

**Monroe County Board of Health (BOH) Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2026**

**111 Westfall Road, Room 858, 3:30-5pm**

**Minutes**

<b>BOH in Attendance</b>		<b>DPH Attendance</b>
Theresa Green	Rashid Muhammad	Marielena Vélez de Brown
Emma Forbes-Jones	Sarah Fletcher	Meaghan McDermott
Erin Graupman	Dina Johnson	Tarilynn Forney
Celia McIntosh (Zoom)	Miguel Melendez, Jr. (Zoom)	Mel Schwartz
Linda Clark	Albert Blankley	MCDPH: Bridget Cook
		Guests: Alexis Chen

The meeting was called to order by Theresa Green at 3:30pm.

**Introductions and General Announcements**

President Green welcomed everyone to the meeting and did a round-robin of introductions.

**Review and Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting was made by Albert Blankley and seconded by Sarah Fletcher. Unanimous approval.

**Commissioner’s Report – Dr. Marielena Vélez de Brown**

- Dr. Vélez de Brown discussed the JUUL settlement funds secured by Attorney General James. The county will receive approximately \$860,000 over three years. An initial payment is expected shortly.
- Dr. Vélez de Brown noted that she would like to put together a community advisory team to assist the county in developing a plan to use these funds for anti-vaping and anti-nicotine initiatives. The county is still awaiting guidance on whether or not funding can be used for campaigns regarding products such as Zyn.
- Expectations are that there will be a media campaign created with some of these funds for Anti-vaping similar to the county’s ongoing opioid campaign.
- Dr. Vélez de Brown asked the board for their input on the JUUL initiative, and suggestions about other organizations that may be interested in the advisory team.

**President’s Report – Theresa Green**

Board member Albert Blankley, Chief Administrative Officer of Common Ground Health, gave a presentation on the state Department of Health’s Health Equity Regional Organization (HERO) Project.

- The goal of this project is to “functionally bridge public health, social services and health care delivery.”
- The state identified Common Ground Health as a sustainable model for the HERO structure due to its proven ability to convene local stakeholders and use data to address regional health disparities.
- President Green discussed follow up conversations from FLIPA and FLPPS and the role of the Monroe County Board of Health
- Updates included the Career Pathways Training program, ARPA-funded workforce initiatives, the Transformational Complex Care program, and the New York State 1115 Health Equity Reform Waiver. Eligibility of CASAC training was confirmed.

**Other Business:**

- Future agenda items and speakers for upcoming Board of Health meetings were discussed

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made at 5 p.m. by Linda Clark. Seconded by Dina Johnson. Approved unanimously.

Next meeting: March. 2, 2026. 111 Westfall Road