

# **Southwest Utah Board of Health**

Festival Hall Rooms 5 & 6

105 N 100 E

Cedar City, Utah

**Wednesday, April 9, 2025**

10:00 a.m.

## **MINUTES**

### **Members Present:**

Commissioner Celeste Meyeres .....	Kane County
Commissioner Gil Almquist (for Commissioner Victor Iverson).....	Washington County
Commissioner Jerry Taylor.....	Garfield County
Dr. Kenneth Snow.....	Washington County
Mr. Kent Peterson .....	Iron County
Commissioner Paul Cozzens.....	Iron County
Mr. Scott Symond.....	Beaver County
Commissioner Wade Hollingshead.....	Beaver County
Ms. Jerica Bauer .....	Kane County

### **Members Not Present:**

Mr. Nick Reynolds.....	Garfield County
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### **Others Present:**

Dr. David W. Blodgett, Director/Health Officer.....	SWUPHD
Mr. Cameron Mitchell, Deputy Health Officer.....	SWUPHD
Mr. Logan Wrigley, Business Manager.....	SWUPHD
Mr. Brandon Ray, Administrative Services Director.....	SWUPHD
Ms. RuthAnne Watt, Administrative Liaison .....	SWUPHD
Ms. Christine Scheppe, Human Resources Manager.....	SWUPHD
Mr. Lloyd Berentzen, Health Officer Special Projects Coordinator.....	SWUPHD
Ms. Courtney Sinagra, Deputy Attorney.....	Washington County Attorney's Office

Commissioner Celeste Meyeres called the meeting to order at **10:00** a.m.

<b>Minutes Approval</b>	Mr. Scott Symond made a motion to accept the minutes from <b>February 2025</b> . Dr. Kenneth Snow seconded the motion. Motion carried.
<b>Financial Update by Logan Wrigley</b>	25% of the way through the calendar year. Revenues at 29% of annual budget. Expenses at 20% of annual budget. Remaining COVID grant funds were cut on March 24, 2025. There will be less revenue and expenses that reflect those changes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There will be an amended financial report given at the next BOH meeting to show the changes from the COVID funding cuts.</li><li>• Financial of Actual vs Budget for January 1 – March 31, 2025</li><li>• Statement of Financial Activity as of March 31, 2025</li></ul>

<b>Legislative/State recap</b> <i>by Dr. Blodgett</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HB 81 – Fluoride Amendments – no fluoride allowed in drinking water in Utah. It allows people to go to a pharmacist to get the medication instead of needing a doctor's order.</li> <li>HB 84 – Vaccine amendments – designates food intended for human consumption that contains a vaccine or vaccine material as a drug</li> <li>Fewer restrictions on raw milk</li> <li>Extended the sunset on the e-cigarette tax and requirements</li> <li>SB 172 – Local Health Department Amendments – there is new Secretary of DEQ (Tim Davis). This bill gives the Governance process more teeth. Hopefully starts a new, better conversation with DEQ.</li> <li>Attempts to fix the e-cigarette flavors bill from last session. This bill failed.</li> <li>HB 294 – Infectious Disease – removes the health officer ability to issue orders of constraint. Requires accommodations of face coverings for certain people</li> <li>Code Red bill did not pass.</li> </ul>
<b>COVID Funding Cuts</b> <i>by Dr. Blodgett</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CDC pulled back all of the funding related to COVID...total \$11.1 billion nationwide. Funding was cut end of day March 23, 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Southwest had approximately \$5 million remaining. It was a specialized program requiring COVID related activities.</li> <li>There were five people remaining under this funding. The department was able to give them one month of salary to help in their transition.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Two programs of concern for future cuts: WIC and Emergency Preparedness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency preparedness efforts presidential order to change from all-hazards model to risk-based model</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Approval of the Policy and Procedures Manual</b> <i>by Brandon Ray</i>	AI Acceptable Use policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How should we use it at the department? What do we deem as responsible user in public health? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is an approval process reviewed by administration, when needed, before information is distributed.</li> <li>Don't put personal health information on a platform</li> <li>When in doubt ask first or don't do it at all</li> <li>We still need to be creators of our content</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Commissioner Gil Almquist made a motion for the AI Acceptable Use policy to be approved as presented. Commissioner Wade Hollingshead seconded. Motion carried.
	Employee Vaccination and TB policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better designated staff related to vaccine and tuberculosis requirement for the at-risk level.</li> <li>Carved out all employees required to get TB tests as a new hire to just the at-risk groups as designated in the new policy</li> <li>The change was prompted by CDC changes</li> </ul> Scott Symond made a motion for the Employee Vaccination and TB policy to be approved as presented. Commissioner Gil Almquist seconded. Motion carried. Dr. Kenneth Snow opposed. Commissioner Wade Hollingshead was not present for the vote.
<b>Other Business</b> <i>by Dr. Blodgett</i>	EMT Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The class went from 4 volunteers to 22 volunteers. Part of the volunteers were parents that attended with their children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milford High school accepted this as a class in high school</li> </ul> </li> <li>Recommend that others reach out to the high schools in their area</li> </ul>

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- Assignment: Scott Symond – Ask Warren to attend the next board meeting to explain what the class is and give a model to be able to hand out to high schools

#### Illegal Immigrants

- Seeing a rise in TB because of illegal immigrants. Concern that TB cases fall on public health instead of the healthcare system. There is no funding given for taking care of all TB cases. Each case costs approximately \$30,000 - \$50,000 per case.
  - If TB cases need to use a bed and go through a treatment course at UofU it costs approximately \$500,000.
- Do we need to address this at the legislative level?
- Is there a way to get the immigration agencies to take care of this...pay for treatment or remove the illegal immigrants?
- TB screening is required for those immigrants that enter the country legally

#### Fall prevention classes

- Would like these classes to continue as the public really like them and the independence it allows them to maintain.

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**Presentation**  
*by Dr. Blodgett*

Dr. Blodgett gave a micro-nutrients presentation

- Magnesium
- Potassium
- Vitamin D
- Salt

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**Next meeting agenda**  
**items**

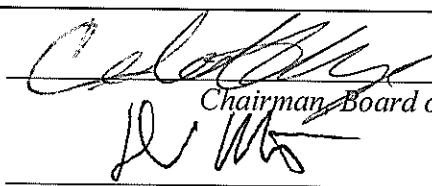
- EMT class – Warren
- Adoption of State Body Art Regulation
- Discussion about steps to take locally if other program funds are cut
- Next meeting: August 6, 2025

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**Adjournment**

Commissioner Celeste Meyeres adjourned the meeting at 12:00pm

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Chairman, Board of Health



Secretary, Board of Health

8-13-25  
Date  
8/13/2025  
Date