



# City of Columbia, Missouri

## Meeting Minutes

### Board of Health



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Thursday, February 12, 2026  
5:30 PM

Regular

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

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Public Health and Human Services staff present: Rebecca Roesslet.

County Commissioner present: Janet Thompson

City of Columbia staff present: Rebecca Thompson

**Present:** 9 - Harry Feirman, Jonathan Heidt, Rosann Geiser, Sonita Simelus, Ella Miller, Ashton Day, Joseline Hernandez Arroyo, Tom Rose and Jennifer Carter Dochler

**Excused:** 1 - Samantha Joiner

**Absent:** 1 - Bridget Kraus

#### II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

#### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

BOH Draft Meeting Minutes 01.08.2026

Attachments: [BOH Draft Meeting Minutes 01.08.2026](#)

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

#### IV. OLD BUSINESS

None.

#### V. NEW BUSINESS

### City Attorney, Rebecca Thompson - Board of Health Roles & Responsibilities

Heidt introduces city attorney Rebecca Thompson, then turns the floor over to her to present. Thompson states that she is here to give an overview of what the ordinances say about the Board of Health's roles and responsibilities. Stating a brief passage from the ordinance which states that the "Board of Health shall act as an advisory board to the City Manager, Health Officer, and the City Council on matters pertaining to Public Health and Animal Control and shall perform other duties as may be prescribed by law or ordinance." Thompson tells how the Board of Health is an advisory board, also mentioning that suggestions from city boards should be submitted to City Council in the form of a report prior to any expenditures of staff time or money on the topic that the suggestion is being made about. At this time it is asked that since the Board of Health is a City/County board they want to know if they also make recommendations to the County Commissioner. Since they are a City/County board they would make recommendations to the County Commissioner. Janet Thompson, the County Commissioner is in attendance and lets the board know that the best way to make a recommendation to the County would be to make the recommendation to Roesslet, the Health Director, first because they have a monthly meeting and that is when it could be discussed and they could come back to the board with more questions. They continue their discussion about the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Health, taking this time to ask their question to Thompson to get more clarification on some of the details.

Thompson finishes presenting and answering questions from the board. The board then moves into a discussion of what they want to do moving forward with their meetings. Feirman asks Janet Thompson, from a County perspective if there is anything she thinks they should look into. Thompson mentions a thing that is a topic on a national level, the violence in the community, and the topic of gun violence as a Public Health issue. Mentioning that maybe that is something to look at. Thompson tells about D'Markus Thomas-Brown's, the City's Office of Violence Prevention representative, work with community violence prevention. Roesslet asks the board if they would be interested in having D'Markus present at the March meeting. Thompson tells about the mental health issues of people in the County Jail, how it is a disaster.

Heidt asks if there are any other question, going on to say that the plan is to have the next meeting in March. Miller brings up that it was mentioned at one point about the HIV Prevention education and would be interested in having an update on that. Roesslet will let the board know if D'Markus will be able to make it to the March meeting and if there will be a March meeting.

## VI. REPORTS

### Director's Report - Rebecca Roesslet

Moving into the Director's report. Flu is still going around there were 331 cases last week and it is highest in kids age 5 to 14. Flu A is the most prominent, but this is not the highest flu count for this season, this time last year there were over 900 cases.

There have been some pretty big cuts to Public Health proposed in the States budget, and they are watching to see what happens with the budget cycle. It could really impact the rural areas and that in turn could effect the Columbia/Boone County Health Department.

The first reading of the Chapter 5 animal control ordinance will be Monday, February 16, 2026, it is on first read meaning there won't be public comment or a presentation. Then March 2, 2026 it will be on Old Business, this is when Roesslet and Meyers will present and the public will be able to make comment. March is rabies awareness month, they are planning to do some social media education on that awareness. The 2025 animal bite case were 472. These numbers don't always include the number of bat exposures.

There has been a lot of preparation for the FIFA World Cup. On the City Council agenda for Monday there is going to be a topic about limiting serving and selling hours. It's believed that there is going to be a huge surge of visitors for the FIFA World Cup. Thompson says that they aren't seeing the numbers yet that people will be planning to stay here.

## VII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

None.

## VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

March 12, 2026

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

**Simelus moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Hernandez Arroyo. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:17 P.M.**