



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

**Friday, March 28th, 2025, at 10:30am
NCDHD
422 E. Douglas St., O'Neill, NE 68763**

Call to Order

1. Notice of Publication (Publication was made on the NCDHD website, NCDHD front door and published by the Ainsworth Star Journal, Antelope County News, Knox County News, KVSH, KBRX.)
2. Notification of Open Meetings Act- Jean Henes, Secretary, acknowledged the Nebraska Open Meeting Law was posted in the room. A continually current agenda is available at the NCDHD office.
3. Roll call at 10:32 am. (In Attendance: Carol Plate, Denise Pribil, Doug Fox, Dr. Ken Tusha, Greg Hull, Jean Henes, Lon Knievel, Mike McConaughey, Wade Hollenbeck.)
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
Motion #1 by Lon Knievel and seconded by Carol Plate to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor; Motion Carried.

Approval of previous meeting minutes

Motion #2 by Doug Fox and seconded by Denise Pribil to approve the meeting minutes from January 31, 2025. All in favor; Motion Carried.

Financial Report

1. Review of January & February 2025 finances
 1. *Motion #3 by Dr. Tusha and seconded by Mike McConaughey to approve the finances as presented for January & February 2025. All in favor; Motion Carried.*

Funding

1. Updates on federal funding
 - a. CDC cuts on established subawards. Stop over backdated. Impacts immunization program and infectious disease education funding. Working on closing out to be paid on previous work. Stop work order includes \$873,326.27 of allocated funding to NCDHD. Estimate \$493,808.46 is unspent funds prior to final report due on 3/28.
 - b. 70% of payroll supported with federal funds. Estimated monthly gap from cut inclusive of pay roll and cost allocation= \$38,306.67.



North Central District
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2. State funding forecasting- still unknown; anticipate state budget will be past the end of May. Reductions up to 50% proposed.
3. Strategic direction of the board of health moving forward. Discussion on the board working to:
 - a. Prioritize our programs
 - b. Focus on priority of needs to district
 - c. Request board members to reach out to local Congress reps
4. Today's feedback on non-negotiable services:
 - a. Will be helpful to have a full list of what we do. Discussion to use the program updates report.
 - b. Doug spoke on importance of Miles of Smiles and Immunizations; Denise on epi with the need for responses to bird flu, measles; Carol- importance of mental health.
 - c. Conversation on service focus (more public) versus behind-the-scenes prevention work.
 - d. Conversation on if some areas get more emphasis and attention than others. Assessing needs of each area and accepting that different areas may have different priorities for service needs
 - e. Could explore other funding with inheritance tax or small business grants with economic development.
5. Today's feedback on spending reserves:
 - a. Feedback varied. Consensus that it is appropriate to use savings as we get more information. Recommendations of 60 and 90 days made. General support to move forward until the next board of health meeting, contact the board if large changes occur, and to feel comfortable calling an emergency meeting.
6. Department has applied for additional funds through private foundation (Sherwood) and federal funding (STOP ACT). Further conversation with NE Community Foundation on potential funding collaboration.

Building remodel

1. Project & budget update. Nearly complete. Waiting on last few bills; project underbudget.

Policy Approvals

1. Waiting on legal feedback on FMLA. All health departments may need to implement an FMLA policy being that they are governmental entities. Tabled until next meeting.

Legislative Updates & Priorities

1. Update on LB261- public health funding expected to be reduced. Floor debate anticipated to start on 3/31.
2. Discussion on potential position/ actions for the legislative session. Dr. Tusha expressed he does not anticipate Medicaid reimbursement rates for dental to increase. No further actions taken.

Feedback on Board Packet through SharePoint

1. Board comfortable with this direction.

Program Updates

1. Meet new staff member, Allison Becker- Prevention Coordinator.

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2. Health Coaches for Hypertension Classes
 - a. Classes teach attendees to lower their blood pressure
 - b. Learn to create an action plan
 - c. April 7th afternoon class begins
 - d. May 5th morning class begins
3. Programmatic Updates
 - a. Added Miles of Smiles dental screening billing
 - b. Two CPR certified staff members
 - c. Installing 3 additional Purple Air Monitors
 - d. Citizen Science project with 3rd grade, testing their water samples
 - e. Beginning another round of Bingocize
 - f. Stadium Seats using Credible Minds info were purchased and providing within District

Director's Report

1. Staffing
 - a. American Heart Association summer intern opportunity pending.
2. Funding/Programming
 - a. Local Farmers Food Association grant was recently approved, expect it to be cut with recent financial cuts
 - i. Purchased beef to be processed locally to use within this grant
 - ii. Working with local food pantries
 - b. HPV grant will be new July 1. Focusing on eligibility at age 9 and increasing uptake.
 - c. Heidi in discussions with NE Community Foundation on possible funding collaborations.
3. Community Health Assessment Update; www.ncdhd.ne.gov/CHA
 - a. Priority areas: chronic health conditions, mental health, socioeconomic factors, and access to care.
 - b. NCDHD/Virtual meeting- April 10th, 10:00 a.m- 12:00p.m. Board encouraged to join to discuss strategies.
4. Accreditation annual report- due this week for submitting one measure. On track.
5. Electronic Health Record update
 - a. Now live. Claims being submitted. Working through kinks
6. Renting workspace update
 - a. Midtown wants to proceed with future rental. In negotiations with specific needs, contract and rental costs. No start date.

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. No Executive Session held

Public Comment

No public comment.

Next Board Meeting

The next board of health meeting will be in person at NCDHD (422 E Douglas St. O'Neill) on 5/30/25 at 10:30am.



Approval to Adjourn

Jean Henes, Secretary, adjourned the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

Present	Board Member	1	2	3
	Dennis Bauer, Brown County Commissioner			
	Dustin Breiner, Holt County Supervisor			
X	Doug Fox, Rock County Citizen	Y	1 Y	Y
X	Jean Henes, Knox County Citizen	Y	Y	Y
X	Wade Hollenbeck, Rock County Commissioner	Y	Y	Y
X	Greg Hull, Boyd County Supervisor	Y	Y	Y
	Kelly Kalkowski, Boyd County Citizen			
	Regina Krebs, Antelope County Supervisor			
X	Lon Knievel, Pierce County Citizen	1 Y	Y	Y
	Kevin Mackeprang, Knox County Supervisor			
X	Mike McConaughey, Cherry County Commissioner	Y	Y	2 Y
	Dr. Ron Morse, District Physician			
	Cory Nilson, Keya Paha County Citizen			
X	Carol Plate, Brown County Citizen	2 Y	Y	Y
X	Denise Pribil, Holt County Citizen	Y	2 Y	Y
	John Steinkraus, Pierce County Commissioner			
X	Dr. Kenneth Tusha, District Dentist	Y	Y	1 Y

Guests
Heidi Kuklis, NCDHD Executive Director Elizabeth Parks, NCDHD Epi & Assistant Director Charissa Sladek, NCDHD Office Mgr. Sam Singery, Eide Bailly CPA

This meeting is held within the guidelines of the Nebraska Open Meeting Act. A copy of the written materials discussed in this meeting is available. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1412. An agenda is kept current up to twenty-four hours



prior to the meeting. The agenda may be viewed at North Central District Health Department, 422 East Douglas Street, O'Neill, Nebraska. Any Agenda items may be removed, tabled, or reordered at any time at the discretion of the Board President.



 Jean Henes, Secretary

