



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Macon County  
Health Department

## Macon County Health Department Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.  
Main Conference Room - Macon County Health Department  
1221 E. Condit St., Decatur, IL 62521



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Meeting called to order at 5:47 p.m.

### Attendance

- Mark Scranton, President – present
- Jeff Entler, Vice President – present
- Jan Hack – absent
- Cody Parks – present
- Debbie Hill – absent
- Dr. Bret Jerger – present
- Dr. Venkat Minnaganti – absent
- Dr. Jeff Smith – present
- Deborah Pulliam – present
- Jennifer Mahannah – absent

### Health Department Staff in Attendance

- Lindsey Munsterman, Public Health Administrator
- Laura Zuber, Accounting Director
- Scott Parks, Director of Human Resources
- Tiffany Reed, Administrative Assistant
- Jerry Brown Jr., Environmental Director
- Alexander Harshman, IT Specialist

### Other Attendance:

- N/A

### Consent Calendar

- *Jeff Entler made a motion to approve the consent agenda, properly seconded by Cody Parks. Voice vote: all in favor; motion carried.*

### Public Comment

- Mark stated there is no public comment.

### Employee Recognition

- Mark congratulated and thanked the following people for their years of service: Emily O'Connell (11 years), Daniel Miller (2 years), Madigan Vought (2 years), Taylor Miller (2 years), Aleshia Snyder (1 year), and Sha'Diamond Cook (1 year)

### Old Business

- Lindsey stated no old business.

## **New Business**

- Lindsey stated that she intends to start giving monthly updates on things she thinks the board should be aware of. She also said that she had been requested to share what some of her goals for 2026 were and plans to start doing that at the beginning of each year to keep the board informed on what she is working on. Her first update was to let the board know that they had received SEIs (Statements of Economic Interest). She stated that they could just fill them out and get them back to her at the end of the meeting, but if they chose to take them home, they would have to turn them into Josh Tanner's office at the county building. The next update was to inform the board that we had caught that we were paying for a VPN service through Metro at \$420/month since March of 2023. She said that we had recently caught this as it was a VPN meant for the county clerk's office but had been mistakenly added to our account. She said it was probably done because we fell under the umbrella of the County of Macon but had somehow gotten missed for nearly 3 years. She said that we have been working with the auditor's office to get the money back as we have been paying for their VPN all this time, and that they were more than willing to reimburse the money and switch the VPN to the proper account. All in all, she said that the VPN has cost us \$9,240 over the last few years. She said that it was just something that everyone involved had somehow managed to overlook but had finally been caught and was now being resolved. She also said that going forward, they would be far more thorough in looking over the bills before they sign off on them.
- The next update that she had for the board was to let them know that we had received news from Molina, which is one of the Medicaid insurances we accept in our dental division, that they had lowered the reimbursement rate for many of the pediatric services that we offer in the dental division. She said that, to give an example of one of the items being adjusted, the other service providers offer a \$50.13 reimbursement for a pediatric oral exam, and Molina will now be offering the reimbursement at \$29.40. She said that around a quarter of the people we see in our dental division are covered through Molina, so we will be seeing some major changes. She said that she was having Kim Sabin-Pritchett, our Dental Coordinator, run the numbers to try and give us an overview of what to expect with the new rates and how it will change our revenue and budgeting. Lindsey said that she has reached out to other counties, and they are all experiencing the same thing in terms of Molina lowering their rates. She said that we will continue to accept Molina patients because, as a health department, we should as it's Medicaid insurance. Dr. Jeff Smith said that the rates will just continue to get lower, given his experience working with Medicaid patients over the years. He said that he has had to start denying Molina patients in his own office because of how Molina is taking advantage of their right to lower rates without explanation. He went on to state that he had read that Molina's CEO takes a \$65,000,000 bonus each year while the medical professionals must lose money due to their lack of reimbursement efforts. Lindsey asked Dr. Brett Jerger if he had seen similar things in his clinic with the Molina insurance provider, and he said that it baffled him that the state was allowing this to happen. Dr. Smith confirmed that they were supposed to be the administrator for the state, and Dr. Jerger asked if it was just the one fee that was lowered or if it was all of them. Lindsey answered, stating that there were numerous different procedures that were being affected and said that they were all roughly 25% less than we were previously being reimbursed. Dr. Jerger asked to have a copy of the list with the affected rates so that he could take them to the state dental board and see if they could figure out a way to handle things like this in the future. Lindsey agreed to get him the copy of the list. Lindsey said that she had attempted to contact Molina just to have a proper discussion as to why they were lowering their rates but was never able to get ahold of anyone and had sat on hold for over an hour and a half. Dr. Smith said that even the hospitals in Macon County were no longer accepting Molina patients because of how they were lowering their rates so drastically. Lindsey verbalized her appreciation for the added information, stating that it was good knowledge to have that it wasn't just us that were struggling with Molina. Dr. Smith went on to say how our patient population is his patient population, and that it was very difficult because Molina just kept ratcheting it down further and further until they were losing too much money to justify continuing to accept Molina patients, which was a very hard decision. He said that it was very eye-opening and frustrating that he and other health care providers are forced to lose money to see public aid patients while the CEOs of the insurance providers turn around and take multimillion dollar bonuses. He added that the fact that they were doing it on behalf of the state made it

feel even more like a slap to the face of the healthcare providers. He said that the state used to be months behind on their payments until they turned it over to Molina, and Molina went on to offer fractions of what was owed and were saying that that was as much as they would pay before just calling the debt paid in full. He said that he absolutely hates to deny patients because of Molina, because people deserve care, but accepting those patients does nothing but enable Molina to continue working the way that they are currently operating and taking advantage of the system. Lindsey said that as a unit of local government, we receive a higher reimbursement rate than regular healthcare providers, and that having the rates decrease by so much so suddenly was very disheartening and she said that she was curious to see how it would end up affecting the revenue that we projected versus what we will actually bring in for FY26. Mark asked for the percentage of patients that were coming in for services that fall under the category, and Lindsey said roughly 25% of our current patients are covered through Molina. Mark then stated that we could probably expect to lose 25% of revenue if that was the case. Dr. Smith then added that it becomes "contagious" in that the other insurers see what Molina is doing and getting away with and will then start to follow suit to up their own personal profits. Lindsey said that she wouldn't be surprised if the other insurers shortly followed Molina's lead and that she would be keeping an eye on it. Lindsey said that it has been impossible to get ahold of anyone from Molina, saying that she had been on hold for over an hour before she eventually just gave up on the call. Dr. Smith said that they do that on purpose because they know people won't wait that long for a phone call. Lindsey said that she also had sent an email out to just a general email that she found on their website but didn't anticipate getting a response. Dr. Smith said that the only way to get any real kind of change is for organizations like the state dental board to go to government officials and really put up a fight to let them know that they can't keep using Molina as an official provider because of how it is affecting healthcare providers. He then reiterated how appalled he was that the CEO of Molina had the nerve to take advantage of healthcare providers like that and then turn around and take a \$65,000,000 bonus while executing these procedures on behalf of the state. Lindsey said that, unfortunately, Molina had leverage seeing as health departments are there to serve the public and are in no position to deny care to anyone even if they are on Molina's branch of Medicaid, because then our most vulnerable population in Macon County goes unserved. Jeff Entler suggested trying to approach Regan Deering to see if she would be willing to assist in resolving these issues and that he would be willing to assist in approaching her.

- Lindsey's next update was to introduce Alexander (Alex) Harshman as our new IT Specialist as he had recently been promoted to the position after Luke Leach, the former IT Specialist, took a job at the state level in Springfield. Alexander introduced himself stating that he went to LSA for high school and then went to Millikin for college, majoring in computer science and data science. He said that he was very excited to be able to really hit the ground running and expand the position. He said that one of his biggest goals is to be able to go to people not for them to have to come to him. He said that it would help our systems run smoother and more efficiently. He stated that, in his personal life, he's a big sports guy and that he roots for the Colts and the Cardinals. Jeff Entler congratulated him on his promotion.
- Lindsey said that her next update was pertaining to funding. She brought up the fact that the Trump Administration has made funding cuts to public health, and she is trying to figure out how it is going to end up trickling down the local level, where it will eventually affect us. She said we received an update from Jacob Cisco who is the CEO of IDPH and that even they don't know. She said that they are working on figuring out which programs are going to end up being affected by the funding cuts. She said that, as far as the programs that we offer that have been mentioned are the HIV and Reproductive Life Planning, which are both big things that we do here at the health department, but that there haven't been any specific grants that have been mentioned, so we don't know yet how it will affect our funding for those programs. She said that we were told to just continue submitting reimbursement certificates as usual, and that we will continue to be reimbursed as usual until further notice. She said that they have issued a temporary restraining order on the termination to cut the funding and that it will last through the end of the month. She said other states (Minnesota, Colorado, California) have all received similar notifications, and currently we are just waiting to hear what is going on with our funding sources.
- Lindsey reminded the board that next month or in April, they will be provided with a roster of attendance for the last 12 months and they should speak amongst themselves if they noticed anything they should be concerned about.

- Lindsey's last update before moving onto her goals for 2026 was to inform the board that Illinois had its first measles confirmation, an individual from Metro East with an unknown vaccination status. She said the individual was infectious from February 5<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Lindsey asked if anyone had any questions or comments about her updates, and Dr. Jeff Smith asked if the federal funding cuts were targeted states or if it was a broad-spectrum change, specifically if the funding cuts were targeting the states that have sanctuary cities. Lindsey said that she didn't know off the top of her head, but that the four states she was given information for were us, Minnesota, Colorado, and California, so the sanctuary states. He mentioned that New York hadn't been brought up, but that the other sanctuary states had been.
- Lindsey went on to introduce her goals for 2026, the first of which is to reduce administrative costs. She said that they have been looking over every single IT bill, which is how they caught the VPN costs. She said that, to give an example, we just entered a 3-year term with Metro Communications who provides our internet service, where we were previously paying \$1460 a month for 1 gig of internet, and now we will be paying \$833 a month for three years, which will save MCHD \$22,572. She said that she questioned why we haven't entered longer terms with some of our service providers but found that there is an Illinois statute saying that anything contractual over \$30,000 must go into the competitive bidding process, but our current internet provider was able to keep us below that threshold. Mark asked if we had entered the contract yet, and Lindsey said yes, we are in the contract from February 2026 until March of 2029. Mark said that one thing we should think about is that a lot of companies don't like to enter longer contracts because of how fast technology keeps changing and the world keeps evolving so that, down the road, things could be less expensive down the road. He also said that to consider doing the contract with an option to exercise renewal, so that non-commitment or renewal at current price are options as we examine the competition. Cody mentioned that most places offer an early departure fee of around 6 months' worth of service payments, but that if we are leaving a contract that way to pursue a substantially cheaper cost, the money spent will be saved within a year roughly. Lindsey said that she did get multiple quotes from other internet providers before signing anything, and that Metro was significantly lower than any of the other competitors and that they really wanted to keep our business. She said that she had sent the official quote from Metro to the other companies to let them respond with what they could offer, and that none of them even came close to what Metro was offering. Jeff Entler asked if we were using copper or fiber, and Alex said that we were using fiber as that is all Metro offers, and we are just paying for the transfer of data. Alex also said that we did not change our bandwidth. Lindsey said that they were looking at all our current expenses and meeting with the suppliers to see if there are ways to cut costs without sacrificing quality.
- Lindsey said that her next goal is to work with IT to create a better system for anticipating IT needs to allow better budgeting systems pertaining to upgrading and replacing outdated or damaged equipment. Jeff Entler asked what kind of devices we mainly deal with, and Alex replied that it is all mainly laptops and desktops. Jeff asked how we maintained our printers, and Alex said that we go through the company Watts, and that they have sensors that informs them when a printer is low on something or needs something replaced.
- Lindsey said that the next goal would be to complete an oral needs assessment in Macon County to properly determine what the public needs in terms of oral care. She said that there is a program through IDPH called OHNAP (Oral Health Needs Assessment Program) and that it would provide funding through the Maternal and Child Health program to be able to do the assessment for Macon County. She wants to complete the assessment before making any kind of big investment in the dental division so that we can be more informed about the kinds of needs and programs the public are looking to have serviced and available.
- Lindsey said that she was intending on attending more community events, like ribbon cuttings, to get more involved with community as she feels her as the Public Health Administrator should. She said she was going to make a better effort to attend those.
- Lindsey said that her last goal was to increase regulatory compliance, like HIPAA Safety and General Fraud, Waste, and Abuse. She said that she feels we should be more frequent and thorough in our internal audits to really ensure that we continue to maintain compliance in all our Eagle Associates trainings. She said that we are going to create a few different committees that will oversee staying on top of those.
- Scott Parks started his HR report by stating that in the month of January, the personnel movement ramped up just like he had anticipated. He said that at the time he completed the report, there were 8

open positions, but that by the time the meeting was being held, the number had dropped to about 5 open positions. He said that we have filled the Healthworks Lead Agency Case Manager Coordinator position, as well as the Starting Point Senior Information Specialist and the IT Support Specialist. He said that in the month of January, two new hires started employment with us, a Full-Time Family Support Specialist and a Part-Time Dental Assistant Clerical Support. He said we did receive notice of a voluntary separation of employment from the former IT Support Specialist in the month of January and two formal voluntary separations of employment. He added a reminder that voluntary separations of employment carry no claim or eligibility for unemployment. We did extend a contingent offer to the Dental Assistant that was accepted in the clerical capacity. He said that January's turnover rate was just under 1.5% which is an extremely good number to be at. He said we look forward to keeping that number low in the following months of the year. He then said that as an OSHA regulated agency, we are required to submit a 300A reporting data, which shows any injuries, incidents, or deaths that occurred in the previous year, and he was happy to report that the health department had zero injuries, incidents, or deaths and had zero lost days due to said incidents, injuries, or deaths.

- Laura introduced our financial report by letting us know that our total revenue this far has been around \$780,600 and that our total expenditures were around \$1,038,000. She said that 16.67% of the year has passed so far, and so the revenue is at about 10.3% and the expenditures are at about 13.7%. She said that the reason that the revenue is a bit lower than we're used to is due to not receiving any of our tax money yet, which normally starts funneling in around July. Laura said that having Lindsey going line by line to determine if any of our bills are unnecessary or can be negotiated lower is a big factor in why our expenditures are lower than anticipated and that she looks forward to continuing to work with Lindsey on completing that task. Laura then started explaining the interest on investments that we had received, stating that in January, we received \$11,265.46 on interest via our investments. She said that she reached out to the county office and received the most current interest rate on our investments. She said that our regular Health Checking account receives .20% on interest, our Money Market account receives 3.75%, our IMET account receives 3.46%, and our IPRIME receives 3.70%. She said our IPRIME account only pays out the interest in May and November, so we don't see many profits from those, and this month we saw \$1.02. Jeff Entler said that he had read over the report earlier in the afternoon and wanted to verify that the .20% on our regular checking account was correct and not a typo, wondering if that was a standard rate for a checking account and that for us to be keeping a large sum of money in it, we want to make sure that we're getting the best rate on interest. Laura explained that it was not a typo, that it was an average rate of interest for a checking account, and that the reason we keep that amount of money in there is to make sure our payroll and accounts payable are covered. She said that John Jackson and his staff maintain it for us, and that he and Lindsey worked together to determine what kind of balance we should maintain in the account as an on-hand accessible fund. She said that John handles all the accounts for Macon County and believes that all the checking accounts receive the same interest rate.
- Mark moved the meeting along with the approval of an increase in appropriations in the FY26 Health Fund Budget for Department 610 regarding the CNS Narcan, Project 62401. Laura said that our CNS Director, Amber, has been working with Sangamon County in coming up with an intergovernmental agreement for Narcan rapid distribution with Macon County. She said that basically, they worked together to come up with revenue from Sangamon County to distribute to Macon County to get the Narcan out into the public, which totals \$5,400 of which \$2,400 is in supplies, \$2,000 is in media coverage and things like fliers and cards, and \$1,000 is in travel and training. *Cody made a motion to approve the resolution, Brett Jerger seconded, all voted unanimously in agreement. Motion carried.*
- Jerry informed us that on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Popeye's closed because, back in 2019, they were closed for a cockroach infestation. Then, in June of 2020, they were closed again for multiple health hazards, which sparked them needing to attend a trial to determine whether they could reopen. The trial concluded that they could reopen under the premise that the health department will be doing three routine inspections periodically throughout the calendar year. On the 6<sup>th</sup>, Jerry and his team were given a complaint about Popeye's having water dripping into areas of food preparation. He said that when they got there, it wasn't just one area that needed resolved, it was multiple areas that needed repaired throughout the building. He said that because of this, they were forced to cease operation immediately. He was informed that there would be a roofer coming out to fix the leaks, and he told them that they would be out within 24 hours of the repairs being completed. He said they got a call around 12:30 on the 9<sup>th</sup> that they were ready for a re-inspection, and he went out to check the repairs. He said that most

of the leaks were resolved but the one area where the main leak was at was still bad. He said that he told the general operations manager that until the water stops dripping, they would not be allowed to reopen. Jerry said that about two days later, the leaking had stopped. He said that he allowed them to reopen, but that there would be another inspection in around 30 days. He said that the roofing company said that there were multiple leaks and that they did a patching, but that it would most likely need a new roof once the weather warmed up. He said they were informed that they need to be proactive in the nature that, if it rains, and they see a leak starting, that they need to do their due diligence and close until the leak is fixed. Jerry also stated that they were informed that, should they receive another closure in the next twelve months, they would be permanently closed. Mark said that if that happens, we would not be giving them another chance given our history with the business.

- Lindsey gave a small update on our new dentist, Dr. Larry Osborne. She said that we are still waiting for him to be accepted to take Medicaid, so we are hoping to have a conversation with him about the kinds of services he is wanting to provide at the health department once we have him all cleared and ready to go via Medicaid. Brett said he and Larry had gotten together to initiate this process so that they can report back to the dental community to get the word out since the health department does all of the enrollment process for them. Brett said that Larry is more or less a guinea pig so that we could potentially get more retired dentists on board with helping out at the health department, but that Larry is definitely wanting to provide services and work at the health department. Lindsey said that it has been about a month since they submitted the application, and that it would take about 90 days to complete.
- Lindsey introduced the 2026 Annual Report, which includes everything that the health department has done throughout the year, including the number of services we provided as well as our revenue versus expenses. She said that the information will get distributed to other health departments and hospitals to let them know what we are doing in the health department. *Cody made a motion to approve the report, Brett seconded it, and all voted unanimously in agreement. Motion carried.*

**Closed Session:**

- N/A

**Open Session:**

- N/A

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tiffany Reed  
MCHD Administrative Assistant

President:  \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary:  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 4/21/26