Southwest Utah Board of Health

Festival Hall Rooms 5 & 6
105 N 100 E
Cedar City, Utah
Wednesday, August 19, 2026
10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

Members Present:
Commissioner Gil Almquist.....Washington County
Commissioner Jerry Taylor.....Garfield County
Mr. Scott Symond.....Beaver County
Dr. Kenneth Snow.....Washington County
Commissioner Paul Cozzens.....Iron County
Commissioner Wade Hollingshead.....Beaver County
Mr. Kent Peterson .....Iron County
Commissioner Celeste Meyeres .....Kane County
Ms. Jerica Bauer .....Kane County

Members Not Present:
Mr. Kaden Figgins.....Garfield County

Others Present:
Dr. David W. Blodgett, Director/Health Officer.....SWUPHD
Mr. Cameron Mitchell, Deputy Health Officer.....SWUPHD
Ms. RuthAnne Watt, Assistant Deputy Health Officer..... SWUPHD
Mr. Logan Wrigley, Business Manager..... SWUPHD
Mr. Lloyd Berentzen, Health Officer Special Projects Coordinator.....SWUPHD

Commissioner Gil Almquist called the meeting to order at **10:05** a.m.

Minutes Approval	**Commissioner Paul Cozzens** made a motion to accept the minutes from **June 2026** as presented. **Dr. Kenneth Snow** seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.
Financial Update *by Logan Wrigley*	2026 Actuals vs Budget • 7 months into the year - 58% of the year. • Total Revenues: 56% of total budget. • Total Expenditures: 52% of total budget. Statement of financial position • Assets & Liabilities given Update does not require a vote.
Legislative/DHHS/ DEQ update *by Dr. Blodgett*	**Legislature/DHHS/DEQ** • New public health strategic plan the state and locals would like to take to the legislature.

Commissioner Hollingshead, Commissioner Meyeres & Jerica Bauer joined meeting	○ State: Expertise, funding & data ○ Locals: local insight, community response, on the ground action • Trying to hold the system more accountable ○ Governance – 3 members from the state, 3 Local Health Officers ○ Executive Groups – Health Officers sit on each group • Streamline tobacco codes that were updated in the last session • Clarity for being able to quarantine individuals
Southwest Utah Public Health Foundation *by Dr. Blodgett* *Commissioner Meyeres left meeting*	**Commissioner Jerry Taylor** made a motion to suspend regular board of health meeting and open into the Southwest Utah Public Health Foundation meeting **Commissioner Paul Cozzens** seconded the motion. Passed unanimously. Logan Wrigley presented financial update for the Southwest Utah Public Health Foundation • Run the magazine postage through the foundation • Revenue and expenses are usually pretty closely match Update does not require a vote. Plan to expand the role of the foundation • Would like to create a DBA – Southwest Sleep Foundation • Lloyd Berentzen presented on the 2027 Utah Sleep Symposium ○ March 24-25 in St. George ○ 200 seats available ○ Have great speakers lined up ○ Follows up with the mandated legislation for the state to develop a sleep program. Hoping to get the state to be one of the sponsors. • Board supports the expansion of the foundation and the sleep symposium **Commissioner Wade Hollingshead** made a motion to approve creating the Southwest Sleep Foundation as a DBA under the existing foundation. **Commissioner Jerry Taylor** seconded. Passed unanimously. **Commissioner Paul Cozzens** made a motion to move out of the Southwest Utah Public Health Foundation meeting and back into regular board of health meeting. **Mr. Scott Symond** seconded the motion. Passed unanimously
Annual approval of the policy manual *by Dr. Blodgett*	**Employment Policy & Procedure Handbook** • Update to the purpose & clearly states the health officer recommends policies and procedures. • Clarifies the board and health officer decision making process • Acceptable use policy for AI – change who it falls under • Update to PTO policy • Moved vehicle accident review to policy & procedure manual **Administration Policies & Procedure Handbook** • Inventory review process • HIPAA records policy • Clearly defined line of authority

- Payroll processing – *change make out to process*
- Record retention abides by law
- Receiving procedures clarified
- Soliciting elected officials clarified
- Cost allocation plan for grants
- Removed duplicate policies

Dr. Kenneth Snow made the motion to approve changes recommended to the Employment Policies & Procedures Handbook and the Administration Policies & Procedures Handbook. **Mr. Scott Symond** seconded. Passed unanimously.

Program Discussion - Communications

by Dave Heaton

Dave gave a presentation about the Communications team

- Website
- Social media
- Magazine
  - Won Best in State
  - Won Communicator Award from New York

Infectious Disease Update
by Dr. Blodgett

Cyclospora

- Outbreak in several states in the US this year

Cryptosporidium

- Parasites found in food & water

Measles

- Outbreaks in Utah in 2025 & 2026
- Southwest outbreak is over

Ebola

- Outbreak in Africa
- Bloodborne or body fluids spreads when symptomatic
- 40-50% fatality rate

Cocoliztli

- 60-90% fatality rate

Alpha Gal

- Lone Star tick bite that gives you an allergy to red meat

Other Business

- Staff Changes
  - New Assistant Deputy Health Officer RuthAnne Watt…no longer have the Administrative Services Director position

Presentation
by Dr. Blodgett

Part of the infectious disease update

10/14/26

Adjournment

Commissioner Gil Almquist adjourned the meeting at **11:56am**

Chairman, Board of Health — *Date*

Secretary, Board of Health — 10/14/2026 — *Date*