

Mid-Ohio Valley Board of Health
January 22, 2026 at 6:30pm
Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department
1824 Murdoch Ave. Parkersburg, WV 26101

Call to Order:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Patsy Hardy, Board Chair. Emily Melrose took roll call. A quorum was present.

Attendance:

Patsy Hardy – Wood County
Blair Couch – Wood County
Chip Westfall – Calhoun County
Steve Ritter – Ritchie County
Dave Goff – Roane County via telephone
Philip Linger – Roane County
Anna Reno – Wirt County
Carrie Brainard – Wirt County via telephone
Eric Walker – Executive Director
Travis White – Finance Director
Emily Melrose – Personnel
Christi Merrill – Clinical Director
Heather Buchanan – Clinical Supervisor
Lisa DeVaughn – Environmental Health Director
Renee Metz – Registered Sanitarian
Lauren Williams – Women, Infants and Children Director
Terri Harton – Dental Hygienist

Approval of Agenda:

- A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

Public Comment:

- No public comment.

Board Chair Comments:

- The Board Chair reported on an evaluation that was performed regarding the public comments that were made at the previous board meeting. The Board Chair stated that a detailed review was performed which included approximately 60 hours of time spent reviewing the data. After which a conference call was held discussing the information

that was reviewed. It was found that there were objective discrepancies in the sequence of events that were presented during the public comments. Upon that conclusion, we did not offer an opportunity for the individual to continue in that role.

Routine Items:

- Approval of 11/20/2025 board meeting minutes.
 - Amendments were requested to the 11/20/2025 board meeting minutes. The amended minutes will be approved at the next board meeting on 03/26/2026.

Finance Report – presented by Travis White, Finance Director

YEAR TO DATE REVENUES/EXPENSES

- Year-To-Date Revenues exceeded Expenses by \$66,825.77 on November 30, 2025.
- Prior to OPEB accrued costs and Depreciation costs, Revenues exceeded Expenses by \$168,430.00 on November 30, 2025.
- Accounts Receivable \$433,607.34 as of 11/30/25.
- CURRENT Accounts Receivable \$772,722.78 as of 01/09/25.

CASH BALANCE

- The bank account is considered healthy as of November 30, 2025 and as of today. A “healthy” bank account is one in which there are sufficient funds to cover two months of expenses.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the financial report as presented.

Personnel Report – presented by Emily Melrose, Personnel

PERSONNEL REPORT – September 2025

- New Hires
 - Nutrition Associate
 - Registered Nurse
 - Temporary Nutritionist 3
 - Temporary Nutrition Associate
- Promotions
 - Interim Sanitarian Chief promoted to Sanitarian Chief
 - Nutritionist 3 to Interim WIC Director
- Resignations
 - WIC Director
 - Health and Human Service Aide
- Retirements
 - Health and Human Service Aide
- Vacant Positions
 - Sanitarian 1, 2 and Registered – Cross posted

- Sanitarian Supervisor
- Peer Recovery Support Specialists
- Quick Response Team Supervisor
- Community Health Director
- Executive Secretary
- 2 Health and Human Service Aide

Executive Director Report – presented by Eric Walker, Executive Director.

- Our Health Officer, Environmental Health Director and Executive Director will be attending Public Health Day at Legislature on 02/05/2026.
- It is Radon Action Month, and the health department has received a grant that allowed us to purchase and pass out radon flyers and test kits in all of our counties.
- Local funding requests plan to be sent out by the end of January, 2026.
 - Discussion ensued regarding health department attendance at the budget meetings in each county, along with a request to include services provided and statistics along with the funding request for each county.
- House Bill 4032 which establishes quick response teams (QRT) under the Office of Drug Control Policy to act as first responders in narcotic related medical emergencies.
 - “Subject to the policy requirements of this article, and in coordination with health care providers, law-enforcement agencies, emergency medical services, and health care facilities of this state, the Director of the Office of Drug Control Policy shall establish a plan for creating quick response teams (QRT) to serve as a first responder unit in narcotic-related medical emergencies effective July 1, 2026. A quick response team shall be trained to serve and to work with drug addicted persons immediately following their arrest at the regional jails, or at a treatment facility, to address a first step to recovery for those suffering from substance abuse.”
 - If this bill passes, it may affect our grant funding for QRT’s.
- Transitioning to new time tracking system.
- Rural Health Transformation Program
 - State received \$199 Million Grant
 - Focusing on rural health improvement and technology investment
 - Won’t fund existing programs
 - Must show measurable improvement or funds will be taken back
- Our annual assessment is scheduled for February 25, 2025.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Board Officers
 - A motion was made to renew the existing Mid-Ohio Valley Board of Health Officers as follows: Patsy Hardy, Chair; Scottie Chip Westfall, Vice Chair; David Blair Couch Treasurer. The motion was seconded and approved.

Board Member Comments:

- Steve Ritter mentioned that he has had discussions with Eric Walker regarding the building in Ritchie County. He hopes that the agreement will be completed and approved at their commission meeting on February 12th.
- Blair Couch asked about the Wirt County paving project. Eric Walker confirmed its completion and described the layout of the parking spaces. Anna Reno mentioned that Eric sent her and Carrie Brainard an email regarding it. Carrie commented that it looks very nice and the railings on the porch look great too.

Adjournment:

- A motion was made for adjournment, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Eric Walker, Executive Director



Patsy Hardy, Board Chairman