



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Board of Health



Thursday, January 8, 2026
5:30 PM

Regular

Columbia/Boone
County Public Health &
Human Services
Training Room 1
1005 W. Worley St
Columbia, MO

I. CALL TO ORDER

Heidt called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Public Health and Human Services staff present: Rebecca Roesslet.

Present: 11 - Harry Feirman, Jonathan Heidt, Rosann Geiser, Sonita Simelus, Ella Miller, Ashton Day, Joseline Hernandez Arroyo, Tom Rose, Samantha Joiner, Bridget Kraus and Jennifer Carter Dochler

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Rose moves to approve the agenda, seconded by Miller. The motion passed unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

BOH Draft Meeting Minutes 11.13.2025

Attachments: [BOH Draft Meeting Minutes 11.13.2025](#)

Feirman moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Day. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

None.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Update on the Chapter 5 Changes.

Heidt turns the floor over to Roesslet to give an update on the Chapter 5 Changes that were presented to pre-council on December 15th, 2025. Roesslet states how the pre-council meeting went very well, and that the presentation was well received. Going over how they did a walk through of all of the changes and that the pre-council discussion was just short of an hour. Roesslet explains that they did not have any recommended changes to bring back to the board, but what pre-council did ask, that is city legal is going to work on the language in the Advisory Committee change, because it will be a City Council appointed committee. Roesslet asked the members of the board that attended the pre-council meeting how they thought it went. Those members believed that the meeting went well. She also mentions how the pre-council was pleased with how the topics for discussion at the Board of Health meetings were pushed out on social media and on BeHeardCoMo for the public to have knowledge of them. Roesslet was asked when going to council that she include a communication plan that includes how they communicated this past year while working on these changes. She states that the staff has been putting together that communication plan and after that and the language from legal on the Advisory Committee is ready then it will go on a City Council agenda. Mentioning that the public can make comment at that City Council meeting.

Feirman mentions that it might be useful to not only focus on the changes that were made to the ordinance, as some people may not even know there is an ordinance or what is in the ordinance, but a simple presentation of what the ordinance deals with. Roesslet agrees, focus on what existed too not only what is new to the ordinance.

Roesslet lets the board know that she will let them know when it goes to City Council, and that it will be presented by herself and Kevin Meyers, Animal Control Supervisor. Also letting the board know that the meeting will be video recorded. Feirman wants to know when council approves it when does the ordinance take effect. Roesslet responds that it would be immediately. Roesslet also lets the board know that she will email the proposed makeup by legal for the Advisory Committee to them.

It is at this time that Rose notices a correction in the minutes, under the approval of minutes in the November 13, 2025 minutes it should state New World Screwworm, not New Worm Screwworm. There was a mistype that needs to be corrected.

Discussion of Topics to Focus on in 2026

Moving on, Heidt opens the floor to the board members to see if they have any suggestions for topics that they would like to discuss for the upcoming year. Roesslet reports that there is nothing really coming up that she feels that the Board of Health would want to weight in on to give a recommendation to council. She also adds that could change at any moment so there could be something down the line, later in the year that could be brought up to discuss.

Feirman brings up vaccine requirements for schools and daycares, stating that may be one of the things that they would like to discuss. This brings Roesslet to the State of the State Address that the Governor will be giving next week, she doesn't know what the recommendations are going to look like, but states that Missouri still has vaccination mandates. Roesslet tells how nothing has really changed with vaccination in the Health Department, that they still provide all the vaccines that are recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. And that nothing has changed as of right now with school vaccination requirements. Feirman mentions that if the State does change the requirements for vaccinations that may be a topic the Board of Health would want to discuss.

Roesslet asks the board if there are any topics that they would want the PHHS staff to present on, and departments that they would want more information on. The board does not mention any at that time. Geiser did mention what the board had previously talked about, having someone from legal come and present to them. Roesslet said that if legal is available they will plan for that for the February meeting.

Day asks if City Council voted on the 24 hour sale of alcohol at the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Roesslet tells how the Substance Use Prevention Advisory Commission submitted a letter to council to opt-out, there legislation in on the next City Council agenda to need a special permit process, that council meeting is January 20th, 2026.

They decide that at the next meeting, if they are available legal will come to present, and that will be their next step. They will see what kinds of topics they want to discuss based on the information provided from the February meeting.

Simelus at this time takes a moment to mention Compass Health's - Mental Health First Aid Training, if there is anyone they know that is interested.

VI. REPORTS

Director's Report - Rebecca Roesslet

Roesslet starts the report stating that they have already discussed the vaccinations. Going on to the number of Flu cases that are rising across the country and it is not any different here for us locally. Mentioning that they haven't had any reported deaths from the Flu. Hep B vaccination guidance advisory committee on immunizations practice has shifted from a universal newborn Hep B vaccination recommendation to an individual based decision making for infants born to mothers who test negative for the virus. She also mentions that the U.S. faces the possibility of losing its measles free status. There are new dietary guidelines that could have an impact on WIC and SNAP benefits

Rose brings up that there have not been any food safety or food handlers issues, and Roesslet confirms that we have not had a large scale food borne illness outbreak. This is something that could be presented by PHHS staff at a future meeting. That is all that Roesslet has for the Director's report.

VII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Day asks if they are hearing of any studies of long covid. Simelus responds that she has heard of a couple.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

February 12, 2026

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Rose moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Day. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:13 P.M.