

**Western U.P. Board of Health
Health Department Office
540 Depot Street Hancock, MI 49930
Monday, June 23, 2025**

Minutes

Opening

Chair Anderson opened the meeting at 6:01 p.m. (EST). Present were G. Anderson, R. Britz, J. Cane, J. Keranen, W. Menge, R. Nousianen, D. Rajala, and M. Yon. Absent was J. Cayer, B. Dakota, and R. DeMarois. Also, in attendance were Dr Robert Van Howe, Medical Director; and Julie Heikkinen, Administrative/HR Assistant. There was no one present in attendance as audience.

Chair Anderson requested action on the agenda. This action followed:

Motion: Cane/second Britz to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried on voice vote, all ayes.

Chair Anderson asked for public comment, no one spoke.

Minutes of the March 31, 2025 meeting were reviewed. This action followed:

Motion: Nousiainen/second Yon to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2025 Board of Health meeting. Motion carried on voice vote, all ayes.

The board reviewed expenditures for the period: 03/28/2025 to 06/18/2025, leading to this action:

Motion: Rajala/second Menge to approve the general expenditures for the period 03/28/2025 to 06/18/2025, voucher # 14, voucher # 15, voucher # 16, voucher # 17, voucher # 18, and voucher # 19 in the amount of \$516,409.57. Carried on roll call vote, all voting yes.

Reports:

Kate Beer, Health Officer:

Personnel/Programs

We hired a new sanitarian, Lily Stoor. Lily is beginning to train in various programs. Two EH Technicians were hired to carry out the summer beach testing programs.

Update on Hancock Family Planning. We have a possible candidate for the NP position. Also, the program has changed some rules that allow for an expanded scope of practice for Registered Nurses. This enables us to continue the program indefinitely and may allow us to open services back up in the L'Anse office soon.

Financials:

Financials for the month ended April 30th, 2025, show a year-to-date net revenue of \$16,094. We hope to have a revised budget soon.

Recent State and Federal cutbacks have resulted in a loss of approximately \$406,000 in revenue. The Regional Lab was hit the hardest. The division is looking at ways to increase revenue. Marquette County and Dickinson-Iron County health departments regularly forward tests to us. Treatment Court testing is also a good revenue source. The water lab underwent accreditation a few weeks ago, and we await the final word on our certification.

There was a preliminary injunction granted; however, the state does not want any further funds spent until everything is sorted out.

State funding increases include an LHD Emerging Health Threats Readiness and Response grant for \$74,480 to assist with covering costs associated with measles or EH threats such as any newly identified PFAS areas.

Healthy Connections continues to lag with billings. All staff have received temporary hour reductions until additional services can be added. The loss of federal grant money has forced us to reduce programming at the Connections Center.

We are working on transferring the administration of the Connections not Cuffs grant with the Treatment Courts and Houghton County over to the health department. Several questions remain regarding the purchase and ownership of a vehicle and the employment of a staff member.

Other:

We had a measles incident where a Marquette County resident became ill while visiting Ontonagon relatives. The person was later confirmed positive. No other exposed individuals became sick. Staff are developing a measles and general vaccination campaign for the summer.

The Chevy Equinox was purchased and will be a primary vehicle for the EH Division. Our Chevy Traverse was significantly damaged in an accident and was out of service for two months. The employee received minor injuries and has recovered.

I have reached out to Gogebic County to extend our Bessemer office lease. We would also like to do some remodeling in that office.

EH site evaluations were off to a slow start, but have picked up close to normal. Requests for service are being scheduled about three weeks out.

Dr Robert Van Howe, Medical Director:

Dr Van Howe spoke about the recent measles cases in Marquette County, one of which also ventured into Ontonagon, Gogebic, Houghton, and Delta counties. There have been no further cases of measles, so the investigations on these cases have been closed. The outbreak in Ontario is over 2,000 cases, with about 100 new cases each week.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

The board was presented with the Financial Audit – Year Ending 9/30/2024 by Roy Manninen, Director of Finance; which led to this action:

Motion: Yon/second Rajala to approve the Financial Audit – Year Ending 9/30/2024 as presented.
Carried on voice vote, all ayes.

The board reviewed the Accident/Incident Report – 1st Quarter 2025.

The board reviewed the Health Officer Review, leading to this action:

Motion: Yon/second Rajala to approve the Health Officer Review, retroactive to 3/31/2025 as presented. Carried on roll call vote, all voting yes.

The board reviewed the Medical Director Review, leading to this action:

Motion: Cane/second Rajala to approve the Medical Review, retroactive to 3/31/2025 as presented.
Carried on roll call vote, 7 yes and 1 no.

The board reviewed the Sales Tax Exemption Policy, leading to this action:

Motion: Rajala/second Menge to approve the Sales Tax Exemption Policy as presented. Carried on voice vote, all ayes.

The board reviewed the Cost-Efficient Purchasing Methods Policy, leading to this action:

Motion: Cane/second Yon to approve the Cost-Efficient Purchasing Methods Policy as presented.
Carried on voice vote, all ayes.

The board reviewed the revised Corporate Credit Cards Policy & Application, leading to this action:

Motion: Britz/second Yon to approve the revised Corporate Credit Cards Policy & Application as presented. Carried on voice vote, all ayes.

The board discussed the purchase of a new 2nd Floor Copier, leading to this action:

Motion: Rajala/second Cane to approve the purchase of a new 2nd Floor Copier for up to \$8,584.00 as presented. Carried on voice vote, all ayes.

The board discussed the FY2026 CPBC Contract, leading to this action:

Motion: Nousiainen/second Menge to approve the FY2026 CPBC Contract as presented. Carried on voice vote, all ayes.

The board discussed the FY2026 County Allocation Schedule, leading to this action:

Motion: Rajala/second Yon to approve the FY2026 County Allocation Schedule as presented. Carried on voice vote, all ayes.

The board discussed the FY2026 County Allocation Schedule add-on for non-sharing counties, leading to this action:

Motion: Nousiainen/second Menge to approve the FY2026 County Allocation Schedule add-on for non-sharing counties as presented. Carried on voice vote, all ayes.

Other

With no other business, Chair Anderson set the next meeting for 6:00 pm (EST), July 28, 2025, in person at the health department office in Bessemer and also available via Google Meet.

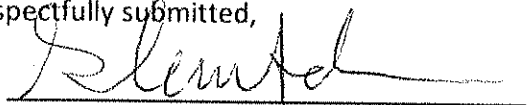
Chair Anderson then asked for public comment, no one spoke.

Adjourn

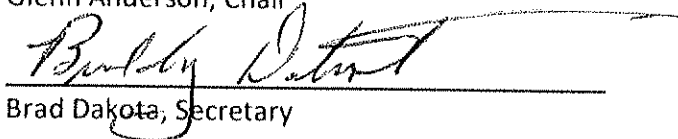
The final motion occurred at 7:20 p.m.

Motion: Menge/second Cane to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. Carried on voice vote, all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,



Glenn Anderson, Chair



Brad Dakota, Secretary

Prepared by Kate Beer
KB/jh