



UTAH COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH

151 SOUTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE
PROVO, UTAH 84601

MINUTES
January 26, 2026

Members Present:			
Carl Hanson, Chair	X	Sonia Pineda	X
Jeffrey Ogden, Vice-chair	X	Ryan Schooley	Excused
Christopher Gordon	X	Bill Wright	X
Amelia Powers Gardner	Electronic	Francine Jensen	Electronic
Jordan Singleton	Excused	Rick Nielsen	X
Scott Smith	X		

Others present:

Eric Edwards, MPA, MCHES	UCHD Executive Director
Tyler Plewe	UCHD Deputy Director
Heather Murrish	UCHD Secretary
Zachary Zundel	Deputy County Attorney

Number of people in attendance: 39

1. Welcome by Carl Hanson, Board of Health Chair

Professor Carl Hanson introduced BYU professor Dr. Lori Spruance and the class she brought to observe the Board of Health meeting as part of their study of the public health system in action. He then welcomed two new Board of Health members: Rick Nielsen, Superintendent of Nebo School District, and Payson Mayor Bill Wright,

2. Approval of minutes from November 17th, 2025

Motion: Dr Jeffrey Ogden motioned to approve the minutes from November 17th, 2025 , Board of Health meeting, seconded by Sonia Pineda. No Discussion. Motion carries and approved unanimously.

3. New Bingham Family Free Clinic by Sherilee and Dr. Kirk Woodward

A new free clinic will soon open on the west side of the UVU campus to serve uninsured individuals in Utah County who are at or below 300% of the poverty

level. Supported by the Marc C. and Deborah H. Bingham Foundation, the clinic will provide a temporary medical home to assist patients with help in transitioning into the regular healthcare system. Services will include primary and specialty care by appointment, with all staff serving as volunteers. The clinic will also function as a teaching platform, partnering with UVU's nursing and PA programs, BYU's School of Medicine, Noorda College, and Rocky Mountain University's PA program. In addition to medical care, the clinic will offer dental services, x-rays, labs, mental health support, and help to find local food pantries. Dr. Ogden suggested involving retired physicians. Dr. Woodward highlighted that Utah County will see approximately 1,600 new medical students in the coming years, creating more opportunities for community service. Volunteers from all backgrounds are welcome to help build and support the clinic. Addressing medication access question by Dr. Smith, Dr. Woodward explained that prescriptions will be filled free of charge through the clinic's Class A retail pharmacy, which will stock thousands of medications, excluding Class 2–5 scheduled narcotics. A patient assistance program and educational resources will also be available for conditions requiring additional management. When asked about volunteer requirements by Dr. Gordon, Dr. Woodward clarified that specialty services will be scheduled by appointment to maximize efficiency. The clinic's soft opening is scheduled for February 16, with open houses planned in the coming months.

<https://binghamfamilyclinic.org/>

4. *Huntsman Cancer Facility Groundbreaking Presentation by Brad Cairns and Don Milligan*

Don Milligan presented plans for the new Vineyard Comprehensive Cancer Facility, which will bring advanced cancer care to Utah County. The facility aims to reduce travel for the 55,000 annual patient visits currently requiring trips to Salt Lake City. Initiated in June 2023, this \$400 million project will provide both clinical care and research, including radiation oncology, infusion services, and endoscopy. The 19-acre campus has strong support from surrounding cities, local governments, and universities. Main construction is scheduled to begin in April 2026, with completion expected by mid-2028. The first patients are anticipated on September 5, 2028. Mayor Wright expressed excitement for the project, recalling his attendance at the ribbon cutting and how the location of the facility will greatly help those in Utah County. When Dr. Scott Smith asked about insurance partnerships, Mr. Milligan stated that the facility strives to work with all insurance providers and negotiates single-case agreements when

necessary.

5. *EOQ employee slideshow*

Eric Edwards recognized the six Employees of the Quarter for Fall and Winter.

6. *Presentation of 2026 UCHD budget*

The approved 2026 budget closely mirrors the 2025 budget, with only a few dozen new funding requests, most originating from Environmental Health. To accommodate these needs and ongoing growth—particularly in Air Quality—the Board agreed to raise fees. Additional funding was allocated to Mosquito Abatement due to rising costs of chemicals and equipment. The current remaining balance is high as it is the beginning of the year, but adjustments are expected by July. The overall goal is to utilize funds as needed while remaining within the approved budget for the year.

7. *Utah County Health Department Levy Update*

Prof. Hanson thanked Commissioner Amelia Powers Gardner for her support of the budget. Commissioner Powers Gardner emphasized that Utah County was the last among the state's ten largest counties to establish a dedicated levy for public health funding. This levy ensures that funds cannot be diverted, securing resources for growth and sustainability. Eric Edwards referenced projections that Utah County will remain among the fastest-growing regions in the state. The levy will provide a consistent financial base to support long-term planning, enabling the development of a 3- to 5-year budget strategy and prioritization of growth areas within the county.

8. *Minimum Performance Standards Attestation*

Funding from the Utah State Legislature supports mandated public health services, with the expectation that the Health Department meets minimum service requirements. A checklist is completed annually to ensure compliance and is presented to the Board each January. To stay ahead of this process, the department has begun preparing for a potential state audit, anticipated this year or next. Sonia Pineda asked whether state audits are unannounced, Eric clarified that notice is typically given one to two months in advance to allow for preparation.

9. Approve amendment to Utah County Board of Health Regulation 09-01 regarding Design, Construction, and Operation of Public Pools and Interactive Water Features

Daymon Swenson discussed updates to the amendment on pool regulations, noting that the primary change in Section 2.7 shifts permit expiration dates from the end of the calendar year to a full fiscal year. Additional updates were made to align with current state requirements and reflect existing practices within the department.

Motion: Sonia Pineda motioned to approve the amendment to the Utah County Health Department Fee Waiver Policy, seconded by Dr Jeffrey Odgen. No Discussion. Motion carries and approved unanimously.

10. Elect Utah County Board of Health Chair and Vice-Chair

Motion: Francine Jensen made the motion to carry over from 2025 the election of Board of Health Chair, Carl Hanson, and Board of Health Vice Chair, Dr Jeffrey Odgen, to continue for 2026, seconded by Dr. Scott Smith. No discussion. Motion carries and approved unanimously.

11. Employee Changes

12. Other Items

Eric Edwards informed the Board about the upcoming Utah Association of Local Boards of Health annual symposium scheduled for the end of April and encouraged members to attend, noting it as a valuable learning opportunity. He also announced that Board members who missed the Spanish Fork facility tour will have another opportunity in February. Dr. Smith inquired about the recent measles outbreak, and noted it was reported that 33 cases are in Utah County, primarily among unvaccinated individuals. Most cases concentrated in Southern Utah and Utah County ranking second in case numbers statewide. The Epidemiology team is actively working with patients, school districts to assess risk and prevent further spread, emphasizing the importance of notifying healthcare providers before visits to reduce exposure. Nursing Director Michael Leman added that the Utah Department of Health and Human Services updates case numbers weekly, currently showing 28 cases but likely closer to 33 locally and 215 statewide. He noted that all Utah County cases involve

unvaccinated individuals,. Mayor Wright asked about hotspots, and Mike explained that cases are sporadic but increasingly seem to be based on community spread. Dr. Ogden and Dr. Christopher Gordon discussed the topic of immune memory, citing smallpox as an example. Mike confirmed he will prepare a report detailing age group breakdowns. Dr. Smith also mentioned a flu-like illness circulating locally, which others suggested could be Human Metapneumovirus.

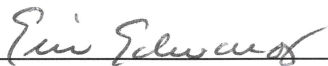
Utah Health Department of Health & Human Services -
<https://epi.utah.gov/measles-response/>

13. Public Comment

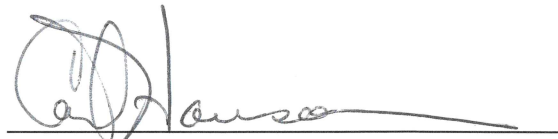
14. Approve and set a date, time, and location for closed meeting to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual or individuals for today's date, at this location, following the completion of the regular agenda.

MOTION: Dr. Scott Smith motioned to strike item 12, seconded by Dr. Christopher Gordon. No discussion. Motion carries and approved unanimously.

MOTION: Francine Jensen motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Jeffrey Odgen. No Discussion. Motion carries and approved unanimously.



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



Carl Hanson
Chair
Utah County Board of Health