

Monroe County Board of Health (BOH) Meeting Minutes – January 5, 2026

111 Westfall Road, Room 964, 3:30-5pm

Minutes

BOH in Attendance		DPH Attendance
Theresa Green	Rashid Muhammad	Marielena Vélez de Brown
Emma Forbes-Jones	Sarah Fletcher	Meaghan McDermott
Mike Weston	Dina Johnson	
Celia McIntosh	Miguel Melendez, Jr.	Mel Schwartz
Linda Clark	Albert Blankley	MCDPH: Kathy Carelock
		Shane Gurnee
		Guests: Carol Tegas

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

Introductions and General Announcements

Theresa welcomed everyone to the meeting and did a round-robin of introductions. Bridget Cook was introduced as the new representative from the County Law Department, replacing Julia Merante. The Board expressed appreciation for Julia’s support over the past several months. Brendon Fleming will assist with the transition.

Review and Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the December meeting was made by Celia McIntosh and seconded by Albert Blankley. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner’s Report – Dr. Marielena Vélez de Brown

- Dr. Vélez de Brown reported the first pediatric influenza-related death in Monroe County this season. This is the second pediatric flu death reported statewide.
- Dr. Vélez de Brown noted that influenza and other respiratory illnesses are on the decline, although there has been an uptick in respiratory cases at Starlight Pediatrics.

Receipt of initial JUUL settlement funds from the New York State Attorney General’s Office in the approximate amount of \$860,000 is expected soon. Final allocation amounts, timelines and departmental distribution remain under review. Additional funds may be received over multiple years, and not all may be directed to Public Health. Allowable uses for the funds include youth-focused cessation, prevention and education programs, research related to e-cigarette use, school-based mitigation efforts, enforcement activities, and reimbursement of investigation and litigation costs. Funds are restricted to remediating harm caused by e-cigarette and nicotine product use. A more detailed discussion with Board input will occur at a future meeting.

- Presentation by Kathy Carelock, head of the Division of Nursing Services and Shane Gurnee, Immunization Program Coordinator providing an overview of the county’s immunization program.

- Key points included updates on school immunization requirements, Immunization Quality Improvement Program (iQIP) partnerships with pediatric practices, and significant reductions in childhood school exclusions. Approximately 400 exclusions were reported the Rochester City School District, compared with a typical average of approximately 1,000. Exclusions also down in Greece Central.
- The Monroe County Immunization Clinic implemented online scheduling for the first time, improving access for individuals with Limited English Proficiency. Clinics operated up to five days per week. Staffing includes five nurses and two clerks. Approximately 40% of clinic patients lacked health insurance; health navigators assist families with immediate enrollment.
- Challenges associated with mobile vaccination efforts were discussed, including vaccine storage requirements, consent barriers, and Vaccine for Children (VFC) program restrictions. The Board had additional questions for Shane Gurnee regarding the number of clients served this year vs last, answers are found on the attached document.
- The Board complimented and thanked Shane and Kathy for a job well done!

President's Report – Theresa Green

Finger Lakes Performing Provider System (FLPPS) and workforce development

Carol Tegas, CEO

- An overview was provided of FLPPS workforce initiatives, including its origin during DSRIP (2015–2020), participation across 18 counties, and focus on social determinants of health, maternal health, and behavioral health.
- With the latest 1115 waiver, FLPPS was named the region's lead on the Workforce Investment Organization (WIO) Career Pathways Training (CPT) Program. To date close to 5000 residents have been trained or are in training for high need jobs through FLPPS programs.
- 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.

Anthony L. Jordan Health Center Presentation

- Linda Clark presented an overview of the Dr. Anthony L. Jordan Health Center, a legacy federally qualified health center founded in 1933. The organization serves approximately 20,000 patients across seven locations in Rochester and Canandaigua.
- Services include primary care, dental, behavioral health, urgent care, specialty services, pharmacy, WIC, care management, and social services. Upcoming initiatives include telehealth expansion and mobile health units planned for 2026.

Other Business:

- A presentation by board member Albert Blankley was deferred to the February meeting.
- A question was raised about regulatory oversight of hydration and IV therapy businesses; staff will follow up.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made at 5 p.m. by Emma Forbes-Jones. Seconded by Linda Clark. Approved unanimously.

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