

**TOOELE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

January 27, 2026 at 6:30pm  
151 N. Main Street Tooele, Utah

**PRESENT:**

Board: Christian Pantelakis, Mike Wells, Jolene Jenkins, Linda McBeth, Cheryl Damas, Mat Jackson, Anthony Howes, Sheldon Birch, Erik Stromberg

Absent: none

Staff: Grant Sunada, Taylor Palmer, Tracy Beckett, Jamie Zwerin, Ericka Jordt, Desiree Mudrow, Liz Heap, Peter Clegg

Public: none

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS
<p>1. Welcome</p> <p>Oath of Office for Sheldon Birch (Action Item)</p> <p>Recognition of Outgoing Board Members (Information Item)</p> <p><i>Mat Jackson</i></p>	<p>Mat called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone, roll was taken.</p> <p>Mat administered the Oath of Office for Sheldon Birch. Sheldon was appointed by Tooele Council of Governments (COG) to replace Nando Meli.</p> <p>Christian announced she is resigning from the board as she is moving, and this will be her last meeting. The group thanked her for her time and service on the board.</p>	<p>Sheldon Birch accepted the Oath Office and became an official member of the board.</p>
<p>2. Public Comments</p>	<p>No public comments were made.</p>	
<p>3. Vote to Approve November 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes (Action Item)</p> <p>Vote to Change</p>	<p>Mat entertained a motion to approve November 18, 2025 Minutes.</p> <p>The group discussed changing the meeting times. Mat entertained a motion to change future meeting times from 6:30 to 6:00pm, with the exception of the Wendover meeting remaining at 7:00pm.</p>	<p>Cheryl made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Mike seconded the motion, all voted in favor.</p> <p>Erik motioned to change the</p>

<p>Meeting Time (Action Item)</p> <p><i>Mat Jackson</i></p>		<p>meeting times going forward, except for the Wendover meeting to 6:00pm, Cheryl seconded the motion, all voted in favor.</p>
<p>4.Board Member Assignment Reports (Information Item)</p> <p><i>Mat Jackson</i></p>	<p>Anthony encouraged the group to attend the Symposium April 28-29. You can register yourself or let Ericka know and she can register you. Cheryl asked if her spouse and support animal can attend, Grant confirmed they can attend.</p> <p>Grant and Mat are working on individual assignments and will have more information at the next meeting.</p>	
<p>5.Health Officer’s Report</p> <p>Upcoming Events</p> <p>Staffing Update</p> <p>Infectious Disease Update</p> <p>(Information Items)</p> <p><i>Grant Sunada</i></p>	<p>Grant shared a handout titled Director’s Report Dec. 2025-Jan. 2026.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employee Performance Reviews were completed in December.</li> <li>• Grant and Jamie clarified roles and responsibilities and set 2026 strategies and plans.</li> <li>• Through collaborative efforts of the Communication Strategy Workgroup we have shifted to a proactive mindset while using messaging and channels that resonate with our community.</li> <li>• Continuing to strengthen community partnerships and engagement.</li> <li>• Conduct one Quality Improvement cycle with each Community Health Improvement Plan workgroup- Obesity, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, and Suicide Prevention. Christian expressed the importance of continuing to work on the mental health needs for all but especially for the youth in Wendover.</li> <li>• Prepare for 2027 Community Health Assessment</li> <li>• Rural Health Transformation Grant- Notice of Award to Utah Department of Health &amp; Human Services in December 2025: \$195 million from CMS for the first year “to strengthen and modernize healthcare in rural communities”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 4 strategic goals- make rural Utahns healthy, workforce development, innovation and access, technology innovation.</li> </ul> <p>Jolene would like to see a mobile food bank that could travel to different areas of the county so those who cannot get travel can still have access to food.</p> </li> <li>• Continue building on existing partnerships and cross-sectoral programs to prepare for Requests for Proposal.</li> <li>• Coordinated local response to low-risk measles exposure at high school sporting event</li> </ul>	

in Davis County on January 3, 2026 based on current epidemiological guidance from across Utah. Administration met with the state this week to discuss measles response.

- Attended Local Health Officer Meeting in Davis County Jan. 8-9, 2026.
- Received notification Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> of funding cut for mental health awareness training and suicide prevention, the next day this decision was rescinded. TCHD prioritized reducing spending that did not include reducing staff.
- Utah Legislative Session has begun and there are multiple proposed bills related to public health. Grant will share information on bills that may affect our health department and county. The Governor's budget is proposing 5% cuts to each state department.
- Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) training will be held in Washington DC next week; Grant and several staff members will attend.

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.

Jamie shared a staffing update and introduced Desiree Mudrow and Liz Heap in their new roles.

Leadership Roles-

- Desiree Mudrow was recently promoted to Health Promotion Office Coordinator and Public Information Officer, fulfilling the position vacated by Jamie Andersen. Desiree previously managed the tobacco permitting program in Health Promotion. Desiree has over eight years of experience with Tooele County Health Dept. Desiree introduced herself and provide information on her background and experience. Desiree noted that Tooele County recently passed a tobacco compliance check by receiving a score of 100%, Tooele County currently holds the state record for tobacco compliance.
- Liz Heap was recently promoted to Community Nursing Director; this position was previously held by Amy Royal until her recent retirement. Liz has over thirty years of experience working as a nurse with Tooele County Health Dept. Jamie spoke to Liz's expansive knowledge and experience working on several programs and public health initiatives throughout the years.

New Hire Update-

- Megan Brown, Community Nursing Administrative Assistant (fulfilled vacant position)
- Tiara Zimmerman, Environmental Health Scientist (fulfilled vacant position)
- Teresa Winn, Prevention Specialist (fulfilled vacant position)
- Jared Hall, Health Educator (transitioned from Prevention Services to Health Promotion)

Open Positions-

- Public Nurse- full time (position was previously filled by Liz Heap)
- Senior Epidemiologist (recently renamed Data Scientist) – full time

Liz provided an update on influenza and measles cases in Tooele County. Though measles cases continue to be confirmed throughout the state, as of today Tooele remains one of only three counties without a confirmed case. Ongoing wastewater surveillance has not detected measles locally. Early MMR vaccinations are now recommended for infants aged 6-12 months, with a repeat dose once the child reaches 12 months of age due to continued measles transmission. A small number of suspect cases were evaluated but were ultimately ruled out. Grant thanked Sheldon Birch and TCHD nurse, Kristin Dorman for their recent media article on seasonal influenza. Grant shared some graphs showing statistics and symptom comparisons for flu, RSV and COVID, and emergency room visit rates in Tooele County from 2023-2025. Liz and Sheldon spoke to the changing flu strains each year and how the vaccine is not always an exact match to the strain, but the vaccine still reduces the risk of contracting the flu and the severity and longevity of symptoms and risk of hospitalization. Sheldon also explained what herd immunity is and what it takes to achieve.

Influenza cases continue to rise as do hospitalizations while flu vaccine uptake appears to be declining. Nationally, vaccination rates are 46.8% among children under 18, 46% among adults aged 18-64, and 66% among adults 65 and older. Vaccination, along with good respiratory hygiene and regular handwashing, remains the most effective way to prevent influenza.

<p>6.Environmental Health Update</p> <p>Proposal to Amend Environmental Health Fee Schedule</p> <p>(Action Item)</p> <p><i>Taylor Palmer</i></p>	<p>Taylor presented a proposal to update the Environmental Health Fee Schedule with the following changes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Add Processing Facility Permit Fee- this is already listed in the Solid Waste Regulation but was not included in the fee schedule. Tooele County has a new company wanting to become permitted to recycle hazardous soils.</li> <li>2. Add late fee of \$50 for Body Art Facility permit- fee has always been charged but was never included in the fee schedule.</li> <li>3. Add late fee of \$50 for Indoor Tanning Facility permit- fee has always been charged but was never included in the fee schedule.</li> <li>4. Add late fee of \$50 for Food Service permit- fee has always been charged but was never included in the fee schedule.</li> <li>5. Add late fee of \$50 for Massage Facility permit- fee has always been charged but was never included in the fee schedule.</li> <li>6. Add late fee of \$50 for Swimming Pools and Spas- fee has always been charged but was never included in the fee schedule.</li> <li>7. Increase permit fee for swimming pools and spas from \$50 to \$100 to more fully cover costs incurred by staff. Taylor explained this fee is charged annually and each separate body of water (pool/spa/splash pad etc.) requires a permit and inspection. Taylor explained the sampling process and provided some reasons as to why a sample may fail.</li> <li>8. Rename Record Search Request to GRAMA Request, no change to the fee.</li> </ol> <p>Mat entertained a motion to approve the proposed fees and name change to the Environmental Health Fee Schedule.</p>	<p>Cheryl made a motion to approve the proposed fees and name change to the Environmental Health Fee Schedule, Mike seconded the motion, all voted in favor.</p>
<p>7.Financial Update</p> <p>Financial Report</p> <p>(Action Item)</p> <p><i>Tracy Beckett</i></p>	<p>Tracy presented the TCHD Actual vs. Budget Twelve Months Ended December 31, 2025 (100% of the year)</p> <p>Tracy noted that the county’s fiscal year will not close until Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026. She will present the final figures at the March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. December billing should be paid Friday. We have not used any of our fund balance, even though we had budgeted for it. She explained that next year we will try to reduce our fund balance which is separate from the county. Last year we were very conservative in spending due to government funding cuts. Erik explained why you don’t want to have a large fund balance while also assessing taxes. Tracy added that we</p>	<p>Christian motioned to approve the Financial Report as presented, Jolene seconded the motion, all voted in favor, motion passed.</p>

	<p>cancelled painting and carpeting the entire building last year due to the government funding unstableness. Linda asked for an explanation to what Administrative Expenses includes, Tracy gave a breakdown by line item.</p> <p>Jamie informed the group that she and Grant have planned out goals for 2026. When there is more stability in funding they will go ahead with some opportunities. There are possible cuts to the state budget coming so we will continue to monitor.</p> <p>REVENUE- Total revenues as of the end of December are approximately 6.49 million, or 78.5% of our annual budget projections. Operating revenues are performing strongly at <b>94.3% of budget</b>, with <b>Contracts &amp; Grants at 96.0%</b> and <b>Fees for Services at 91.1%</b> reflecting solid program activity across departments.</p> <p>Other revenues total <b>\$1.69 million (53.2% of budget)</b>. Interest income exceeds projections due to favorable rates. Because the fiscal year will not close until February 6, additional 2025 revenues and expenditures are still being processed. At that time, we will have a clearer picture of the amount of fund balance that will be utilized.</p> <p>EXPENSES- Operating expenses through December total approximately <b>\$6.67 million</b>, or <b>80.7% of the annual budget</b>. Departments continue to manage their budgets responsibly and remain under or near their year-to-date spending targets. All departments stayed within their budgets for the year.</p> <p>NET POSITION- As of this reporting period, the department is reporting a net operating difference of approximately - <b>\$185,857</b>. December billing for contracts and grants is projected to generate approximately <b>\$145,000</b> in additional revenue, and the remaining difference will come from our fund balance (approximately \$40,000). Additional revenues and expenses will be processed before the fiscal year closes on <b>February 6</b>, and the department remains financially stable.</p> <p>Mat entertained a motion to accept the financial report as presented.</p>	
8.Board Member Comments and/or Concerns	Sheldon spoke regarding the previous meeting minutes where disposal of home use sharps was discussed. He noted that the state approves putting sharps used at home in regular household trash for disposal. Jolene said she forgot to contact Ace Disposal to let them	

<p><i>Board Members</i></p>	<p>know it is acceptable, Cheryl noted that the Veteran’s Administration asks their patients to bring them into the VA in a coffee container. Taylor confirmed that as long as your home is producing less than 200 pounds of sharps waste per year it can go in regular household trash, sharps should be put in a thick plastic container with the lid taped and marked as sharps.</p> <p>Jolene recently attended one day of the Winter Prevention Summit. She shared two takeaways- the amount of funds to be received from the opioid settlement will be less due to a portion of the funds being invested so that interest will accrue. Grant explained the pros and cons of this change and how we should look for grant opportunities for crisis response and prevention and the second being to always focus on the positives.</p> <p>Sheldon introduced himself and shared his background and pharmacy and health. The group welcomed Sheldon and thanked him for joining the board.</p> <p>Grant encouraged the group to share issues, events etc. going on in your community.</p> <p>Ericka reminded the group that the next meeting will be held March 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.</p>	
<p>9.Election for Chair and Vice Chair for 2026 (Action Item)</p>	<p>Mat opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair positions. Linda nominated Mike for Chair, he declined.</p>	<p>Jolene nominated Mat as Chair, Anthony seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. Christian nominated Anthony as Vice Chair, Erik seconded the motion, all voted in favor. Mat and Anthony accepted their elected positions.</p>
<p>10.Meeting Adjourn</p>	<p>Mat entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53pm.</p>	<p>Christian motioned to adjourn, all were in favor.</p>

Attachments: Proposed 2026 Environmental Health Fee Schedule, Proposed Environmental Health Changes Summary, Calendar of Events Feb. 2026, Director’s Report Dec. 2025-Jan. 2026, Staff Update, Financial Report Twelve Months Ended Dec. 31, 2025, Actual vs. Budget Twelve Months Ended Dec. 31, 2025, Symptom Comparison Across the 3 Diseases,