



**Delaware County Health Department
Board of Health Meeting
January 22, 2026**

ATTENDEES

Lora Werner
Rosemarie Halt, Chair
Lily Higgins, MD, Vice Chair
Oni Richards
Annemarie Hirsch
P.J. Brennan, MD

Meeting Minutes

- I. There being a duly convened quorum, Vice Chair Lily Higgins called the meeting to order at 6:18 pm.
- II. Induction of New BOH Members
 - a. County Council meeting appointment Lonnese Bodison for a 4 year term. County Council also reappointed Dr Patrick Brennan and Rosemarie Halt to the Delaware County Board of Health for 4 year terms as well.
- III. Election of BOH Chair
 - a. The Board voted and approved Rosemarie Halt to be Chair and Lily Higgins to be Vice chair.
- IV. Chair Announcements
 - a. The Executive Meeting was held last week.
 - b. Dr Brennan made a statement that the vaccination recommendation by the Federal Department and Humans Services were made without a scientific basis. Dr Brennan urges parents to adhere to the previous vaccination recommendations.
- V. Public Comment on Agenda Items: None
- VI. Approval of minutes – motion made by Chair Rosemarie Halt, Annemaire Hirsh approved, and Dr Patrick Brennan seconded.
- VII. Director Updates
 - a. 2025 Consolidated Report
 - i. Some of the services that have expanded are immunization, STI, HIV and maternal health services including childhood lead poisoning prevention services. Maintained surveillance of infections chronic and environmental threats.
 - ii. There was a question about the STI numbers. There has been a decline in numbers of STI's in Delaware County. More information will be shared about this at the next Board of Health Meeting.
 - iii. There was a question about the Vaccine's for Children program. A grant we use for this was cut earlier this year, however the Health Department is still prepared to help offer vaccines for children.
- VIII. Approval of the 2026 Board of Health Meeting Dates
 - a. 3/19/26
 - b. 6/18/26
 - c. 10/8/26

d. 12/17/26

IX. New Business

a. Epidemiology Update – Dr Victor Alos Rullan, Epidemiologist

- i. Summary of leading causes of morbidity diseases and mortality in Delaware County using PA community profiles from 2019 – 2023.
 1. Deaths by age-adjusted rates for all causes of death, accidents, diabetes mellitus, Alzheimer's disease, nephritis/kidney diseases in Delaware County are all lower than Pennsylvania. However, Cerebrovascular disease and influenza and pneumonia were higher in Delaware County compared to Pennsylvania.
 2. Cancers by age-adjusted incidence of all cancers in males, lung and bronchus cancer in males, melanoma of the skin in males and females, and non-Hodgkin lymphoma are lower in Delaware County compared to Pennsylvania. However, Breast cancer in females is higher in Delaware County compared to Pennsylvania.
 3. In nearby counties, including Delaware County, Montgomery County, Chester County, and Philadelphia County Cerebrovascular diseases are higher than the rest of the state of Pennsylvania.
 - a. Some steps to prevent cerebrovascular death include choosing healthy food and drinks, keeping a healthy weight, regular physical activity, and limiting smoking and alcohol consumption.
 4. One question from the board was asking about rate of vaccination in Delaware County compared to the state for influenza.
 - a. There is a decline in vaccines for the flu in older individuals for influenza and pneumonia.
 5. Delaware County Health Department was given two grants to help educate the public about getting the flu vaccine.
- ii. DCHD is working with Dr Kristen Motley on this initiative called Together for Chester to help community members access quality healthcare when the Crozer Healthcare system collapsed.
 1. One recent issue that Together for Chester is noticing in the community is the lack of flu vaccination in the community.
 2. DCHD did a drive through flu clinic in Tinicum County for the flu vaccination. This had a higher turnout rate than last year.

X. Public Comment: None

XI. Motion made to adjourn made by Rosemarie Halt, approved by Patrick Brennan, seconded by Lily Higgins.

Next meeting is March 19, 2026 at the County Council Room, 201 W. Front St., Media PA. There will be public notice of the location.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lora Siegmann Werner, DCHD Director