

**Monroe County Board of Health (BOH) Meeting Minutes -April 6, 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 (zoom)
Emma Forbes-Jones	Sarah Fletcher	Meaghan McDermott
Erin Graupman	Dina Johnson	Tarilynn Forney
Celia McIntosh	Miguel Melendez, Jr.	Mel Schwartz
Linda Clark	Albert Blankley	MCDPH: Starr O’Neil, Bridget Cook, Brendon Fleming
Mike Weston		Guests: Alexis Chen, Samuel Alaimo, Joseph Damelio, Tracy Jong, Adam Civalier

The meeting was called to order by Theresa Green at 3:31pm.

**Introductions and General Announcements**

President Green welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Review and Approval of Minutes**

April minutes: two corrections – Theresa Green called for dismissal and Mike Weston was in attendance.

A motion to approve the minutes, with corrections, of the March meeting was made with unanimous approval.

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

- Dr. Vélez de Brown acknowledged April to be Autism (Acceptance) Awareness Month and National Donate Life month.
- Dr. Vélez de Brown briefly discussed the Environmental Health divisions Healthy Neighborhood Program. Funding was to end March 30, 2026. No formal notice from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has been received. As the NYS Budget is finalized, Dr. Vélez de Brown will inform the board when concrete information is received.
- Dr. Vélez de Brown discussed how one of our partner divisions within the county, the Research Strategy and Development Team has applied for the Bureau of Justice Assistance Public Safety and Mental Health Initiatives grant. The purpose of the proposed grant response is to establish the death reporting interoperability processes. The grant would help update and modernize the database systems currently used for maintaining investigative records at the Office of the Medical Examiner in the Ames building.
- Dr. Vélez de Brown updated the board on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) analysis that still continues by the EPI/Disease Control team. Rochester City School District (RCSD) has not yet deployed the survey. The survey is a CDC approved form of

public health surveillance, so no IRB process needs to take place. A summary report will be delayed until RCSD results are in. Heather Essig, Manager of the EPI/DCU team may present to RCSD and other districts, the results of the youth risk behavior survey and what behaviors youth are engaging in as soon as the survey is finalized.

### **Clean Indoor Air Act Exemption Application to the Board of Health**

The board heard a variance petition from Havana Moe's Cigar Lounge LLC pursuant to Monroe County Sanitary Code §569-52.5. The Applicant seeks a variance to permit indoor smoking at the cigar bar at 125 East Ave Rochester, NY 14604 following a potential change of ownership.

After the presentation, Theresa Green called for an Executive Session to discuss confidential legal issues with legal counsel. All were excused except the Board members and legal counsel to the Board.

Motion was made at 5:05 to close the Executive Session by Emma Forbes-Jones and seconded by Celia McIntosh, and was approved unanimously. The Application was tabled. Then a motion was made by Linda Clark to close the meeting which was seconded by Erin Graupman and approved unanimously

Next meeting: May 4, 2026. 111 Westfall Road CR964