS**  
BOARD OF HEALTH

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 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:** Amy Cocina, MD (Virtual)  
Alexander Cohen, MD  
Laura Fil, MD  
John Fallon, NP  
David McNary, Vice President (Virtual)  
Melissa Nelson-Perron, MD, President

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

**ABSENT:** Jeanean Aming, Psych. NP  
Doug McHoul, Legislative Rep.  
Rachana Tyagi, MD

**CALL TO ORDER:** Dr. Nelson-Perron called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

**DECLARATION OF A QUORUM** – A quorum was declared.

**MINUTES:** The minutes for September 18, 2025, were approved with no corrections. The motion was made by Dr. Alexander Cohen, seconded by Dr. Laura Fil and approved unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Presentation: WIN WASTE INNOVATIONS**

(Mary Urban, Christian Dunnigan, Joe Brady, David Schepperly)  
Eoin Wrafter, Commissioner of Planning & Development  
Kerry Russell, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Solid Waste Management

Keri Russell, Deputy Commissioner for Solid Waste Management/Executive Director of the Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency, introduced Plant Manager Christian Dunnigan, who presented the Win Waste Innovations team. The team included staff responsible for corporate operations, community engagement, environmental and air-quality management, and regional facility oversight. They provided an overview of Win Waste Innovations, explaining the company's transition from Wheelabrator, its workforce of about 2,200–2,300 employees, and its operations across waste-to-

energy facilities, MRFs, rail-based transport, and landfills. They highlighted the company's commitment to sustainability and strong environmental and safety practices.

The Dutchess County waste-to-energy facility burns municipal solid waste to produce electricity and reduce landfill use. Trash is inspected, processed through boilers, converted to energy, with metals recovered and ash used as landfill cover. The facility has emissions-control systems and continuous monitoring to stay within state permit limits. Ongoing challenges with recycling and composting infrastructure were also briefly discussed.

They also mentioned key operational considerations at the site, including its closed-loop water system, coordination with the regional power grid, and strong fire-protection practices, especially as lithium-ion batteries increase fire risks in the waste stream.

**Letter of Support for Emergency Response:** The Commissioner of Emergency Response presented information regarding emergency medical services to the Board a couple months ago. It was noted that Dutchess County is currently experiencing a shortage in emergency medical support. A draft letter was prepared to emphasize the importance of maintaining adequate support for emergency medical services. Board members were asked to review, submit edits via email if necessary and approve.

A motion was made by John Fallon to accept the language in the drafted letter, which was seconded by Dr. Laura Fil, and approved unanimously. The letter will be put on Board of Health Letterhead and sent to the appropriate people.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Dr. Santiago reported the following updates:

- **Welcome to Lynell Medley:** Appointed as the new Assistant Director of Nursing, beginning this week. This role had been vacant for some time, and her arrival is a welcome addition.
- **Budget:** The department is in the final stages of budget preparation, with the final meeting scheduled for next week.
- **After-School Cooking Program:** The second Wednesday after-school cooking class for 6th and 7th graders took place at the Poughkeepsie Senior Center. Attendance was 9–10 students the first week and about 6 this week. The program, in partnership with the Culinary Farm Project and the Town of Poughkeepsie, includes instruction on healthy cooking using locally grown fruits and vegetables. Culinary students assisted as teaching aides. The pilot will run for four weeks, concluding on the 28th. Pre/post-surveys will assess student confidence and perceptions regarding cooking skills. A second phase is planned for the spring at a Poughkeepsie school using a Family and Consumer Sciences classroom. The goal is to develop a toolkit for after-school programs promoting healthy eating and local produce. Students participate until 4:30 pm and are bused back to school by 5 pm.
- **Fit Dutchess Website:** Fit Dutchess now has a website ([sites.google.com/view/FitDutchess](https://sites.google.com/view/FitDutchess)). It includes links and content to promote healthy eating. Board members are encouraged to take a look at the website and feel free to offer suggestions.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** See Letter of Support for Emergency Response

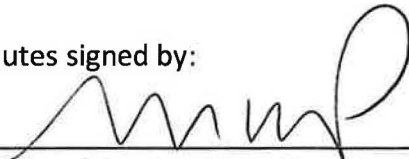
**OLD BUSINESS:** Will wait for Dr. Tyagi regarding virtual attendance counting toward a quorum and malpractice coverage for volunteer physicians.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT:** No report

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** The next meeting will be on **Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 4:00 pm**

A motion was made by Dr. Alexander Cohen to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Laura Fil, and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 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

