

ULSTER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (UCBOH)

May 12, 2026

AGENDA

Kathleen Rogan - Chair
Marta Sanchez, MD – Vice Chair
Christy Keegan, PT – Secretary
Ashima Butler, MBA – Board Member
Shankar Kurra, MD – Board Member
Eric Stewart, MA – Board Member (non-voting)
Michael Zierler, PhD – Board Member

CALL TO ORDER

1. OLD BUSINESS

- Approval of the April 2026 Minutes

2. Board of Health Report

- Legislative seat on Board of Health Resolution Update
- Draft of Vape/Tobacco Local Law Update
 - Public Hearing

3. Director's Report

- DOH Continuous Improvement
- Reports and Recommendations
 - Puff Puff Don't Pass Smoke Shop

4. Discussion

- Continue BOH Self-Assessment- Continuous Improvement (Time Permitting)

5. Summary & Next Steps

MEETING CONCLUSION

Ulster County Board of Health

May 12, 2026

5:00 p.m.

Golden Hill Office Building

239 Golden Hill Lane

Kingston, NY 12401

PRESENT: Michael Zierler, PhD, Kathleen Rogan, Marta Sanchez, MD, Eric Stewart

EXCUSED: Christy Keegan, Ashima Butler, MBA PT, Shankar Kurra, MD

ABSENT:

UCDOH: Eve Walter, PhD, Public Health Director

County Attorney: Kristin Gumaer, Esq., Deputy County Attorney

UC Exec:

GUEST:

Call to Order: 5:05 PM

OLD Business:

Vote to Approve Minutes: Due to a lack of a quorum, Ms. Rogan tabled approval of the April minutes until the June meeting.

Board of Health Report:

- **Legislative Seat on Board of Health Update:** The public hearing is to be held the 19th of this month. The purpose is to amend the County Charter to include a legislator, chosen by the Legislature to hold a seat on the Board of Health. Ms. Gumaer is trying to find out if it will be voted on that night or at the June Legislative meeting.
- **Vape/Tobacco Local Law Update:** The amendment to the Local Law passed unanimously at the Health, Human Services, and Human Rights Committee and will now go to Public Hearing on June 16th. Dr. Walter encouraged Board Members to attend and speak.
- **Medical Examiner Report:** Ms. Rogan asked the about the Board not receiving the Medical Examiner's report as of late. Dr. Walter explained the reports had stopped because the Data Surveillance Coordinator retired. Her replacement has recently been hired but they needed some time to settle in. Dr. Walter queried the Board as to the type and format they would like to see the data. The Board chose to receive the report quarterly and a compilation of the past three (3) years. Board members will let Dr. Walter know of the type of deaths they want to see on the upcoming report. The new Data Surveillance Coordinator will be at the June meeting for further discussion.

Director's Report:

- Report and Recommendations:
 - Puff Puff Don't Pass Smoke Shop

The Board opted to go into Executive Session to discuss the Report and Recommendation. Due to lack of a quorum, Puff Puff Don't Pass Smoke Shop recommendations will be voted on at the June meeting

- DOH Continuous Appovement: Dr. Walter stated that the Department conducted full staff Climate Survey which focused on work environment, recruitment and retention. As a result, several areas were identified and work was done with supervisors, managers, and the leadership group to find actionable ways of addressing the identified areas. A 30 day and 30 to 60 day action plans were created. Some areas looked at were:
 - Alternative Work Schedule - The Department wrote stringent policy and procedures about remote and compressed schedule. Each division had to choose one or the other. Family Health, Community Health, and Administrative Support have started on their remote schedule. Fiscal has started their compressed schedule. Environmental has chosen to hold off until after their busy summer season is over. The ME's opted out because it didn't make sense to incorporate into their schedule.
 - Vehicle Fleet - The Department look at the vehicle Fleet to address work needs.
 - Surge - The Department look at what happens when program is overloaded with work and how others can jump in to help.
 - Code of Conduct - The staff at an all staff meeting created rules for behavior which is displayed throughout the building.
 - Leadership - Some staff felt that they weren't properly being lead which effects their stress and job. A committee of line staff was created to establish a baseline expectation for leadership. Other leadership trainings will be explored.
 - 360 Evaluation: Staff felt like the standard evaluation was unsatisfactory. The Department has created a self-assessment for self-input and an anonymous peer evaluation for staff who work closely with the employee being evaluated.

Next Steps:

- Check calendar for availability to attend the June 16th public hearing and RSVP to Eve.
- Review the Puff Puff Don't Pass Smoke Shop documents.
- Consider Board involvement and types of activities they want to be involved in.
- Consider how the Board wants to let the public know that a facility has violated the vape law.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Ms. Rogan.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 5:00 PM, Golden Hill Office Building, 239 Golden Hill Lane, Kingston, NY 12401.

Respectfully submitted by:



Kathleen Rogan, Chair