



Independence Advisory Board of Health Minutes

March 11, 2026 6:00 PM

Meeting will be held virtually. Members of the public may join via Teams at <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/21642453317590?p=DublesSQms2t69Yf0z> or by calling 660-631-8082, conference ID: 826637155#

WELCOME

Dr. Morris called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Members present were Dr. Terry Morris, Dr. David Suchman, Lori Halsey, Jason White, Dr. Larry Legler, and Genesis Rivera.

Staff present were Christina Heinen and Lauren Campbell.

Council present were Mayor Rory Rowland and Dr. Bridgette McCandless.

KRATOM ORDINANCE DISCUSSION

Dr. Morris shared that the group was there to discuss a possible ordinance to regulate Kratom products. He added that the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology encourages mothers to not use the product during pregnancy and breastfeeding. Many countries have banned the product entirely.

Dr. Legler asked about the intent of the ordinance, and Mayor Rowland explained that it was to allow use for individuals age 21 and older.

Dr. Legler asked about current restrictions, and Dr. Morris stated that it's not a scheduled drug. Christina stated that it's not an approved food additive, so it is banned in food/drink products in Independence.

Genesis stated that she had concerns because there is no requirement for labeling of the products in the draft ordinance. Genesis shared that a study was done that showed that 80% of the people using the Kratom leaf product met the criteria for mild to moderate opioid use disorder. Genesis added that an individual had died from Kratom overdose in the Kansas City area.

Todd Underwood, a member of the public, asked to speak. He shared that he was a manufacturer of Kratom-related products. He stated that his products are supplements and not food. He stated that he helped Kansas City pass their ordinance and that Blue Springs and Lee's

Summit are looking at similar.

The group discussed possible enforcement of the ordinance, and Christina stated that she would follow up with IPD.

Jason made a motion to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled board meeting in April to discuss the ordinance again. Dr. Legler seconded the motion. It was approved by all present at 6:43 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Lori made a motion to adjourn. Larry Legler seconded. Motion approved by all present at 6:44 pm.