

MINUTES September 28, 2026

Members Present:			
Carl Hanson, Chair	X	Sonia Pineda	Electronic
Jeffrey Ogden, Vice-chair	X	Ryan Schooley	Excused
Christopher Gordon	X	Bill Wright	X
Amelia Powers Gardner	Electronic	Francine Jensen	Electronic
Jordan Singleton	X	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: 21

1. Welcome by Dr. Jeffrey Ogden, Board of Health Vice - Chair

Dr. Ogden welcomed everyone to the meeting. He stepped in as acting chair for the meeting in leu of Professor Carl Hanson.

2. Approval of minutes from July 27, 2026

MOTION: Dr. Jordan Singleton motioned to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2026, Board of Health meeting, seconded by Dr. Christopher Gordon. No discussion. Motion carries and approved unanimously.

3. UCHD Finances Update by Eric Edwards and Jackie Karsies

Director Eric Edwards informed the Board that the Health Department has transitioned to a new system called Vault, which replaced COFIS as the connected

reportable system last month. Because Vault is still very new and not yet fully operational, the normal finances update report could not be submitted at this meeting. He noted that the department expects the system to be functioning properly by the November Board meeting. Despite the temporary reporting delay, Director Edwards stated that the Health Department budget continues to trend positively and that all divisions are currently operating well within their approved budgets.

4. 2025 Opioid Prevention Annual Report by Wendy Wright

Wendy Wright explained that the Health Promotions Opioid Programs are funded through opioid settlement dollars and are focused on prevention. She shared that the team trained 53 school nurses in evidence-based prevention science, which allows them to teach substance-use-prevention modules in health classes and engage parents more effectively. She noted that the department has also been supporting seven local prevention coalitions by providing materials, technical assistance, and new evidence-based training designed specifically for community coalitions. Alongside this work, the team has expanded safe-medication-use education, facilitated chronic-pain classes through partnerships with four hospitals, and distributed resources to 39 pharmacies to help staff educate customers who are purchasing opioids. She added that they continue to promote medication drop boxes and the in-home disposal option DisposeRX, and they share information broadly through social media, events, schools, trainings, and parent outreach.

Wendy went on to report that naloxone initiatives have resulted in the distribution of more than 2,600 Narcan kits in 2026 and training for over 2,000 school staff members. The department has also partnered with 21 organizations—including libraries, a police department, and treatment centers—to further expand access to naloxone. She invited Board members to attend the Utah County Opioid Community Partner Meeting on October 13th, where partners will work together to address gaps in the opioid crisis and continue collaborative projects. She highlighted that last year's State Overdose Fatality Review Committee produced 40 recommendations based on Utah County cases, which the team has since prioritized across multiple sectors. In response to questions, Wendy noted that only one police department is currently participating in these efforts, and she emphasized that additional involvement would provide great benefit to the community. She concluded by sharing that a recent survey found that 40% of

county residents still keep unused medications in their homes. Eric Edwards added that the opioid prevention team continues to perform strongly compared with other counties and has been recognized for its effective use of settlement dollars. They were asked to present to the state legislature in January to highlight their important work.

5. Adopt Regulation 26-02, Regulation for Wastewater Holding Tank and Plumbing Requirements for Mobile Food Businesses by Karl Hartman

Karl Hartman explained that he is requesting an update to the regulation so it aligns with Utah Administrative Rule R392-102, which requires mobile food businesses to have a wastewater holding tank that is at least 15 percent larger than their potable water tank. The rule also outlines specific expectations for drains, shut-off valves, and how wastewater must be conveyed through an approved sanitary sewage system. He emphasized that these systems must meet plumbing code, DEQ requirements, local sewer district standards, and local health regulations. Karl noted that Regulation 26-02 provides the local requirements for Utah County, ensuring that wastewater from hand-washing sinks, three-compartment sinks, and other fixtures actually flows into the required holding tank. He shared that inspectors have found questionable piping arrangements in the past, which reinforces why these updates are necessary. Under the proposed regulation, wastewater tanks must be securely attached, plumbing must be continuous and leak-tight without any bypasses or unauthorized outlets, and the system must be installed in a way that allows inspectors to verify it. He clarified that these requirements do not apply to wastewater tanks used for toilets. To reduce the burden on existing small businesses, the regulation includes a grandfather provision, applying only when ownership changes or when the wastewater tank or plumbing undergoes major work.

Dr. Smith asked about dumping locations, Karl explained that commissary agreements will outline where potable water is obtained and where wastewater is disposed of. He acknowledged that high dumping fees may create challenges and said broader discussions may be needed to discourage illegal dumping. He pointed out that commissaries are equipped with grease interceptors, which help properly manage grey water before it enters the sewer system. RV dumping stations are also an approved option. Karl clarified that this regulation focuses strictly on the plumbing requirements of the vehicle, not the disposal process itself. He also outlined the inspection structure, noting that Tier 1 units are inspected once per year, while Tier 2 units are inspected twice, both at commissaries and in the field to observe real-world operations.

Board members raised concerns about the financial impact on food truck owners, who may face costs related to proper wastewater disposal and potential vehicle upgrades. Environmental Health Director Jason Garrett acknowledged these concerns and explained that reluctance from public works departments to accept this type of waste is a statewide issue. He shared that his team is actively working on broader solutions.

MOTION: Sonia Pineda motioned to approve to Adopt Regulation 26-02, Regulation for Wastewater Holding Tank and Plumbing Requirements for Mobile Food Businesses, seconded by Dr. Jordan Singleton. No discussion. Motion carries and approved unanimously

6. Authorize an amendment to Regulation 16-02 for Household Hazardous Waste by Zachary Zundel and Daymon Swensen

Daymon Swensen explained that the solid waste regulation he is updating is about ten years old and was last revised just a year ago. He shared that his team has been working closely with the solid waste districts to identify concerns and areas that need improvement. This includes restoring reimbursement language that had previously been removed, clarifying funding mechanisms, and adding a small administrative fee for waste coming into Utah County from other jurisdictions. One of the major priorities, he said, is keeping the reimbursement fund healthy. He also noted that the reporting schedule needs to be adjusted from quarterly reporting to twice a year. Mayor Bill Wright asked why the fee was changed last year, Daymon explained that the reimbursement fund had been shrinking quickly because disposal costs—for manpower, storage, and specialized handling—have all increased, and reimbursement requests were outpacing available funds.

Daymon went on to explain that the tipping fee will increase from \$1.00 to \$1.25 per ton for both regular waste and construction/demolition waste. There will also be a 0.2-cent-per-ton administrative fee to help with oversight of waste coming from other counties. He noted that this increase is intended to generate the revenue needed to maintain the program rather than simply trying to cut costs. Dr. Smith asked who would be collecting the fee, Daymon clarified that it is a pass-through fee paid by the Solid Waste District—such as North Point—to Utah County. He also shared that the next step is to finalize a new interlocal agreement.

He then explained the issue of household hazardous waste—items like paint—which are much more expensive to dispose of properly. Before 2016, many residents avoided paying extra fees for these materials and would sometimes dump them illegally, including on roadsides. To prevent this, the county created a funding mechanism so that the cost of hazardous waste disposal is shared across

all residents instead of only those who bring these materials in. The tipping fee is the core of this system. For every ton of waste delivered, the district pays the county the tipping fee, and the county uses those funds to reimburse North Point and South Utah Valley for properly disposing of hazardous materials, which helps prevent environmental contamination.

Daymon concluded by explaining that the proposed fee increase will help cover rising disposal costs while keeping the fund stable. Commissioner Amelia Powers Gardner emphasized that environmental health remains the primary concern and that the Department of Environmental Health plays a critical role in ensuring hazardous materials are disposed of safely to protect public health.

MOTION: Superintendent Rick Nielsen motioned to approve the amendment to Regulation 16-02 for Household Hazardous Waste, seconded by Dr. Christopher Gordon. No discussion. Motion carries, Dr. Scott Smith and Dr. Jeffrey Odgen voted Nay.

7. Approve Fee Schedule change for Health Promotions, Environmental Health and Nursing

Eric Edwards explained to the Board that several fee increases will be necessary in the coming year. Some of these, such as those for Vital Records, are mandated by the state and are outside the County's control. He noted that a significant increase is needed specifically within the Environmental Health Division. Jason Garrett followed by explaining that the department uses a cost-analysis formula to determine the hourly operational rate based on the time required to provide services. He said that the proposed 10–15 percent increase reflects the true cost of those services, especially since last year's 3-percent adjustment was not enough to keep pace with rising expenses.

Superintendent Rick Nielsen asked about the school food permit fee, Jason Garrett clarified that the fee covers the inspections required in each school. He added that part of the increase is needed to support additional in-house expertise for new specialized review processes, which take considerable time. He also noted that two of the fee categories connect directly to the enforcement regulation previously approved by the Board, and those fees will only be applied in the rare cases where enforcement action is necessary.

Dr. Smith raised a concern that increasing fees might make things harder for residents. Jason Garrett assured the Board that fee increases are always a last resort and are approached very carefully. He pointed out that even with the proposed adjustments, Utah County's fees remain significantly lower—about \$32

per hour less—than fees charged in Salt Lake County, demonstrating the department's effort to stay efficient and cost-effective.

Professor Carl Hanson then asked about the size of the Environmental Health Division. Jason Garrett explained that the division has just under 50 employees and that most of its budget goes toward staffing. He noted that the team is currently understaffed for the county's rapid growth. In food services alone, they are short about six staff members needed to keep up with the pace of 150 to 250 new restaurants each year. Jason Garrett said that the fee increase will allow the division to add two new positions in 2027 as part of a long-term, ten-year plan to bring staffing levels up to what is required.

MOTION: Sonia Pineda motioned to approve the minutes from the January 26, 2026, Board of Health meeting, seconded by Commissioner Amelia Powers Gardner. No discussion. Motion carries and approved unanimously.

8. Employee Changes

Eric explained that employees leave for a variety of reasons, including retirement, taking new jobs, or moving on early in their careers. He emphasized that the overall number of departures has remained fairly stable, largely because the department works closely with HR to analyze why employees leave and to address issues that could affect retention. Since turnover is expensive, he said they focus on creating a positive work environment and review both year-over-year quantitative data and open-ended survey responses to better understand trends and make improvements.

Superintendent Nielsen asked why some individuals appeared on both the termination list and the hiring list. HR Business Partner Karen Allen clarified that this typically happens when part-time, non-benefited employees move into career-service merit positions. Because URS retirement categories differ between those roles, Workday requires a hard termination followed by a rehire to ensure their retirement benefits are set up correctly. She explained that when a part-time employee is offered a benefited position, they are terminated and rehired—usually within two or three days—to make sure their benefits are accurately aligned.

9. Other Items

Eric provided an update on Cyclospora, noting that a typical year sees around four cases, but due to the recent outbreak, 2026 has recorded sixteen. He emphasized

that none of these cases are linked to the national epidemic. The increase is largely attributed to heightened public awareness and more people seeking testing. All positive cases have been associated with international travel.

The Board requested that presentation materials be sent to them earlier so they have adequate time to review items requiring a vote and come better prepared to meetings.

10. Public Comment

No public comments.

MOTION: Dr. Jeffrey Ogden motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Christopher Gordon. 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