



**Board of Health
Minutes
June 2, 2026**

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	
X		Dan Lynch, Buffalo County Commissioner
X		Sue Hunter – Buffalo County Citizen
X		Bill Stewart – Dawson County Commissioner
X		Nicole Thorell –Dawson County Citizen
	X	Scot Grams – Franklin County Supervisor
X		Renee Grams – Franklin County Citizen
X		Glenn Hofman – Gosper County Supervisor
X		Daren Hatch – Gosper County Citizen
X		George Scott – Harlan County Supervisor
	X	Yvonne Tolle – Harlan County Citizen
	X	Heath Hofstetter – Kearney County Commissioner
	X	Rick Streeter – Phelps County Commissioner
	X	Cody Krull – Kearney County Citizen
	X	Kayla Knauss DO – Physician
X		Alicia Lyons - Dentist
X		Dr. Jessica Robb – Veterinarian
	X	Melissa De La Torre- Minority Health Representative

Also, present: TRPHD representatives: Jeremy Eschliman – Health Director; Katie Mulligan – Chief Operating Officer; Andrea Shoemaker – Executive Assistant; Jesse Valenti – Finance Section Manager; Jacki Haley – Clinical Section Manager; Haleigh Eschliman – Home Visitation Supervisor; Ashley Green – Environmental Health Supervisor; Mike Henery- Legal Counsel.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

The Board of Health (BOH) meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Sue Hunter, Board President, as a VIRTUAL meeting in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. As such, virtual participation (voting) is allowed by board members. The virtual option (Zoom) is also available for public participation.

Meeting notices: Hunter acknowledged the Nebraska Open Meeting Law was posted in the room with booklets available. Hunter noted the meeting notice publication has occurred in newspapers of record within each county of the district, in addition to an agenda being continually current and available at the TRPHD office and on the TRPHD website.

Roll call completed by Shoemaker; 9 members present (Lynch, Hunter, Stewart, R. Grams, Thorell, Hofman, Hatch, Scott, Robb).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA. Motion by Hofman, seconded by Lynch, to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll call vote, 9 ayes, 0 nays, Motion carried.



Introductions | Acknowledgements

Katie Mulligan, Chief Operating Officer, introduced Ramona Heintges, Environmental Health Specialist, who is a new member of the team. Mulligan shared that TRPHD has executed a contract with Jacob Eschliman to be a dental hygienist who will provide services as outlined in the agreement.

Approval of Minutes from the regular meeting on April 7, 2026, and Special meeting on April 28, 2026.

Motion made by Lynch, seconded by Thorell to approve the regular meeting on April 7, 2026, and Special meeting on April 28, 2026, minutes as presented. **Roll call vote, 9 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.**

MATERIAL AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY BEFORE THE MEETING & AVAILABLE AT THE MEETING

- Finance
 - BOH Financials March/April 2026
 - Health and Dental Renewal Rates for 2026
 - May 2026 Finance Committee Meeting Agenda
 - Contracts
- Policy
 - 3.26.26 Policy Committee Agenda
 - 3.26.26 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
 - 100.6 Policy Creation and Elimination
 - 111.6 Absence of Director
 - 118.2 Board of Health Meeting Attendance
 - 202.7 Accounting Standards
 - 303.4 Travel
 - 304.4 Physical Activities
 - 307.4 Tuition Assistance and Reimbursement
 - 321.4 Employee Benefit Package
 - 327.4 Employee Grievance
 - 337.7 Workplace Safety
 - Organizational Planning Documents
 - COOP
 - Workforce Development
 - Review of Pool Regulations
- Permit Fees for Swimming Public Pools
- Resolution No. 2026-3 Adoption of Swimming Pool Regulations
- Resolution NO. 2026.16 Retail Food Safety Inspection (Buffalo County)
- Annual Benefits
- BOH Meeting Minutes April 7, 2026
- BOH Meeting Minutes April 28, 2026
- BOH Meeting Agenda June 2, 2026
- BOH Proposed Public Swimming Pool Regulation Framework
- RMV Construction Bid
- Duncan Theis Construction (DTC) Bid
- On Point Construction And Design Bid
- Executive Committee Meeting Minutes



- PA Board of Health Application LAL

Bill Stewart entered the board meeting at 6:05 PM

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jeremy Eschliman, Health Director, gave an update on the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) Initiative 1.5b, Nebraska Kids Fitness and Nutrition Day. TRPHD received funding to support community-based nutrition and physical activity programs aimed at addressing childhood obesity and promoting healthy lifestyles. Funding will allow TRPHD to expand existing programs, strengthen community partnerships, and implement additional activities that encourage healthy eating and active living among Nebraska youth and families.

TRPHD continues to make progress on the Retail Food Program through ongoing collaboration with local and state partners. We have received a signed resolution from Buffalo County supporting continued program development efforts.

As part of these efforts, J. Eschliman met with the Administrator for the City of Kearney to discuss ongoing Retail Food Program collaboration. Current work is focused on developing the necessary legal language to support the program structure, with future coordination planned with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Environmental health efforts continue to expand through seasonal implementation activities, Retail Food Program collaboration discussions, and the development of consistent implementation strategies among rural Nebraska local health departments.

Chief Operating Officer Report

Katie Mulligan, Chief Operating Officer, and Dr. Aravind Menon, Epidemiologist, presented district health data highlighting key concerns in behavioral health, healthcare access, chronic disease, and environmental health. Poor mental health and depression rates increased in every county between 2019 and 2023, with nearly one-third of adults reporting loneliness or social isolation. Dawson County showed the highest levels of social isolation and social vulnerability.

The presentation also noted significant variation in healthcare access across counties, including differences in uninsured rates and mental health provider availability. Chronic disease remains a major concern, with high rates of obesity, diabetes, and heart disease throughout the district, particularly in Franklin and Dawson counties.

Environmental health findings indicated higher diesel particulate exposure and environmental justice concerns in Dawson and Buffalo counties, while Buffalo County had the highest traffic proximity indicators. Dr. Menon emphasized that these findings underscore the need for targeted efforts to improve mental health, healthcare access, chronic disease prevention, and environmental health outcomes across the district.

Discussion/Action of Leigh Anne Lehmann as Mid-Level Practitioner on the Board of Health

J. Eschliman reviewed the application submitted for the Mid-Level Practitioner representative position on the Board. He provided an overview of the applicant's qualifications and discussed the application with Board members for consideration. Motion by Thorell, seconded by Hoffman, to approve the application for the Mid-Level Practitioner representative position on the Board as presented. **Roll call vote, 10 ayes, 0 nays, Motion carried.**



Public Hearing on Adoption of Public Swimming Pool Regulations

Hunter opened the public hearing regarding the Adoption of Public Swimming Pool Regulations at 6:20 PM.

Ashley Green, Environmental Health Supervisor, provided a brief overview of the public swimming pool regulations, noting the draft regulations were available in the board packet. The board accepted public comment.

Hunter closed public hearing at 6:34 PM.

Discussion/Action: 2026-3 Adoption of revised Public Swimming Pool Resolution

Motion to approve 2026-3 Adoption of revised Public Swimming Pool Resolution made by Lynch, seconded by Hatch, to approve Resolution 2026-3 Swimming Pool. **Roll call vote, 10 ayes, 0 nays.**

Motion carried.

March and April 2026 Financial Reports

Jesse Valenti, Finance Section Manager, provided a financial overview highlighting fiscal year 2025–2026, including expenditures exceeding the break-even benchmark in several budget categories, and discussed overall spending trends and contributing factors as part of routine financial oversight.

Revenue for the month was also reviewed, with funding received from federal, state, local, and other sources. Motion made by Hatch, seconded by Lynch, to approve the March and April 2026 financial reports. **Roll call vote, 10 ayes, 0 nays, Motion carried.**

Discussion/Action: Annual Employee Benefits

Valenti reviewed the current employee benefits package and presented the proposed benefit rates for the upcoming plan year. Health insurance coverage through Blue Cross Blue Shield will remain unchanged in structure, with a projected premium increase of 4.68%. Dental and vision benefits will continue without changes to coverage or rates, as no increases are proposed for either plan. Motion made by Lynch, seconded by Hofman to approve the employee benefits package for the upcoming plan year as presented, including the continuation of current Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance coverage with a 4.68% premium increase, and no changes to dental and vision benefits or rates. **Roll call vote, 10 ayes, 0 nays, Motion carried.**

Discussion/Action Wage Range

J. Eschliman reviewed the proposed wage range, title adjustments, new positions, and recommended position title changes to better fit current and future staffing needs. The Finance Committee had previously reviewed the proposals and recommended that the Board approval. Motion made by Thorell, seconded by Lynch to approve the proposed wage range adjustments, title adjustments, new positions, and recommended position title changes as presented. **Roll call vote, 10 ayes, 0 nays, Motion carried.**

Discussion/Action Top Earners

J. Eschliman discussed several options for employees at or near the top of their pay ranges (as discussed in finance committee meeting), including potential position adjustments or role expansions (such as senior or lead designations), performance-based bonus payments within budget parameters, and the consideration of cost-of-living adjustments separate from merit or performance increases. The



Committee also discussed professional development opportunities, expanded responsibilities, compensation adjustments, incentives, and ongoing market comparisons. The board consensus is to continue the current process of implementing role expansions when strategically possible, continue annual performance increases, and ongoing review of wage ranges based on market comparisons for compensation.

Recommendation to approve the fee schedule for swimming pools, recreation camps, mobile home parks, and well and septic inspections.

Green reviewed proposed updates to environmental health program fees and requirements, including swimming pools, recreation camps, mobile home parks, and well and septic inspection and the establishment of a Public Swimming Pool Operator Permit with a phased implementation and two-year renewal cycle. Motion made by Stewart, seconded by Lynch to approve the fee schedule for swimming pools, recreation camps, mobile home parks, and well and septic inspections. **Roll call vote, 10 ayes, 0 nays, Motion carried.**

George Scott exited the meeting at 7:18 PM

Discussion/Action on Bid Proposals for Office Remodel

J. Eschliman gave an overview of the sealed bids received for the office remodel project, which were reviewed and discussed in detail by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee recommended the project be awarded to DTC (Duncan Theis Construction) for approval by the Board for the bid amount of \$275,000. Motion made by Hofman, seconded by Thorell to award the office remodel project to DTC for the bid amount of \$275,000. **Roll call vote, 9 ayes, 0 nays, Motion carried.**

Recommendation to approve the modifications to the following policies

Mulligan reviewed updates and revisions made to existing policies, including modifications to the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and the Workforce Development Plan. Motion made by Hofmann, seconded by Thorell, to approve all recommendations revisions and updates to the following policies a100.6 Policy Creation and Elimination, 111.6 Absence of Director, 118.2 Board of Health Meeting Attendance, 202.7 Accounting Standards, 303.4 Travel, 304.4 Physical Activities, 307.4 Tuition Assistance and Reimbursement, 321.4 Employee Benefit Package, 327.4 Employee Grievance, 337.7 Workplace Safety and Organizational Planning Documents the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and Workforce Development. **Roll call vote, 9 ayes, 0 nays, Motion carried.**

Public Comment. The board accepted public comments.

Adjournment: The Two Rivers Public Health Department Board of Health meeting was called to adjournment by consensus at 7:35 PM by Hunter.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: August 11, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Thorell
Secretary (AS/JE)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Thorell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

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