

TOOELE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

September 23, 2025

151 N. Main Street Tooele, Utah

PRESENT:

Board: Erik Stromberg, Christian Pantelakis (virtually), Anthony Howes, Jolene Jenkins, Nando Meli, Cheryl Damas (virtually)

Absent: Mat Jackson, Linda McBeth, Mike Wells

Staff: Grant Sunada, Taylor Palmer, Tracy Beckett, Jamie Zwerin, Ericka Jordt, Amy Royal

Public: Brandon Nay

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS
Welcome	Anthony called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. and welcomed everyone, roll was taken.	
Approve August 12, 2025, Meeting Minutes (Action Item)	Anthony entertained a motion to approve August 12, 2025, Meeting Minutes. Cheryl attended the meeting virtually so she will be sworn in and sign the oath of office at the next meeting, she will refrain from voting at this meeting.	Nando made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Christian seconded the motion, all voted in favor.
Oath of Office for Cheryl Damas (Information Item)		
<i>Anthony Howes</i>		
Board Member Assignment Reports (In <i>Anthony Howes</i>	Anthony asked the group to share any updates on their assignments. No updates were provided. Grant advised he will work with Mat on assignments.	

Health Officer's Report	Grant presented all of the documentation attesting that Tooele County Health Department has met the Minimum Performance Standards. Grant and Mat have already reviewed all of the documents. Grant shared that Mat suggested digitizing the documents. Grant reviewed the list of required measures. He explained the Emergency Preparedness activities we participate in such as monthly coordination meetings, tabletop exercises etc. Anthony entertained a motion to approve Mat to sign the attestation.	Erik motioned to approve Mat signing the attestation as presented, Christian seconded the motion, all voted in favor.
Minimum Performance Standards Attestation (Action Item)		
Upcoming Events	The group was provided with a list of upcoming events; this list is from the calendar that can be found on the health department's website.	
Public Comment Period and Hearing Discussion (Information Items)	Grant shared some recent highlights from staff and events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A follow-up meeting was held on Sept. 3rd with the Sacred Circle leadership in Salt Lake, the next meeting will be held at the health department. • Several employees attended Message Mapping Training. This training will help us form a strategic communication technique that will result in a clear, main message that will ensure consistency. • Grant recently attended the Local Health Officer's meeting in Heber, not Wendover. • Grant will serve on the Advisory Board for the Utah Community Health Workers Association. • Grant will introduce himself and present the Annual Report at the Wendover City Council meeting Oct. 1st. He has previously presented at the Tooele City Council, Grantsville City Council, and the Council of Governments. • An All-Staff Team Builder event will be held Sept. 24th- the theme is "Reaching Our Full Potential" and staff will learn more about the TILT 365. • Oct. 1st, Wendover meeting on "Belonging and Learner Safety as a Foundation for Reaching our Full Potential" • Grant, Nando, Mike and Christian will attend the National Assoc. of Local Boards of Health conference in Georgia Oct. 6-8th. Nando suggested they split up and attend different sessions. • Grant will present at the Utah Primary Care Summit at Weber State on "Finding a shared rhythm through collaborative community health work in urban and rural settings" 	
<i>Grant Sunada</i>	A date has not yet been announced for the next Utah Association of Local Boards of Health	

	<p>Symposium.</p> <p>Grant expressed that Matt would like the public comments section moved towards the beginning of the agenda for future meetings. Grant also addressed the group on when public comment periods and hearings are required. Taylor would like to know when he presents changes to regulations, if it is always required to hold a public comment period and a hearing. Anthony advised it depends on the changes, and the board can decide if a public comment period and hearing period are required or not.</p>	
Environmental Health Update		
Vote to Adopt Proposed Changes to Wastewater Regulation #12	<p>Taylor reported that a thirty-day public comment period and public hearing were held to accept comments on the proposed changes to Regulation #12 Wastewater Disposal and discontinuation of TCHD conducting methamphetamine testing; no comments were given for either regulation.</p> <p>Anthony entertained a motion to adopt the proposed changes to Health Regulation #12 Wastewater Disposal.</p> <p>Jolene asked if the vote held at the last meeting was for the same changes, Taylor explained that it was but a public comment period was held after the meeting and now this vote is to adopt the proposed changes. There were no other changes since the last meeting. Erik noted the wording should be that the last meetings vote would be to open the public comment period to the proposed changes and this meetings vote would be to adopt the changes since there were no public comments. Cheryl added there have been a lot of traffic accidents in Tooele County and wanted to know if we have the ability to have people attend a driver's safety course at the Motorsports park. Grant suggested saving this discussion for the Board Member comments section of the agenda.</p>	<p>Nando made a motion to accept the proposed changes to Health Regulation # 12 Wastewater Disposal, Erik seconded the motion, all voted in favor.</p>
Vote to Discontinue Methamphetamine Testing Services by Tooele County Health Dept.		
Propose to Rescind Regulation #15 Illegal Drug Operations Site Reporting and Decontamination	<p>Anthony entertained a motion to discontinue TCHD conducting methamphetamine testing. Christian abstained from voting until after Taylor explained the reasoning for wanting to discontinue testing as was presented at the last meeting. The reasons include:</p> <p>Citizens can conduct their own testing</p> <p>Testing can be completed by the police department,</p> <p>The fee charged by private businesses to conduct the testing is similar to what TCHD charges,</p> <p>TCHD would still oversee properties that are contaminated and the cleanup process, no other health department in the state does testing,</p>	<p>Nando motioned for TCHD to discontinue testing for methamphetamine, Jolene seconded the motion, all voted in favor.</p>
Proposed Changes to Regulation #16: Decontamination of Chemically Contaminated		

Properties Proposed Changes to Fee Schedule (Action Items) <i>Taylor Palmer</i>	<p>TCHD staff are not certified so test results could be challenged, Multiple businesses in the private sector offer testing. Christian then felt she had the information needed to vote.</p> <p>Taylor and staff have gone over both Health Regulation#15- Illegal Drug Operations Site Reporting and Decontamination. The last time this regulation was revised was in 2006. After comparing this regulation to Health Regulation #16 Decontamination of Chemically Contaminated Properties it was determined that both regulations were not necessary since they were very similar in context. Taylor is proposing to rescind Health Regulation #15 in its entirety. He has also provided copies of Health Regulation #16 with the proposed changes. This regulation has not been updated since 2013. There is a state rule currently in place for chemically contaminated properties, so proposed changes to Regulation #16 will ensure it is not more strict than the state regulation. A copy of the regulation with the proposed changes was provided to the group. Taylor confirmed that any applicable items in #15 were added to #16 and whatever items already exist in the state rule are identified. Nando noted some of the numbering is incorrect, Taylor explained the format in which this regulation was originally created is outdated and wouldn't let him make those changes so he will retype the document in a more updated format with the correct numbering. Grant suggested as long as the required edits are noted then we could still enter the public comment period with the assurance that those changes would be made. Erik agreed since it is only formatting changes not context changes. Ericka explained the public comment period would be held for thirty days in between tonight's meeting and the next meeting so there would be time to make the changes before the public comment period starts. Erik asked if a public comment period was necessary for the rescission of Regulation #15, Ericka noted it could be combined with the public comment period for Regulation #16.</p> <p>Taylor presented proposed changes to the Environmental Health Fee Schedule-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove Body Art Operator Permit fee due to recent regulation changes no longer requiring this permit. • Remove the chemically contaminated property sampling fee due to tonight's regulation changes • Rename Chemically Contaminated Property Remediation Fee to Decontamination Permit Fee to align with what it is called in the regulation • Custom Water Sample (Well Re-Cert) \$125-Add verbiage of (plus the lab fee for 	<p>Erik made a motion to send the proposed rescission of Regulation #15 and proposed changes to Regulation #16 to public comment for thirty days but only after a revision showing the correct numbering and the listed health officer and board chairperson are completed and have it done before the public comment period starts and appointing also Taylor Palmer as the Hearing Officer, Christian seconded the motion, all voted in favor.</p> <p>Erik made a motion to accept the proposed changes to the Environmental Health Fee Schedule, Christian seconded the motion, all voted in favor.</p>
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	<p>each additional) to the current fee of \$125. This added verbiage of plus the lab fee for each additional will be charged when customer requests additional lab testing for the water sample.</p> <p>Taylor explained that the fee of \$125 is our fee to retrieve and deliver the sample to the lab plus one type of sampling. This new fee would now cost \$125 for one sample plus the lab fee for each additional type of testing requested. Erik asked if we would be able to tell the customer how much the lab fee is beforehand, Taylor said they could find out the lab fee and try to let them know but sometimes the lab changes their fees so we could give them a range of what to expect. Taylor confirmed to Jolene that our goal is to have our own lab in-house to do testing but it would be on a smaller scale so we wouldn't be able to test for a complete range like larger labs do. Having our own lab in-house would save us the time of having to drive to Davis County to drop off samples. Cheryl asked if we had an active USGS team in the Tooele area. She asked because the college she went to collaborated with the USGS on lab samples. Anthony noted we do have the USGS in Salt Lake but it would depend on grant funding to work with them as there would be a fee.</p> <p>Anthony entertained a motion to approve the changes to the Environmental Health Fee Schedule as presented.</p>	
<p>Financial Update</p> <p>Financial Report</p> <p>Proposed 2026 Budget</p> <p>Auditor's Report</p> <p>(Action Items)</p> <p><i>Tracy Beckett</i></p>	<p>Tracy was unable to prepare and present the Financial Report in time for this meeting as the county system was not functioning.</p> <p>Tracy submitted the first draft of the 2026 Budget Report on September 5th to the County Auditors and Managers. The County Council will tentatively approve the proposed budget Oct. 21st and then final adjustments and final approval will be on December 2nd.</p> <p>Proposed 2026 Budget Summary</p> <p>Revenue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract and Grants- Revenues remain stable compared to 2025. Although COVID funding has ended, this is offset by increases in PDG and SRAE nursing grants, additional PHIG funds being drawn, and cost-sharing in Population Health. • Fees for Services- Projected to rise by \$36,600, due to higher Medicaid reimbursements in Dental and select fee increases in Environmental Health. • Other Revenues- Significant growth is expected. Funds will now come directly to the Health Department for overseeing Transportation, Aging, and Prevention Services 	<p>Nando motioned to approve the 2026 budget and auditor's report, Erik 2nd the motion, all voted in favor, motion passed.</p>

	<p>(previously budgeted elsewhere), alongside higher interest earnings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund Balance- With stronger revenues and reduced expenses, we anticipate drawing only \$423,090 from the fund balance. No new vehicles or major building projects are included in the 2026 plan. <p>Expenses: Operating expenses are projected to decrease by \$506,830 compared to 2025, primarily due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced funding and staffing changes in Population Health • A part-time dental position left unfilled. • No major building upgrades or vehicle purchases this year. <p>Major Purchases: The only significant equipment request is for \$14,000 for a generator at our Wendover office. This investment will safeguard vaccine storage during potential power outages.</p> <p>Tracy noted that the budget period for the County is Jan.1-Dec 31. Prevention Services, Health Dept., Aging Services, and Transportation all have their own separate budgets.</p> <p>Tracy provided a summary of the Communication with Governance for the year ended Dec. 31, 2024 document. A full report is available for review. The document states that the financial statements were audited, and based on the audit, they did not identify any uncorrected material misstatements related to or caused by risks noted. The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.</p>	
<p>Infectious Disease Update (Information Item)</p> <p><i>Amy Royal</i></p>	<p>Amy presented data on monthly flu, RSV, and COVID cases per year in Tooele County emergency department. No unusual activity has been detected so far. Mountain West Medical Center reports hospitalized cases. We do have a sentinel clinical site for influenza-like illnesses that report their numbers to the state. Reports include vaccination status which help us know how the uptake/effectiveness of the vaccine is working. Keeping track of these illnesses also helps with estimating an uptick and how and where to focus our media ads and audience to promote vaccines. Amy noted that we have flu vaccine in our clinic and more has been ordered. An order has been placed for COVID vaccine and is anticipated to be delivered this week. Until the CDC interim director confirms changes to guidelines, we cannot order mRNA vaccine for children under the age of 12; last year we gave 30 of these vaccines. As of now we have not received any COVID vaccine for the VFC (Vaccines for Children) supply. The Centers for Disease Control suggest getting a shared decision by</p>	

	<p>consulting with a health provider to determine whether the benefit outweighs the risk of getting vaccinated. Insurance provider AHIP has indicated they will cover the vaccines that were recommended on 9/1/25. Collaboratives from states or regions are advising the public to follow 2024 COVID guidelines. Staff will hold flu clinics at 27 district schools and 4 charter/private schools, senior centers in Tooele and Grantsville, and as of now 21 businesses, long term health care centers and community-based clinics.</p> <p>As of today we have had zero measles cases in Tooele and there have been 36 cases statewide. TCHD has been working with the Tooele County School District on creating an outbreak response. The lowest vaccination rate in one of our schools is 93%, herd immunity is achieved at 95%. Staff continue working on lowering the number of vaccine exemptions. Wastewater is being monitored for measles; it has not been detected in Tooele. Grant and Jamie commended the Community Health staff for their hard work and the relationship they have built and maintained with the School District over the years. They also congratulated Amy on her 30 years of service as well as Liz Heap who also recently achieved 30 years of service.</p>	
<p>Staffing Update (Information Item)</p> <p><i>Jamie Zwerin</i></p>	<p>Jamie reported that Amy Royal, Director of Nursing will be retiring before the end of the year, her position will be posted closer to her retirement date. Amy will achieve 30 years of service with TCHD in October. Desiree Mudrow was hired as the Health Promotion Coordinator and Public Information Officer; she was previously a Tobacco Prevention Specialist. A Prevention Specialist will be hired once funding is secured. This position would fulfill the vacancy from the position previously held by Layne Koyle. We were able to create a cost-sharing agreement with the Human Services department to continue funding our epidemiologist position. Due to federal funding cuts to the tobacco program, we have had to discontinue some of the deliverables; however the budget looks like we can continue to fulfill the tobacco retail compliance checks for the rest of the year. Health Promotion staff have been terrific in picking up additional responsibilities.</p>	
<p>Board Member Comments and/or Concerns</p>	<p>Cheryl commented that there are a lot of vehicle accidents in Tooele. She would like to see a defensive driving course for those 55 years and older and the younger population. Grant spoke about the transportation plan, including an analysis of traffic accidents. TCHD does provide car seat education classes. Jamie noted that AARP offers classes, but not in Tooele. Grant suggested the Zero Fatalities website for information. Jolene asked if drinking water in our schools is tested, Taylor confirmed the water operators through the city water system handle this but Taylor can request investigative samples if requested.</p>	

Public Comments	No public comments were given.	
Meeting Adjourn	Anthony entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22pm.	Erik motioned to adjourn, Nando seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Attachments: Proposed 2026 Budget Summary, TCHD Proposed 2026 Budget, Communication with Governance for the Year Ended December 31, 2024, Directors Report Aug.- Sept. 2025, TILT 365, Calendar of Events Sept. 24-Oct. 31, 2025, Monthly Flu, RSV and COVID Case Counts per year in Tooele County Emergency Dept. Visits