Mid-Michigan District HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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BOARD OF HEALTH:	Bruce DeLong	George Bailey	Adam Petersen
	Nicole Fickes	Steven Sopocy	Matt Murray

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MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT (MMDHD)
BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING
at
Montcalm Office, Stanton, Michigan

Wednesday, October 28, 2026
9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

We take action to protect, maintain, and improve the health of our community.

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Members Present:	Adam Petersen, Chairperson; George Bailey, Vice Chairperson, Bruce DeLong, Steven Sopocy and Matt Murray
Members Absent:	Nicole Fickes
Staff Present:	Mari E. (Liz) Braddock, Health Officer; Melissa Selby, Director of Administrative Services; Lonnie Smith, Director of Environmental Health (EH); Krishna Santana, Board Secretary
Staff Absent:	Sarah Doak, Director of Community Health and Education Division (CHED), Jennifer E. Morse, MD, MPH, FAAFP
Guests:	None

Adam Petersen, Chairperson called the Regular Meeting of the Mid-Michigan District Board of Health (BOH) to order at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 28, 2026, at the Montcalm Office of the MMDHD, Stanton, Michigan.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by A. Petersen.

A. AGENDA NOTES, REVIEW, AND REVISIONS:

Petersen asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

Motion made by G. Bailey and seconded by B. DeLong to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

B. CONSENT ITEMS:

1. Meeting Minutes

   a. Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH) Board of Directors Meeting held September 14, 2026

   b. Mid-Michigan District BOH Meeting held September 23, 2026

Motion made by G. Bailey and seconded by M. Murray to accept Meeting Minutes B. 1. a. & b. and place on file. Motion carried.

2. Communications –

   a. ELPHS Notice of Award – Reduction

      L. Braddock informed the Board that for FY2027, Essential Public Health Services funding will be reduced by approximately $16,000. The reduction will be divided among the Food Program, Water Progam, and Immunization Program. It was noted that this funding reduction is occurring statewide and will affect all health departments.

   b. Notice of Award – Local Sharing FY27

      L. Braddock explained that the agency has received an award of approximately $52,000 for local health department collaboration and exploration of shared approaches to service delivery. It was noted that the agency has received this award in previous years.

Motion made by G. Bailey and seconded by B. DeLong to accept and place on file the communications. Motion carried.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS: - None.

D. BRANCH OFFICE EMPLOYEES: -None.

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Finance Committee –

   a. MMDHD's Expenses for September 6 through October 3, 2026

      The expenses were reviewed for the board by G. Bailey.

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Motion made by G. Bailey and seconded by B. DeLong to approve payment of the MMDHD's Expenses for September 6 through October 3, 2026, totaling $533,173.50. Motion carried.

b. MMDHD's Monthly Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenditure Report for September 2026 – Delayed due to year-end.

c. CHED Fee Schedule Adjustments

G. Bailey reviewed the proposed increases.

Motion made by G. Bailey and seconded by B. DeLong to approve the CHED Fee Scheduled Adjustments as presented. Motion carried.

2. Personnel Committee – Nicole Fickes, Chairperson – No Report.

3. Program Committee –Matt Murray, Chairperson – No Report.

F. MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jennifer E. Morse, MD, MPH, FAAFP

1. Nitrous Oxide Abuse

L. Braddock reviewed the report in Dr. Morse's absence and informed the Board that this topic is being discussed due to the increasing frequency of nitrous oxide abuse. Recommendations include supporting state and federal actions to end the sale of nitrous oxide or restrict flavored products, raise the purchase age to 21, and require health warnings. Additional recommendations include encouraging local healthcare providers to question patients about nitrous oxide and inhalant use and incorporating nitrous oxide education into existing retailer education programs and substance use education for schools, parents, and young adults.

Motion to approve and place on file the Medical Directors report made by S. Sopocy seconded by G. Bailey. Motion carried.

G. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT: Mari E. (Liz) Braddock

1. Health Officer Report

L. Braddock reviewed her report and informed the Board that flu, COVID, and RSV clinics have begun with a positive response from the public. Vaccines are also available for individuals without insurance. She discussed rabies surveillance, noting a 28% increase in cases within the district despite a decrease in funding for the service. In 2026, 58 bats have tested positive for rabies statewide, with four cases in the district: one in Montcalm County, one in Clinton County, and two in Gratiot County. She explained that the agency accepts numerous animals for testing and that a negative result can prevent exposed individuals from needing to complete costly

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rabies treatment. L. Braddock also announced that Emory University will hold two in-person meetings regarding PBB, one in St. Louis on November 7 and another in Fremont on November 8. Lastly, she reported that the agency received a grant for Amish buggy safety, which will be used to increase driver awareness, provide buggy safety information, and review data to identify ways to improve Amish buggy safety.

2. Quarterly Service Report

L. Braddock reviewed the QSR with the Board, noting a slight decrease in WIC services and explaining that changes to SNAP benefit eligibility may have an increased impact on future numbers. Family Planning services have continued to decline, as have immunizations, while vaccine waivers have increased. She clarified that a waiver may indicate a child is behind schedule with vaccinations and does not necessarily mean the child has received no vaccines. She also reviewed the Environmental Health division noting that septic permits remain steady while the well program is increasing. Complaint numbers were reviewed, noting more follow-ups and she explained that a follow-up indicates a legitimate complaint was received and further action was necessary.

3. Organizational Chart 2026-2027

L. Braddock told the board the 2026-2027 organizational charts were included in the board packet, she explained there have been no changes to the chart from the previous year.

Motion made by B. Delong seconded by S. Sopocy to approve the 2026-2027 Organizational Charts. Motion carried.

4. Agreements Signed

The agreements signed were reviewed by L. Braddock.

Motion made by S. Sopocy seconded by M. Murray to accept and place on file the Health Officer's Report. Motion carried.

H. OLD BUSINESS: - None.

I. NEW BUSINESS: - None.

1. Emerging Issues – None.
2.

J. LEGISLATIVE ACTION: - None.

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K. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. Mid-Michigan District BOH Action Items, September 2026

2. MMDHD Staffing Report

L. RELATED NEWS ARTICLES AND LINKS: https://www.mmdhd.org/2026-board-of-health/

1. "Scientists to Host PBB Community Meetings at St. Louis and Fremont, Michigan in November" Press Release

M. AGENCY NEWSLETTER – https://conta.cc/4yLp2qB

There being no further business to come before the Board, M. Murray made a motion to adjourn, seconded by B. DeLong, the meeting adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krishna Santana, Board Secretary
For Adam Petersen, Chairperson
Mid-Michigan District Board of Health

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