

**NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT (NCDHD)
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES**

**Friday, January 31st, 2025, at 10:30am
O'Neill Public Library
601 E Douglas St., O'Neill, NE 68763**

Call to Order

1. Notice of Publication
2. Notification of Open Meetings Act
3. Roll call at 10:37a.m. (In Attendance: Doug Fox, Jean Henes, Kelly Kalkowski, John Steinkraus, Kevin Mackeprang, Mike McConaughy, Carol Plate, Denise Pribil)
4. Comments or additions to the agenda
The Board of Health reserves the right to add items to this agenda that are emergency in nature as described in NE Revised Statute § 84-1411.
5. Approval of the agenda. The Board of Health reserves the right to add items to this agenda that are emergency in nature as described in NE Revised Statute § 84-1411.
 - a. *Motion #1 by Kevin Mackeprang and seconded by Denise Pribil to approve agenda as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.*

Approval of previous meeting minutes

1. *Motion #2 by Doug Fox and seconded by Jean Henes to approve meeting minutes as presented from November 2024 meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.*

Single Audit for FY24 financial year

1. Presentation of the single audit for FY24 by Bryan Swartz of Lengemann & Associates.
 - a. *Motion #3 by Denise Pribil and seconded by Mike McConaughy to approve the single audit as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.*

Financial Reports

1. Review of November & December finances
 - a. *Motion #4 by Denise Pribil and seconded by Kevin Mackeprang to approve the November and December finances as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.*

Building Remodel

1. Project update and offer to tour the work completed following meeting
2. Budget update and discussion on proceeding
3. Project extensions/ scope
 - a. *Motion #5 by Doug Fox and seconded by John Steinkraus to extend construction project contract until February 15th, allowing Heidi the ability to extend through the end of February 2025.*

Annual Reorganization

1. Election of Officers: *Nominations and voting for NCDHD Board President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Per bylaws, 1 year term.*
 - a. *Board President: Motion #6 by Jean Henes and seconded by Carol Plate to retain Kelly Kalkowski as Board President. All in favor. Motion carried.*
 - b. *Vice President: Motion #7 by Denise Pribil and seconded by Jean Henes to retain Dustin Breiner as Vice President. All in favor. Motion carried.*
 - c. *Secretary: Motion #8 by Carol Plate and seconded by Kevin Mackeprang to approve Jean Henes as Secretary. All in favor. Motion carried.*
 - d. *Treasurer: Motion #9 by Doug Fox and seconded by Jean Henes to retain Denise Pribil as Treasurer. All in favor. Motion carried.*
2. Approval of Financial Signatories. No necessary changes as all signatories will remain the same for this 2025 calendar year.

Patagonia Electronic Health Record Implementation

1. Project update. NCDHD will go live with Patagonia on February 10 and 11th. Two clinics that week allow opportunity for Patagonia trainer to assist staff in accurate implementation. Billing will eventually streamline and automate through Patagonia.

Flu Vaccine Pre-reservations

1. Proposal for vaccination pre-order/buying agreements presented by Jennifer Booker, Public Health Nurse
2. Cell based vaccine discussion. Recommendation provided by Dr. Morse to move this direction based on current literature and data. Presentation of options/contracts for cell-based vaccine presented by Jennifer Booker, Public Health Nurse. Board discussion that Dr. Morse's recommendation should be followed.
 - a. *Motion #10 by Denise Pribil and seconded by Carol Plate to approve vaccination pre-ordering. All in favor. Motion carried.*

Renting NCDHD Workspace

1. Discussion of potential upcoming opportunities and market-based rates. Discussion on Mid-Town Health (federally qualified health center) opportunity to rent space within NCDHD building for services west of Norfolk. Prioritizing dental and behavioral health services. Board support for the executive director to move forward on the potential partnership. Additional feedback provided on market-based rates.

Legislative Updates & Priorities

1. Discussion of advocacy and session priorities provided by Heidi Kuklis based on the handout included in the packet.
2. Concerns over public health funding- Will discuss federal funding later in the meeting. LB261 proposes to cut \$4.5 million from local public health department infrastructure. If split equally,

this reduction will cut our state funds by nearly 50%. This provides a lot of basic infrastructure and assurance to many programs. Poor timing with federal funding changes and uncertainty.

3. Discussion on letter of support or additional next steps
 - a. *Motion #11 by Jean Henes and seconded by Kelly Kalkowski to send the letter that has been presented to Senator Clements and appropriations committee opposing cuts to local public health departments as presented in the first draft of LB261. All in favor. Motion carried.*
4. Feedback/discussion of potential position/actions- Public health priority bills reviewed. Discussion of dental bills should continue conversation with Dr. Tusha, board dentist. Board does not propose taking action on any other bills at this time.

Funding

1. Federal funding freeze
 - a. Prepared to lose approximately \$750k in federal support from awards tied into covid/American rescue act. Impacted programs: immunization, environmental, rental assistance, office infrastructure. Freeze was placed on federal clearinghouses is back open. NCDHD getting paid on direct and pass through awards. Unclear on if all contracts will renew/upcoming changes.
2. State funding forecasting
 - a. Reduction in LB261 if split equally will reduce state funds by approximately 50%.
3. Strategic direction of the board of health
 - a. Discussion on how the board wants to proceed with upcoming funding cuts. NCDHD leadership will continue to provide the board updates if a major change occurs. Facilitated discussion can be leveraged if needed to prioritize programming/service cuts.

Director's Report

1. Annual Report- presented by Heidi Kuklis
2. Staffing- interviews started for the Prevention Coordinator role. Hope to fill position by March.
3. Funding/Programming
 - a. Working on infectious disease grant. Will run until May 2026; ~\$350k. One time, non-renewable.
 - b. Applying for a STOP ACT grant that focuses on reducing teen drinking ~\$60k, 4 years.
 - c. Local farmers food assistance- in final steps. Will support local producers, while increasing access to healthy foods. Likely only be a 6 month award. ~125k.
 - d. ERA2 program ending. Finishing applications as approved on the waitlist.
 - e. Launching Health Coaches for Hypertension. Have a small group of healthcare partners that are meeting on heart health from a new CDC grant.
4. Community Health Assessment Update
 - a. Upcoming meeting on March 4th. Board members encouraged to attend to help set improvement plan priorities for the next three years.

5. IT Provider Buy Out- discussion on current IT contractor being bought out. Intent to move to new vendor; support staff remain the same. Board in support.
6. Internet provider- discussion of intent to switch internet provider based on cost savings and faster speed. The board is in support.

Executive Session

The Board of Health reserves the right to enter Executive Session in order to protect the public interest with respect to discussion regarding litigation, personnel, and other matters listed in the Nebraska Revised Statute 84-1410.

1. Executive Director Annual Review

Motion #12 by Doug Fox and seconded by Kevin Mackeprang to enter executive session at 12:36p.m.

Exited executive session at 12:54 p.m.

Motion #13 by Denise Pribil and seconded by Doug Fox to provide the executive director with an 8% salary increase. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Next Board Meeting

The next Board of Health meeting will be held on March 28th at 10:30a.m. at NCDHD (422 E Douglas St. O'Neill)

Approval to Adjourn

Meeting adjourned by Board President Kelly Kalkowski at 1:00 p.m.

<u>Present</u>	<u>Board Member</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>
	Dennis Bauer, Brown Cty Commissioner													
	Dustin Breiner, Holt Cty Supervisor													
X	Doug Fox, Rock Cty Citizen	Y	1Y	Y	Y	1Y	Y	Y	Y	1Y	Y	Y	1Y	2Y
X	Jean Henes, Knox Cty Citizen	Y	2Y	Y	Y	Y	1Y	2Y	Y	2Y	Y	1Y	Y	Y
	Wade Hollenbeck, Rock Cty Commissioner													
	Greg Hull, Boyd Cty Supervisor													
X	Kelly Kalkowski, Boyd Cty Citizen	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2Y	Y	Y
	Regina Krebs, Antelope Cty Supervisor													
	Lon Knievel, Pierce Cty Citizen													
X	Kevin Mackeprang, Knox Cty Supervisor	1Y	Y	Y	2Y	Y	Y	Y	2Y	Y	Y	Y	2Y	Y
X	Mike McConaughy, Cherry Cty Commissioner	Y	Y	2Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Dr. Ron Morse, District Physician													
	Cory Nilson, Keya Paha Cty Citizen													
X	Carol Plate, Brown Cty Citizen	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2Y	Y	1Y	Y	2Y	Y	Y	Y
X	Denise Pribil, Holt Cty Citizen	2Y	Y	1Y	1Y	Y	Y	1Y	Y	Y	1Y	Y	Y	1Y
X	John Steinkraus, Pierce Cty Commissioner	Y	Y	Y	Y	2Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Dr. Kenneth Tusha, District Dentist													

<u>Guests</u>	<u>*Denotes Virtual Attendance</u>
Heidi Kuklis, NCDHD Executive Director Charissa Sladek, NCDHD Office Mgr. Elizabeth Parks, NCDHD Assistant Director/Epi Nurse Jennifer Booker, NCDHD *Sam Singery, Eide Bailly *Bryan Swartz, CPA w/ Lengemann & Associates, CPA firm	

Jean Henes

