

# OFFICIAL RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

## Boulder County Board of Health (BOH) Regular Meeting

In Person and Virtual Meeting: Feb. 9, 2026

### Board of Health Members in Attendance:

President Lindy Hinman; Vice President Amber Johnson; Board Members Morgan McMillan, Steven Yoon, Landrey Fagan.

### BCPH Staff in Attendance:

Executive Director Lexi Nolen; Deputy Director Indira Gujral; Finance Manager Desiree Kazarosian; Budget Analyst Sarah DeVore; Environmental Health Division Manager Rachel Arndt; CDEM Division Manager Stephanie Faren; Family Health Division Manager Daphne McCabe; Policy Lead Tessa Hale; Water Quality Program Coordinator Erin Dodge; Water Quality Specialist Carl Job; Immunization Program Manager Carol Helwig; Executive Administrative Assistant Patrick Kuhnell; Administrative Specialist Dalia Mohamed.

### Boulder County Staff in Attendance:

Senior Assistant County Attorney, Kate Haywood.

### Members of the Public who Provided Comment:

None

### Meeting Called to Order.

President Hinman called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and asked all participants to identify themselves for the record (see above). President Hinman declared that a quorum was present, that notice of this meeting was posted on the Board of Health website, and that the call-in information and address was included to allow for public participation. This meeting was held in hybrid-fashion with members of the board, staff, and members of the public meeting in-person and online.

### ITEM 1. Public Comments (on unscheduled agenda items).

None

### ITEM 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes.

Board President Hinman made a motion, which was seconded by Board Member McMillan, to approve the January 12, 2026 Regular Board of Health minutes. With all Board Members present in favor of the motion, President Hinman declared the motion unanimously carried.

### ITEM 3. State Policy Update

Lexi Nolen opened the discussion by noting the rapid pace of the 2026 legislative session and the importance of strategic engagement. She emphasized that while state policy work is not the agency's primary policy focus, it presents opportunities to advance public health priorities. Lexi praised Tessa Hale for quickly assuming her new role and coordinating legislative tracking and advocacy efforts. Tessa

then provided an overview of key bills of interest to Boulder County Public Health, starting with the Ensuring Immunization Access for Coloradans Act. That bill responded to ACIP recommendations by expanding pharmacists' authority to independently prescribe vaccines, authorizing the State Board of Health/CDPHE to use evidence-based immunization guidance, and aligning state requirements with the American Academy of Pediatrics' vaccine schedule. It had passed the Senate along party lines with Democratic support and Republican opposition and was headed to the House, with Boulder County Public Health, the County Commissioners, and CALPHO supporting it.

Next, Tessa and Rachel outlined why Boulder County Public Health opposed the expansion of the Cottage Foods Act. This bill would allow higher-risk foods requiring heating and refrigeration (e.g., meat and dairy prepared foods like burritos and tamales) to be sold from home kitchens without clear caps on revenue or food variety, and with weaker labeling and traceability. They emphasized the elevated risk of foodborne illness, the difficulty of tracing outbreaks back to home producers, and the lack of robust licensing/labeling requirements. CALPHO, Boulder County Public Health, Adams County, and the Colorado Restaurant Association were all opposing or in amend positions, seeking caps on the number of food types, revenue limits, clearer labeling, and recent food-safety training requirements. Rachel also noted this bill was part of a broader national food freedom legislative push supported by organizations funded by the Koch network.

Tessa then previewed or monitored several additional state bills. These included an anticipated bill to allow direct-to-consumer raw milk sales, which Boulder County Public Health viewed as high-risk given a major prior raw-milk outbreak in Boulder County that had caused severe illness and high response costs; staff planned to testify to the House Agriculture Committee using those local data. Other bills under watch included: Spencer's Law on treating people in overdose crises and improving Medicaid reimbursement and safe transport; a bill on legal protections for transgender minors to seal prior names and address custody issues; measures to improve Black maternal health equity, where staff recommended building on existing programs rather than creating duplicative structures; and an anticipated Alcohol Impacts and Recovery Enterprises bill to generate revenue for alcohol-related prevention and treatment, with ongoing discussion about excluding small craft breweries. Board Vice President Amber Johnson added context on the maternal health equity bill, noting its intent to address disparities in care for Black mothers while cautioning against duplicative programs. Rachel Arndt provided insight into food freedom legislation trends and associated risks, including lack of liability insurance requirements. Erin Dodge summarized environmental health implications of methamphetamine cleanup protocols and the need for evidence-based remediation standards.

Erin Dodge then provided an update on the Valmont coal ash remediation process, noting progress since 2017 and recent approval of corrective measures for groundwater treatment. She outlined ongoing permitting challenges and community engagement efforts. Carl Job detailed air quality concerns related to beneficial reuse and the need for stringent monitoring thresholds. Rachel Arndt discussed coordination with commissioners and plans for a joint letter urging expedited permitting and robust safeguards.

Discussion and Action Items on State Policy Update:

Board President Lindy Hinman asked whether the Cottage Foods Act expansion would create unfunded mandates for BCPH. Tessa Hale responded that outbreak response would fall to public health, with unclear provisions for cost recovery and liability insurance. Lindy also asked about raw milk labeling requirements; Tessa confirmed that no draft language has been released yet.

Board Member Morgan McMillan questioned the regulatory differences between farmers' markets and cottage food sales. Rachel Arndt explained that farmers' markets have separate rules, while the proposed expansion would allow prepared foods without current safeguards. Morgan also raised concerns about agrivoltaics in the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan; Rachel agreed to review and report back.

Board Member Steven Yoon asked whether evidence exists linking cottage food expansion to increased outbreaks. Rachel noted limited data due to underreporting but emphasized heightened risk and difficulty tracing sources. Steven also inquired about national guidelines for methamphetamine cleanup; Tessa confirmed none exist, citing California and New Zealand as models.

Board Member Landrey Fagan asked how Colorado's cottage food revenue caps compare to neighboring states and whether kiosks and food trucks fall under the proposed expansion. Rachel responded that Colorado is more restrictive than Wyoming and Utah, and kiosks and food trucks remain separately regulated.

Board Vice President Amber Johnson asked whether the maternal health equity bill aligns with existing programs and guidelines. Tessa acknowledged potential duplication and emphasized the need for stakeholder engagement to avoid redundancy.

Discussion and Action Items on Valmont Coal Ash Cleanup:

Board President Lindy Hinman asked what role the board could play in accelerating permitting. Erin suggested advocacy through letters and policy engagement. Morgan McMillan confirmed Excel is funding well testing and asked about commissioner involvement; Rachel reported active engagement and alignment on air quality protections.

Board Member Steven Yoon requested a timeline for groundwater treatment; Carl Job projected Q3–Q4 for breaking ground, pending final permits.

Landrey Fagan asked whether additional air monitoring thresholds could be incorporated into permits; Rachel confirmed this is part of the proposed letter.

**ITEM 4. Budget Update**

Desiree Kazarosian presented a preliminary year-end analysis, noting 90% revenue collection and 95% expenditure of the 2025 budget. She highlighted effective cost control measures, reduced reliance on reserves, and structural sustainability through 2028. Desiree reviewed fund balance projections and outlined next steps, including kickoff of the 2027 budget process and continued priority-based budgeting. Sarah DeVore previewed enhancements to the 2026 budget book and plans for zero-based budgeting in 2027. Lexi Nolen and Indira Gujral addressed questions on modeling assumptions and risk mitigation strategies.

Discussion and Action Items:

Board President Lindy Hinman asked whether projections should be more conservative given revenue variability. Desiree confirmed adjustments will be made after spring updates.

Board Member Steven Yoon inquired about sensitivity analysis for potential cuts; Lexi explained that priority-based budgeting includes scenario planning.

Board Member Morgan McMillan raised concerns about reserve rebuilding; Desiree noted that one-time expenditures are recommended and governance subcommittee will address policy gaps.

Board Member Landrey Fagan asked whether external audits validate fund balance projections; Desiree confirmed compliance with GFOA standards.

Board Vice President Amber Johnson asked about contingency planning for grant reductions; Lexi stated that scenario planning includes grant variability.

**ITEM 5. Program Spotlight – Water Quality**

Carl Job presented on private domestic water wells in Boulder County and the public health risks they posed due to a lack of regulatory oversight. He explained that, unlike regulated public water systems covered by the Safe Drinking Water Act, domestic wells served small numbers of people and were essentially unregulated in Colorado beyond initial construction standards. National research, including a large USGS study, had shown that many domestic wells exceeded health-based guidelines. Carl shared that Boulder County likely mirrored statewide estimates that 7–10% of residents relied on domestic wells, mostly in rural and unincorporated areas, and that historically the county had very limited information about how these wells were managed or what contaminants they contained.

To address this gap, Carl described a 2025 mixed-methods project conducted with the Colorado School of Public Health and Colorado State University. They had mailed surveys (via septic system records) to nearly 10,000 households and received over 800 responses, making it the largest domestic well survey in Colorado to date. Fewer than 10% of respondents had tested their wells in the last year, far below best-practice recommendations of annual testing. Yet 97% wanted more resources and support. As an incentive, they offered free well testing at 225 wells, with preliminary results showing over a quarter positive for total coliform and about 20% exceeding the maximum contaminant level for uranium. They also held two well-stewardship workshops (Longmont and Nederland), which quickly filled and significantly increased participants' self-reported knowledge and intentions to test and treat their water.

Carl then outlined plans for 2026 and beyond. Locally, they planned to continue and expand free well testing (including continuing the CSU sampling, partnering with CDPHE's PFAS Testing and Assistance Program, and collaborating with the Colorado Geological Survey on radionuclides and heavy metals) and to offer up to four additional workshops. They intended to map contaminant "hot spots" and use the new data to move from reactive to more proactive outreach. Regionally, they were in talks with Weld and Larimer counties to replicate the work and develop shared tools and best practices for unregulated wells across Colorado. Carl also noted that other states (e.g., New Jersey, Oregon, Maryland) had adopted or were adopting private well testing laws, and Boulder County Public Health was monitoring these models as potential templates for future policy discussions in Colorado.

Discussion and Action Items:

Board Member Morgan McMillan asked about barriers to well testing and suggested outreach through real estate transactions; Carl confirmed awareness and convenience as major obstacles.

Board Member Steven Yoon questioned demographic disparities and sampling bias; Carl acknowledged gaps and plans for spatial analysis of contaminants.

Board President Lindy Hinman proposed leveraging utility communications for persistent messaging; Carl agreed to explore options.

Board Member Landrey Fagan asked whether mapping of contaminants is underway; Carl confirmed spatial analysis is planned.

Board Vice President Amber Johnson asked about cost barriers and mitigation strategies; Carl noted financial constraints and plans for expanded free testing programs.

**ITEM 6. Director’s Report.**

Lexi Nolen explained that staff were under significant strain due to organizational changes, heavier workloads, and multiple concurrent initiatives (KPIs, culture plan, new systems), and she emphasized that 2026 was framed as a “year of infrastructure building” to strengthen processes before pursuing more innovation. Lexi and Indira Gujral described efforts to rebalance timelines (e.g., extending deadlines for operational plans where needed), listen closely to staff feedback about overload, and avoid burnout by pacing major changes. They also outlined targeted support for supervisors, including a recent supervisor retreat, quarterly extended supervisor meetings, upcoming HR and labor-relations trainings, and broader learning and growth plans focused on accountability and supervisory skills.

Additionally, Indira highlighted the use of a mental health consultant to provide group support to teams, particularly new or reconfigured ones, and closed by recognizing several recent achievements across the agency (such as publications, reaccreditation, and audit results) as team-based successes occurring despite these challenging conditions.

Discussion and Action Items:

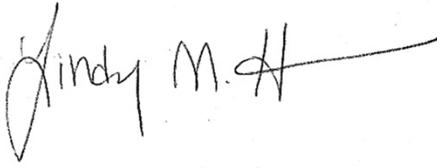
Board President Lindy Hinman asked if the above-average temperatures might affect communicable diseases and vectors, and whether there was any predictive modeling about what to expect and prepare for. Indira Gujral who pointed to increased West Nile virus risk with dry conditions followed by rain and heat, and mentioned other possible vector/zoonotic issues. Carol Helwig described a West Nile virus climate-modeling project and gave examples such as the 2024 highly pathogenic avian influenza situation and rising enteric diseases with hotter temperatures. Carl Job highlighted harmful algal blooms as a climate-related concern. Lexi Nolen framed broader and longer-term climate-health impacts (disease ranges shifting north, more environmental emergencies like wildfires, heat events, and air-quality issues).

**ITEM 7. Old and New Business.**

None.

**ITEM 8. Adjournment.**

Board President Hinman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.



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Signed, Lindy Hinman,  
Board President



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Signed, Alexandra (Lexi) Nolen,  
Executive Director