



MINUTES
May 19, 2025

Members Present:			
Carl Hanson, Chair	X	Ryan Schooley	X Electronic
Dr. Jeffrey Ogden, Vice-chair	X	Julie Fullmer	X Electronic
Dr. Christopher Gordon	X	Francine Jensen	X Electronic
Amelia Powers Gardner	Excused	Wendy Dau	Excused
Dr. Jordan Singleton	Excused		
Sonia Pineda	Excused		

Others present:

Eric Edwards, MPA, MCCHES UCHD Executive Director
Tyler Plewe UCHD Deputy Director
Juli Van Ginkel UCHD Secretary
Zachary Zundel Deputy County Attorney

Number of people in attendance 11

1. Welcome by Carl Hanson, Board of Health Chair
2. Approval of minutes from March 24, 2025

MOTION: Dr. Jeffrey Ogden motioned to approve the minutes from the March 24, 2025, Board of Health meeting, seconded by Dr. Christopher Ogden. No discussion. Motion carries and approved unanimously.

3. Nomination of Board of Health Member

Carl Hansen introduced Dr. Scott Smith as a potential member of the Board of Health. Dr. Smith is a local, board-certified emergency medicine physician. He currently serves on the Highland City Council, the Utah State Developmental Center Governing Board, the Animal Control Board, and the North Pointe Waste Management Transfer Station Board. In addition

to his public service, Dr. Smith continues to operate his full-time primary care practice. Eric Edwards expressed his appreciation for Dr. Smith joining the Board.

MOTION: Dr. Jeffrey Ogden motioned to approve Dr. Scott Smith, seconded by Francine Jensen. No discussion. Motion carries and approved unanimously.

4. UALBOH Annual Summit Report (April 2025 at Thanksgiving Point)

Attending Board Members:

Carl Hansen, Eric Edwards, Ryan Schooley, and Dr. Jeffrey Ogden

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Public Health was a key focus of the summit, with widespread agreement on its potential to improve outcomes and efficiency in both general medicine and public health research. The integration of AI was recognized as a significant step forward in advancing public health initiatives through more accurate data analysis and streamlined decision-making processes.

One of the most well-received discussions centered on the use of AI in drone technology for mosquito abatement. This innovative application was presented as a cost-effective and efficient strategy for controlling mosquito populations, enhancing overall public health and disease prevention efforts.

Dr. Ogden highlighted Utah County's leadership in technology adoption, noting that the region is ahead of many others in the state. He emphasized that this progress has been achieved without compromising fiscal responsibility, showcasing a strong commitment to both innovation and cost-efficiency.

During the summit Aimee Winder Newton addressed the pressing issue of youth mental health in the context of increasing smartphone and digital technology usage. She underscored the need to help young people establish a healthy balance between their digital interactions and real-world responsibilities, particularly with regard to school, family, and emotional well-being.

Looking ahead, the summit will continue to be an annual event. To support full participation from the Board of Health, Eric would like the members to be notified in January so they can plan accordingly for next year's summit.

5. Utah Open Meetings Act (UOPMA) Training

Britney Thorley from the Utah County Attorney's Office presented the Open and Public Meetings Act (OPMA) training. The purpose of OPMA training is to promote transparency in government by ensuring that actions and decisions are made in a manner that is open and accessible to the public. This transparency fosters accountability and responsible governance. As a public body, the Board of Health is required to comply with all provisions outlined in the act.

The training covered several key topics, including the definition and function of a public body, quorum requirements, and the updated definition of a meeting. Participants also reviewed general requirements of OPMA, the legal grounds for holding closed meetings, and procedures for emergency and electronic meetings. Emphasis was placed on understanding the consequences of violating open meeting requirements and recognizing common missteps that could result in non-compliance.

A notable update to the act includes a broadened definition of “meeting,” which now encompasses any form of communication—such as text messages, phone calls, or emails—if a quorum of members is involved in discussing or deliberating toward a decision. Even informal conversations that suggest how members may vote are included under this definition.

The act also clearly prohibits any predetermined actions outside of properly noticed public meetings. This includes any communication that could be interpreted as building consensus or making decisions prior to a formal meeting, regardless of the medium or setting.

To support ongoing compliance, all members of public bodies are required to complete annual training on OPMA. In addition, public notice must be provided for all meetings, which must be open to the public unless an appropriate legal exemption applies. All meetings are required to be recorded, and minutes must be maintained as part of the public record.

Please see the attached presentation for additional information.

6. Mosquito Abatement Update

Jason Bird provided an update on the progress made by Utah County Mosquito Abatement. Carl Hansen congratulated Jason Bird on his new role as Mosquito Abatement Manager, marking a smooth leadership transition and continued momentum for the program. With the season approaching, the team is prioritizing prevention, emphasizing early detection and strategic larvicide application through advanced tools and technologies.

Drones are now being used to identify and treat mosquito breeding sites, particularly those that are difficult to access by traditional methods. The team’s efforts are further supported by surveillance systems, data analysis, GIS mapping, and the use of 3D printing to enhance the precision and efficiency of their mosquito control strategies. Online service requests submitted by residents have become a valuable tool in identifying new breeding areas and ensuring a rapid response across Utah County.

The department has refined its larvicide methods, which has led to a decreased reliance on wide area spraying and significant cost savings. Truck-mounted fogging is now implemented selectively and only when specific environmental conditions are met, ensuring a more targeted approach.

To further expand coverage, six part-time, bicycle-based field workers are now involved in larvicide applications. The drone program has also helped reduce the number of man-hours needed while increasing the overall efficiency and reach of the mosquito abatement efforts.

Maintaining transparency and open communication remains a central priority. Internally, this supports coordination among team members, while externally, it helps build public trust and reinforce the integrity of the program's operations.

Larvicide continues to play a vital role in controlling mosquito populations throughout the county. Utah County remains at the forefront of integrating new technologies into public health practices. Although there were initial concerns about drone usage, Jason explained that public perception has shifted positively as residents have witnessed their effectiveness. A new Methoprene technology is also being deployed in stormwater basins; its adhesive properties allow it to remain effective through multiple storm events, increasing overall treatment success.

Please see the attached presentation for additional details

7. Employee Engagement Survey

Tyler Plewe reviewed the employee engagement survey that was sent to all Utah County Health Department employees. Employee confidence in approaching management, as well as satisfaction with benefits and compensation, has improved. While some employees still express concerns about compensation, Eric and Tyler will continue working with the compensation team to evaluate how the department compares to Salt Lake, Davis, and other counties. Compensation and internal communication remain two of the most significant areas for improvement.

Career development initiatives have been implemented department-wide and received positive feedback from staff. The department's Net Promoter Score (NPS) remains consistent with last year and continues to exceed the county average.

Survey results identified technology as the most significant area of concern. Efforts are underway to address this and improve scores in future assessments.

8. Adopt Amendment of Utah County Health Department Regulation 16-02, Regulation for Household Hazardous Waste

Zachary Zundel reviewed the amendment to the Regulation for Household Hazardous Waste. The original amendment, approved by the Board of Health in 2016, was intended to establish a permitting process for the collection, transfer, disposal, and handling of solid waste. During a review of waste district contracts late last year, it became apparent that the regulation required revisions to improve clarity and alignment with current practices.

One of the primary updates involves refining the definition of household hazardous waste, particularly as it applies to items such as electronic waste, gasoline, and batteries. A substantial portion of Sections 4.1 and 4.2 was removed, as entities that already hold a permit through the state will no longer require a separate permitting process at the county level. This change reduces redundancy while maintaining oversight through existing regulatory channels.

In response to Carl Hansen's question about whether transfer stations would still need to obtain a county permit, Zachary clarified that under the revised regulation, they will not. However, the county will still collect a per-ton fee for the waste processed through these stations.

To ensure the financial sustainability of the program, a cap will now be placed on the amount a facility can be reimbursed annually. This measure is intended to prevent depletion of the current fund balance. Zachary has been in contact with Commissioner Gordon, who serves on the South Utah Valley Waste District Board, and confirmed that the proposed cap is appropriate and balanced.

Further changes were made to Section 5, including the modification of reporting requirements. Instead of quarterly submissions, certain reports will now be required annually, easing the administrative burden while still maintaining transparency. Additionally, Section 5.6 was updated to allow for the possibility of hiring a program manager if surplus funds are available. This role would provide additional oversight and help identify any issues that may have been overlooked.

These amendments are designed to improve the overall management of the program, ensure more efficient use of resources, and promote long-term sustainability of the county's waste handling operations.

MOTION: Francine Jensen motioned to approve Adopt Amendment of Utah County Health Department Regulation 16-02, Regulation for Household Hazardous Waste, seconded by Dr. Jeffrey Ogden. No discussion. Motion carries and approved unanimously.

9. Employee Changes

The significant increase in hired employees during this period is primarily due to seasonal staffing for Mosquito Abatement, with additional new hires in WIC and Environmental Health programs. Dan Miller has officially retired, and Jason Bird has assumed his responsibilities. The department is currently able to fill vacancies effectively, a result attributed to the County Commission's goal of maintaining employee salaries within 5% of the midpoint.

To support this goal, employee positions will receive modest, incremental pay increases—referred to as micro increases—that remain around the 5% threshold. Instead of providing larger increases every three to four years, annual laser or micro

surveys will be conducted to offer steady, modest increases. This approach aims to enhance employee retention by offering consistent compensation adjustments, recognizing that the costs associated with losing and training new staff are higher than those of retaining experienced employees.

Eric Edwards expressed gratitude to the HR Business Partner Karen Allen and the Utah County Commission for their support in implementing these pay increases. Dr. Jeffrey Ogden concurred with Eric's assessment, emphasizing that it is more cost-effective to retain current employees through raises than to face the expenses and challenges of recruiting and training new staff.

10. Other Items

Commissioner Powers Gardner met with employees from the Provo Police Department regarding how often emergency services are called to certain businesses for possible overdoses. The process of getting a search warrant is a long and tedious process, and our rules make it hard to address these recurring issues. She is asking if the Utah County Health Department would be interested in updating our code to be more in line with other counties in the state. This would change the process to allow tests to be done with less restrictions. Commissioner Powers Gardner would like the code to be updated and will work with Zachary Zundel to see what the requirements are.

MOTION: Dr. Jeffrey Ogden motioned to strike item 12, seconded by Francine Jensen. No discussion. Motion carries and approved unanimously.

11. Public Comment

No public comments.

12. Approve and set a date, time and location for closed meeting to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual or individuals for today's date, at this location, following the completion of the regular agenda.

MOTION: Dr. Jeffrey Ogden motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Christopher Gordon. No Discussion. Motion carries and approved unanimously.

Eric Edwards

Eric Edwards, MPA, MCCHES
Executive Director / Local Health Officer
Utah County Health Department

Carl Hanson

Carl Hanson
Chair
Utah County Board of Health