

Monroe County Board of Health (BOH) Meeting Minutes -March 2, 2026

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

Minutes

BOH in Attendance		DPH Attendance
Theresa Green	Rashid Muhammad	Marielena Vélez de Brown (zoom)
Emma Forbes-Jones (zoom)	Sarah Fletcher	Meaghan McDermott
Erin Graupman (absent)	Dina Johnson	Tarilynn Forney
Celia McIntosh	Miguel Melendez, Jr.	Mel Schwartz
Linda Clark	Albert Blankley	MCDPH: Bridget Cook
Mike Weston		Guests: Alexis Chen, Sharon Minigan
		LaToya Scott, Jerome Underwood

The meeting was called to order by Theresa Green at 3:33pm.

Introductions and General Announcements

President Green welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Commissioner’s Report – Dr. Marielena Vélez de Brown

- Dr. Vélez de Brown discussed the JUUL settlement funds secured by Attorney General James. The county has identified 2 internal staff members who will work on Anti-Vaping efforts.
- Dr. Vélez de Brown noted that the guest researcher requests contact information for JUUL workers. Meaghan Dermott to acquire guest email and connect to Heather Essig.
- Dr. Vélez de Brown discussed how the Healthy Neighborhood Program was not included in the governor’s budget proposal for FY 2027 possibly losing 2 full time employees in the Environmental Health Program. This program targets zip codes in areas of high poverty rates across 18 full-service counties in NYS. It is a program of home visitation that provides education and physical resources to decrease morbidity and environmental hazards attributed to tobacco smoke, childhood lead poisoning, indoor air contaminants, asthma and residential injuries and fires. Many groups are advocating for restoration of this funding such as Rochester Health Home Partnership and NYSACHO.
- Dr. Vélez de Brown asked the board to watch for 2 PSAs from the health department. One for the dangers of cannabis edibles and one for childhood poisonings as we approach National Poisoning Prevention week, and the other encouraging CRC screening for CRC awareness month.
- Dr. Vélez de Brown discussed Opioid settlement dollars and the finalized 2025 annual report from Addiction Services and Epidemiology divisions.
 - As of December 2025, our community had 623 Naloxboxes installed and available.
 - o Distribution of 17 thousand plus naloxone kits, compared to 19,600 in 2024.
 - o August began with adding fentanyl and xylazine test strips to Naloxboxes.

- Police departments that are participating in the Leave Behind initiatives distributed in part 1.600 naloxone kits. (data collection began in April so may be an underestimate).
- Continued work with all colleges/universities in Monroe County.
- Started data tracking for Inter-Faith education and outreach with a total of 9 organizations.
- January to September, 358 calls/emails to the 24/7 IMPACT Hotline.
- Next BOH meeting to discuss request for a waiver to the NYS Clean Indoor Air Acts.

Review and Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the February meeting was made by Mike Weston and seconded by Theresa Green. Unanimous approval.

President's Report – Theresa Green

Jerome Underwood, CCAP, President and CEO for Action for a Better Community (ABC) described ABC and the many services they offer. He then introduced Sharon Minigan, Vice President of Early Childhood Services from ABC HeadStart.

- HeadStart is a portion of what ABC does as an entity and includes a partnership with Jordan Health for children's dental health- birth through three years old. One of HeadStart's goals includes children being school =-ready at 4 years of age.
- Early Childhood Services is focused on a whole-family approach that is income based. It is a federally-funded tripartite board structure which mandates acquiring voices of clientele for the 5 pillars including education, housing, economic, health and advocacy issues. They are funded to help the neediest of the needy.
- Annual budget -\$24 million with funding sources including 90% government, 5% fee for service, 5% foundations and donations. Payroll serves 240 unionized employees.
- 780 children serviced in Monroe County.

Dr. Latoya Scott, Dental Director, Jordan Health

- HeadStart and Jordan Health work in partnership to prevent dental caries in children throughout Monroe County providing exams, education, cleaning and fluoride treatments.
- Whole family approach to education and treatments for dental health.

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 Mike Weston. Approved unanimously.

Next meeting: April. 6, 2026. 111 Westfall Road