

Board Members Present

Mr. Richard Swanson, Chair
Dr. Ryan Stewart, MD, Vice-Chair
Dr. Gary Alexander, MD
Commissioner Lorene Kamalu (Virtual)
Mayor Joy Petro

Mr. Troy Wood (Excused)
Mr. Brandon Hatch
Dr. Candice Smith, MD
Mr. Brian Hatch, Director
Mr. Neal Geddes, Chief Deputy Attorney

Davis County Health Department Staff and Guests Present

Austin Andrews, PM/QI Coordinator
David Spence, Deputy Department Director, Health
Rachelle Blackham, Deputy Department Director, Seniors
Jay Clark, Division Director, Environmental Health
Liz Carlisle, Division Director, Administration
Ivy Melton Sales, Community Health, Division Director
Sarah Willardson, CD/Epi, Division Director

Ashley Niederriter, Communications
Trevor Warner, Administration
Lorna Koci, Pantry Smiles
Chris Hansen, Volunteer

Welcome/Call to Order (0:00:01)

(Dr. Ryan Stewart)

The meeting of the Davis County Board of Health was held Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at the Davis County Health Department, Board Room, 22 South State Street, Clearfield, Utah. In the temporary absence of Chair Richard Swanson, the meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Board of Health Vice-Chair, Dr. Ryan Stewart, MD.

Dr. Stewart welcomed everyone present and introduced a visiting citizen, Mr. Chris Hansen from Farmington. Mr. Hansen, a Meals on Wheels volunteer in Kaysville, introduced himself to the Board and expressed his appreciation for the department's work and his positive interactions with Health Director Brian Hatch.

It was noted that Board member Mr. Troy Wood was excused from the meeting. Commissioner Lorene Kamalu attended online.

Review Minutes (Action) (0:02:10)

(Dr. Ryan Stewart)

The minutes from the February 10, 2026, meeting were presented to the Board members and reviewed. Dr. Stewart noted that a correction was needed regarding the recorded board leadership.

Mr. Brandon Hatch made a motion to approve the February 10, 2026, meeting minutes with the correction to the board leadership. Mayor Joy Petro seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the vote was unanimous.

Board Member Reappointments (Action) (0:03:00)

(Brian Hatch)

Mr. Brian Hatch reported that the Board of Health terms for Chair Richard Swanson and Dr. Gary Alexander are set to expire in June 2026. The executive committee, serving as the nominating committee, met recently and recommended that both members be reappointed to serve another term. Director Hatch confirmed that he spoke with both individuals and they graciously accepted the recommendation.

Mayor Joy Petro made a motion was made to approve the reappointments of Mr. Richard Swanson and Dr. Gary Alexander, and to direct Mr. Brian Hatch Hatch to submit formal letters of recommendation to the Davis County Commission for reappointment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brandon Hatch. All were in favor, and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Brian Hatch also reported on the vacancy of the dentist representative position, previously held by Dr. Taylor. The nominating committee recommended the appointment of Dr. Steven Christensen, a practicing dentist in Layton. Mayor Joy Petro highly endorsed Dr. Christensen, praising his strong character, compassion, and commitment to public service, including his clinic's annual day of free dental care for low-income individuals. Mr. Brian Hatch confirmed that Dr. Christensen has formally expressed interest in joining the Board.

Mr. Brandon Hatch made a motion to approve recommending the appointment of Dr. Steven Christensen to the Board of Health as the dentist representative and to submit a letter of recommendation to the Davis County Commission. The motion was seconded by Dr. Gary Alexander. All were in favor, and the vote was unanimous.

Oral Health Presentation (Information) (0:11:45)

(Lorna Koci)

Ms. Lorna Koci shared an informational presentation regarding the state of oral health in Utah and upcoming local initiatives. Mr. Brian Hatch prefaced the presentation by noting that water fluoridation in Davis County was turned off approximately a year and a half ago, creating a critical gap in community protective care. He reminded the Board that they prioritized oral health as a key department initiative during their last meeting.

Ms. Koci announced that her organization was selected as the Western Division recipient of a \$250,000, two-year grant from CareQuest. This grant is funding oral health promotion, data collection (with \$50,000 dedicated to health surveillance), and the 'Your Smile Matters' public awareness campaign, including a \$75,000 public service announcement commitment with KSL TV.

Furthermore, the grant is supporting the restructuring of the Utah Oral Health Coalition into the broader 'Utah Oral Health Alliance.' The Alliance aims to compile a comprehensive, statewide oral health plan focusing on prevention, access to pediatric care, and medical-dental integration (especially in pediatric offices).

Mr. Brian Hatch emphasized that this initiative aligns perfectly with the department's 'prevention first' guiding principles. He noted that the 'Davis Links' resource directory can serve as an excellent tool for connecting residents to available dental resources. Commissioner Kamalu and Board members expressed strong support, discussing potential opportunities for upstream outreach, such as dry-brushing instruction in elementary classrooms.

Sleep Initiative (Information) (0:38:20)

(Trevor Warner)

Mr. Trevor Warner, Communications Manager, provided an update on the sleep initiative launched during National Sleep Awareness Month in March. The campaign was a joint effort with the Southwest Utah Health Department, utilizing shared media and social platform resources.

During March, the department published 105 total social media posts, 51 of which were sleep-focused, including 10 collaborative posts. Campaign metrics showed a massive increase in community engagement:

- Facebook content views rose by 120% (exceeding 58,000 views), and unique viewers increased by 220% to nearly 19,000.
- Link clicks rose by nearly 300%, and content interactions increased by 85%. Additionally, users spent over 11.5 hours viewing sleep-related reels and video content.
- Instagram views surged by 150%, reach rose by 164%, and interactions grew by over 200%.

Mr. Brian Hatch emphasized that sleep is an ongoing public health initiative. He noted that the next phase of the campaign will shift from general awareness to educating the public on the physiological benefits of sleep, specifically citing a study showing that proper sleep can increase immunization effectiveness by approximately 90%.

Communicable Disease & Epidemiology (Information) (0:49:15)

(Sarah Willardson)

Ms. Sarah Willardson, Division Director of Communicable Disease and Epidemiology (CD/Epi), presented the 2025 annual report, which had been postponed from the previous meeting due to time constraints. Ms. Willardson recognized her dedicated staff and highlighted key programmatic outcomes and major public health responses from 2025:

Measles Outbreak: A major portion of the report focused on the ongoing measles outbreak. In 2025, the United States saw significant case spikes, with South Carolina initially leading. However, Utah has since become the national epicenter of a 'slow burn' outbreak, recording 638 cases statewide. Cases have now been identified in every Utah health jurisdiction.

Ms. Willardson outlined key response successes, particularly the department's close collaboration with Davis School District to exclude unvaccinated students at an exposed junior high school, which successfully halted further spread within the school. She also highlighted the 'catch me if you can' notifications sent out by Chair Swanson to attendees of large public gatherings (such as wrestling and drill competitions) where exposure occurred. Dr. Stewart and Ms. Willardson discussed how these exclusion notices served to 'close the loop' for vaccine-hesitant parents, prompting many to finally seek immunization for their children.

Areas for improvement include managing complex healthcare exposures (waiting room contact tracing) and overcoming cultural or communication barriers with certain charter schools. Wastewater monitoring at four sites in Davis County continues to show positive measles hits, indicating the virus is still actively circulating and requires continued vigilance.

Budget Update (Information) (1:19:10)

(Liz Carlisle)

Ms. Liz Carlisle, Division Director of Administration, provided an update on the department's finances, noting that the first quarter of 2026 is officially closed out. Budget figures remain on track and within expected ranges.

Ms. Carlisle explained that first-quarter revenues are historically slower due to the timing of state and federal contract cycles, which reset in July. Expenditures are being carefully monitored to avoid unnecessary spending. The department has also commenced preliminary preparations for the fiscal year 2027 budget.

UALBOH Report (Information) (1:21:40)

(Brandon Hatch)

Mr. Brandon Hatch provided an update on the Utah Association of Local Boards of Health (UALBOH). The annual conference was held locally in Layton two weeks prior. He reported that the conference was highly successful, featuring a presentation by Davis County Health Director Brian Hatch regarding the department's communication and sleep initiatives.

Director's Report (Information) (1:22:30)

(Brian Hatch)

Mr. Brian Hatch presented the final 2025 Department Annual Report required by state law, which summarizes the past year's highlights and financial closeouts. He noted that the department continues to utilize detailed division reports to keep the Board fully informed.

Mr. Brian Hatch provided a legislative update from the recent state legislative session, highlighting several bills with public health implications:

- **Tobacco Regulation:** State lawmakers increased the tax on tobacco products, which remains one of the most effective policy mechanisms for reducing youth access. However, none of the newly generated tax revenue was earmarked or allocated for public health departments.
- **E-Cigarettes:** New legislation incorporates non-nicotine inhalation devices, such as cannabinoid or 'health' vapes, into existing regulatory structures to manage youth access.
- **Kratom:** Legislation established a complex and challenging permitting system. Retailers cannot obtain a state Department of Agriculture permit to sell kratom without first securing a specialty tobacco permit from their local health department, which requires enforcing school and public proximity rules.
- **Raw Milk:** Legislation legalized the sale of raw milk in traditional grocery stores, expanding access beyond small, on-farm producers. The department will closely monitor raw milk sales due to the historical risk of foodborne illness outbreaks associated with unpasteurized milk.
- **Other Bills:** Legislation failed that would have altered school immunization requirements, which Director Hatch noted was positive for maintaining the county's high vaccination coverage. Another controversial bill that would have required citizenship verification for public health services also failed, preventing major administrative and resource strains on the department.

Commissioner's Report (Information) (1:33:00)

(Lorene Kamalu)

Commissioner Lorene Kamalu expressed her deep gratitude for the Board of Health members' voluntary service. She voiced strong support for the oral health initiative, noting the massive potential of upstream education, and commended the exceptional strength and professionalism of the department's epidemiology and public health staff.

Chair's Report (*Information*) (1:34:20)

(Richard Swanson)

Chair Richard Swanson again thanked Vice-Chair Dr. Stewart for leading the start of the meeting. He reflected on the high level of trust and collaboration built between the health department and the Davis School District during the pandemic, which has directly enabled swift and effective coordination during the current measles outbreak. He commended Mr. Brian Hatch, Sarah Willardson, and the entire department for their leadership.

Meeting Adjourned (1:36:10)

(Richard Swanson)

Mr. Richard Swanson adjourned the meeting at 9:06 am.