

# OFFICIAL RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

In Person and Virtual Meeting: Mar. 9, 2026

### Board of Health Members in Attendance:

Vice President Amber Johnson, 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; Public Health Emergency Manager, Chris Campbell; Immunization Program Manager Carol Helwig; Community Substance Abuse Prevention Program Manager, Allison Bayley; Harm Reduction Program Manager, Georgia Babatsikos; Youth Naloxone Access Program Specialist, Julia Kusel; Youth Advisor, Delilah Melendez; Executive Administrative Assistant Patrick Kuhnell; Administrative Specialist Dalia Mohamed.

### Boulder County Staff in Attendance:

Senior Assistant County Attorney, Kate Haywood.

### Guest Presenters:

Communicable Disease Branch Chief, CDPHE, Nicole Comstock

### Members of the Public who Provided Comment:

None

### Meeting Called to Order.

Board Vice President Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. and asked all participants to identify themselves for the record (see above). Vice President Johnson 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 Vice President Johnson made a motion, which was seconded by Board Member Fagan, to approve the February 9, 2026 Regular Board of Health minutes. With all Board Members present in favor of the motion, Vice President Johnson declared the motion unanimously carried.

### ITEM 3. Measles Response

Presenters: Stephanie Faren (CDEM), Carol Helwig (Immunizations), and Nicole Comstock (CDPHE).

Stephanie introduced the response overview and coordination for a multi-jurisdictional measles outbreak affecting metro-area counties, noting early tabletop exercises and scenario planning with schools, healthcare partners, and CDPHE that helped accelerate coordination once exposures were identified. She highlighted incident management activation and daily cross-jurisdiction calls, with Boulder, Broomfield, Adams, and other LPHAs aligning on policy, communications, and school support; she emphasized that although Boulder County had no confirmed cases, exposures involving BVSD and other schools required active monitoring, quarantine, and specimen collection protocols.

Nicole provided statewide and national context: Over 1,200 cases nationally by late February 2026; Colorado had 8 cases thus far (all 5–17 years, all unvaccinated, none hospitalized). The Broomfield cluster included seven cases linked to Broomfield High School and Broomfield Heights Middle School, with ~3,700 contacts under assessment and 80 non-immune students/staff excluded. CDPHE activated emergency wastewater surveillance at short-term sites to track potential geographic spread; exposure windows and rash onset dates suggested a single incubation period cluster.

Carol detailed Boulder County's local actions: provider alerts via the Health Alert Network (HAN); daily coordination across LPHAs; active monitoring of quarantined contacts; outreach to ECE/child care partners, private schools, and hospitals/urgent care through the CIDER network (Community Infectious Disease Emergency Response). She quantified the resource lift—roughly equivalent to eight staff working full-time, seven days a week for ~10 days—and described surge training, in-home specimen collection protocols (to avoid waiting-room exposures), signage for healthcare facilities, and an after-action review plan. Carol also noted strong student vaccination rates (~97%) at the two affected schools and reported increased MMR vaccinations at BCPH and local pharmacies following communications.

#### Discussion and Action Items on Measles Response:

Board Vice President Johnson: Asked whether the outbreak was still within the incubation period and when quarantines might end; also asked how immunity is assessed beyond records, and whether affected schools had lower-than-average vaccination rates.

Answer (Carol Helwig): The critical window runs to ~March 20 for public exposures; immunity is assessed by documented MMR or serologic titers when records are missing; reported student rates ~97% at each school—exposures likely from prolonged, multi-day contact with an infectious person across classrooms.

Steven Yoon: Asked whether local providers received special notifications and how the surge team is staffed (volunteer vs. assigned), including supervisor constraints.

Answer (Carol/Stephanie/Lexi): Two state HAN alerts went out; surge capacity is being built and trained—staff both volunteer and are asked to assist; supervisors coordinate mission-critical roles and defer some staff from surge when needed; participation is included in job descriptions for emergencies

#### ITEM 4. Overdose Trends & Opioid Evaluation Highlights

Presenters: Stephanie Faren, Carol Helwig, Georgia Babatsikos, Julia Kusel & Delilah Melendez, Allison Bayley.

Stephanie framed Boulder County’s response to fentanyl and recent meth co-exposure risks, citing regional structures such as the Regional Opioid Council (ROC), the Overdose Response & Planning work group, and BVSD’s stock naloxone policy. The evaluation highlights show strong performance across youth training, community outreach, and harm reduction services, with next steps focusing on maintaining core syringe access, expanding bilingual services, and exploring drug checking capabilities as resources allow.

Carol traced program history since 2007, including early syringe access and the 2013 naloxone standing orders. She noted that naloxone is now widely available and that Works Program participation has stabilized from prior peaks, which correlates with increased linkage to treatment over time.

Julia and Delilah described the Youth Naloxone Program: in 2025, outreach reached 536 youth (994 people total); 609 Narcan kits were distributed; 236 youth completed interactive trainings; 90% reported increased confidence to administer Narcan; 92% found the training easy to understand. Youth-designed activities—like a memory game on Narcan steps—improve retention; trainings are English/Spanish and target rural communities and youth with less access to Narcan.

Georgia detailed the Harm Reduction Program (third oldest in the U.S.): fixed-site syringe access (Boulder/Longmont/Louisville), the only full-service vending machine at the Lafayette Hub, street outreach to unhoused residents, STI testing (including confirmatory testing), jail testing and education, bilingual education, and referrals (e.g., inpatient/outpatient treatment). 2025 totals included 9,324 encounters, 31,796 syringes distributed, 5,584 naloxone units, overdoses reversed reported directly to BCPH, and ~925 referrals; program partners help transport clients to services; syringe disposal efforts show low litter. Georgia noted adaptive responses to Narcan supply constraints (redistribution of expired doses under approved policies) and continuing training demand beyond funded volumes.

Allison explained SUAG’s role: convening prevention, treatment, harm reduction, CBOs, lived-experience voices, education, law enforcement, DA’s office, with hybrid meetings to reduce barriers. SUAG’s policy workgroup surfaces community feedback on legislation, and elevates recovery stories. The county’s convener role helps avoid duplication and coordinate funding windows.

#### Discussion and Action Items on Overdose Trends & Opioid Evaluation Highlights:

Board Member Yoon: Asked whether high-risk populations are mostly unhoused and how fatalities distribute.

Answer (Georgia): Approximately 54% of program participants report being unhoused; risk and overdoses affect housed and unhoused alike; mapping suggests impact across neighborhoods; detailed fatality housing status is hard to obtain but overdose risk is broadly spread.

#### ITEM 5. Legislative Update

Presenter: Tessa Hale

Tessa reported progress on Ensuring Immunization Access for Coloradans (moved from Senate to House; second reading completed; scheduling pending), underscoring the bill’s role in science-based standards and access in light of the measles context. She described the expanding Cottage Foods Act (“Tamale Act”): the House Ag Committee advanced the bill with amendments (limit one food type with up to five

variations; restore \$150,000 annual revenue cap). BCPH’s testimony focused on food safety risks, traceability challenges, and local public health burden—especially in a cut-constrained budget environment. Tessa noted CDPHE may have 1.5 FTE for statewide coordination, but local agencies will still field calls and outbreak response.

She also highlighted monitoring of: Raw milk impacts (House Ag informational remarks by BCPH staff); behavioral health medical transport/licensing; dignity of minors (name-sealing retained; custody factor struck to avoid statutory conflict); mobile home park water quality protections; provider participation & accurate insurance directories; and alcohol-related proposals (new enterprises; excise for a treatment facility; potential manufacturer sales + food impacts on local food safety). Locally, BCPH contributed to the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan with “health in all policies” framing and is building infrastructure to launch a local policy group (May timeline).

Discussion and Action Items on Legislative Update:

None.

**ITEM 6. Director’s Report.**

Presenter: Lexi Nolen.

Lexi noted formatting adjustments to the report based on Governance & Budget feedback and reiterated the agency’s aim to provide concise, decision-useful information. She emphasized balancing long-term improvements with staff workload, continuing the 2026 emphasis on infrastructure building while pacing operational plan rollouts, KPI work, and culture initiatives to avoid burnout.

Discussion and Action Items on Directors Report:

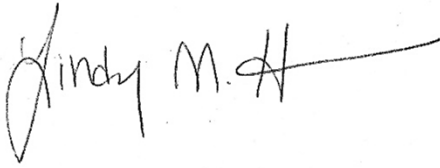
None.

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

None.

**ITEM 8. Adjournment.**

Board Vice President Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.



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Signed, Lindy Hinman,  
Board President



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Signed, Alexandra (Lexi) Nolen,  
Executive Director