



Independence Advisory Board of Health Minutes

December 4, 2025 6:00 PM

Meeting will be held virtually via Teams at
https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZTk0ZmEyZjQtZTlyNS00OGVhLWE5MDQtN2E4NDM3NjU2MzAy%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22862de864-c0f2-4801-a187-836f98f56db0%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%225436a539-55d6-4468-8763-16ed48ec0e77%22%7d

WELCOME

Meeting called to order

Members present included Genesis Rivera, Dr. Terry Morris, Jason White, David Suchman, Joseph Keary, Dr. John Ruddy, Larry Legler, Lori Halsey

Staff present included Christina Heinen, Lauren Campbell

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Dr. Morris, seconded by Dr. Suchman, approved by all at 6:01

VACANCIES

Christina shared that there was currently a vacancy for a veterinarian and a vacancy was opening to fill Dr. Ruddy's position. There are currently no known applicants to fill these vacancies.

Christina shared how those interested could apply to join the board.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Jason shared why these items were added to the agenda for discussion. Some at the City have concerns regarding revenue to support the Health Department and whether the department should continue. Jason suggested writing a letter and encouraging analysis of the issue by an outside individual before the City acted. Dr. Ruddy suggested that a letter be sent to the Council that voiced these concerns and requested a study be completed. Jason made a motion to form a

subcommittee to draft the letter and bring it back to the full group for consideration. This group would comprise of Jason White, Dr. Morris, Dr. Legler, and Dr. Suchman. Approved by all present at 6:22.

1. BUDGET/FUNDING

Christina shared that funding is available for all staff through this fiscal year and most of the way through the next fiscal year; however, the current federal climate makes for a lot of uncertainty. The group discussed the Recreation/Health Fund, which is a property tax levy.

2. FUNCTIONS/SERVICES COMPARISON

Christina explained that there a concern that there is a duplication of services between the City and County health departments. Christina stated that many grants have similar deliverables, so basic services will often be the same. The department tries though to choose deliverables that meet the needs of our specific population, which often has different needs than Eastern Jackson County. Christina shared that the department has a comparison list on services provided that she could share with the subcommittee.

3. ACCREDITATION

Christina shared that the department has gone through the first step of accreditation, which is an assessment and are on a pathway to accreditation.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Ruddy shared that he is on a committee that discusses issues surrounding our population that is currently unhoused.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Ruddy called for adjournment at 6:37 pm.