



**Location:** Bear River Health Department, Tremonton Building, 440 West 600 North, Tremonton, Utah

**Board of Health Attendees:** Lee Perry, Cade Palmer (virtual), Kevin Hall, Bill Cox, David Zook, Randy Williams, Yohanna Vernon, Cheryl Atwood, Rebecca Echols

**Bear River Health Department Attendees:** Jordan Mathis, Josh Greer, Linda Brown, Estee Hunt, Spencer George, Alicia Toscano, Farrin Weise, Jared Bohman, Jordan Miller, Josh Barson

**Others in Attendance:** Sandy Goodlander (Cache County Council)

Attachments  [Bear River Board of Health](#)  [BRHD BOH packet 05.12.25](#)

Meeting records  [Transcript](#) This meeting was not recorded by accident. Hence, there is a transcript and no recording.

## Bear River Board of Health

### Summary

Participants discussed and approved the substance abuse prevention and treatment area plan, which includes improvements in treatment and training, expanded community resource fairs, the development of key performance indicators and a public dashboard, and the renewal of residential treatment services. The board also received updates on the Garden City office, youth programs, in-house fentanyl testing, prevention efforts, and coalition work. Furthermore, Jordan provided Open and Public Meetings Act (OPMA) training and reported on DEQ funding, behavioral health contracting, the September retreat, the presidential budget's potential impact, performance management, the community health assessment, and the upcoming audit and meeting schedule.

### Outline

#### Call to Order: Lee Perry

- Lee Perry welcomed everyone to the Board of Health Meeting.

#### Opening Ceremonies and Pledge of Allegiance: Jared Bohman

- Jared Bohman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Today's Agenda and Meeting Minutes Approval (March 10, 2025)

- Lee Perry called for a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded and approved by the board.
  - Motion to approve: Bill Cox
  - Second: Kevin Hall
- Lee Perry called for a motion to approve the March Meeting Minutes. Which is seconded by and approved by the board.
  - Motion to approve: Bill Cox
  - Second: Kevin Hall

## **Proposed Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment Area Plan Presentation & Hearing**

- Jared Bohman presented a proposed substance abuse prevention and treatment area plan. Jared mentioned that this area plan is conducted more inclusively, allowing for feedback and providing more information. Jared explained that the state requires an annual area plan outlining how the needs of constituents in Cache, Rich, and Box Elder counties will be met and how the department fulfills its responsibility to provide services across funded areas.

### **Treatment and Training Improvements:**

- Jared highlighted improvements in treatment and training tools, noting that Josh and Jared completed trauma-focused training. He also mentioned that many counselors are now trained in EMDR and that Josh and Jared completed ART training to increase the effectiveness of substance abuse counseling. This focus aims to address the root causes of substance abuse issues.

### **Community Resource Fairs:**

- Jared expressed pride in the expansion of community resource fairs, which started in Box Elder and then expanded to Logan. These fairs, in partnership with probation departments and utilizing the health department as a central location, connect individuals released from incarceration or starting probation with various service providers like Medicaid eligibility and workforce services, facilitating quicker access to essential resources.

### **Key Performance Indicators and Public Dashboard:**

- Jared discussed the development of key performance indicators (KPIs) under Jordan's leadership to track outcomes related to substance use, housing, and employment. They are also developing a public-facing dashboard to demonstrate accountability to community members and partners, showcasing the impact of funding and improvements for clients. This dashboard is expected to be available within the next year.

### **Residential Treatment Services:**

- Jared announced the renewal of the contract with Odyssey House in Salt Lake for residential treatment services, which had been discontinued during COVID due to lower utilization. This renewal increases the availability of higher-intensity services for those who may not find them locally. He noted that Odyssey House and First Step House, with whom they also contract, have the same state reporting and audit requirements.

### **Garden City Office and Youth Programs:**

- The group was informed that the walkthrough for the Garden City office was completed, and the license is pending, allowing for the resumption of direct services there. Jared also reported on the updated youth program material and the hiring of Donna Johnson as the new youth program coordinator, who has strong connections with the juvenile court. They have also expanded the case manager role in the mental health court in Cache County.

### **In-House Fentanyl Testing:**

- Jared reported that their lab now has in-house fentanyl testing capabilities for their clients and others in need. While turnaround times may be similar to the previous out-of-state lab, having in-house testing is beneficial for understanding local trends. He also noted that changes in the area plan are marked in blue, and strikethroughs indicate discontinued services, such as the PIPC program, due to lack of funding.

### **Prevention Efforts and Coalitions:**

- Farrin Weise discussed the prevention side of the area plan, which is based on risk and protective factors and utilizes data from the Student Health and Risk Prevention (SHARP) survey. They highlighted a shift from county-wide drug coalitions to smaller, high school geographic location-focused coalitions, now totaling seven with the addition of Rich County. Fren emphasized that these coalitions use an evidence-based process driven by community feedback to address specific local risk and protective factors.

### **Public Hearing and Area Plan Approval**

- Lee Perry opened the floor for a public hearing on the proposed substance abuse area plan.
  - No public comments.
  - David Zook made a motion to close the public hearing.
  - Bill Cox seconded, and the motion passed.
  - Commissioner Zook then made a motion to approve the proposed substance abuse area plan to be forwarded to the counties for final approval.
  - Seconded: Bill Cox, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Open and Public Meetings Act (OPMA) Training**

- Jordan Mathis provided training on the Open and Public Meetings Act (OPMA), highlighting the importance of open government actions and deliberations. The training covered what constitutes an open and public meeting, including regular meetings, public hearings, electronic meetings, and emergency meetings, as well as exceptions for closed meetings and notice requirements. The requirements for meeting minutes and recordings were also discussed. Alicia Toscano confirmed that the board members present would be marked as having completed the training.

## **Health Officer Report**

### **DEQ Funding and Collaboration:**

- Jordan Mathis announced that they are expected to receive \$5,000 from the DEQ as a recoupment for work done on the M&J project, acknowledging the work of the EH team. Jordan noted the significance of this, as it relates to a statewide issue addressed by Senator Sandall's legislation regarding reimbursement for extraordinary enforcement efforts. Jordan also shared his appointment to the DEQ governance committee, expressing optimism about the positive relationship with the agency.

### **Behavioral Health Contracting Update:**

- Jordan reported progress on behavioral health contracting, noting the signing of a comprehensive contract with the state covering mental health, substance use, and prevention. They are also working to move Medicaid match contracts and are in weekly meetings with county attorneys to finalize a contract with Bear River Mental Health by July 1st, using Davis County's contract as a framework.

### **September Retreat:**

- The September retreat was scheduled for September 2nd in the Brigham City office.

### **Presidential Update:**

- Jordan then discussed the presidential budget, which appears unfavorable for public health, as a significant portion of their funding is federal pass-through. Service areas are developing plans to address potential budget cuts, and while there is hope for some adjustments, they are preparing for the proposed budget. He acknowledged the board's previous decisions, such as allowing 32-hour benefited positions, which could help absorb potential impacts.

### **Performance Management and Community Health Assessment:**

- Jordan mentioned improvements in their human resource software and evaluation processes to encourage and determine strong performance, aligning with KPI discussions. They also appreciated those who participated in the community health

assessment meetings, noting that Intermountain Health is compiling the data, and the Community Health Improvement Plan report is expected in late summer.

### **Audit and Upcoming Meetings:**

- Jordan announced that the audit report will be available in August, a slight delay from the expected time. He clarified the upcoming meeting schedule, noting a strategic retreat on September 2nd and official public meetings in August and October, with the October meeting being the fee hearing. The present meeting was shorter due to a recent virtual meeting.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting concluded with a motion to adjourn.

- Motion to close: Bill Cox
- Second: David Zook