

Lake County Illinois

*Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center
3010 Grand Avenue
Waukegan, Illinois 60085
Conference Room #3112*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

5:30 PM

3010 Grand Ave., Waukegan, IL 60085

**Lake County Community Health Center Governing
Council**

1. Call to Order

Chair Fornero called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call of Members

Present 6 - Chair Fornero, Secretary Argueta, Member Bejster, Vice Chair Hernandez, Member Ross Cunningham and Member Young

Absent 4 - Chair Smith-Taylor, Member Lara, Member Hegar Chuc and Member Scheurer

3. Pledge of Allegiance

This matter was presented.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1

November 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [GC MINUTES 11.18.25 - DRAFT](#)

Chair Fornero asked for a motion to approve the November 18, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. Motion by Member Ross Cunningham, second by Member Hernandez. Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

5. Public Comment to the Council

Board of Health President, Tim Sashko, presented Chair Fornero with a recognition in appreciation of Chair Fornero's dedicated service and leadership as Chair of the Governing Council upon his upcoming retirement. Chair Fornero thanked President Sashko and the rest of the Governing Council expressing how proud he felt to have served and led the Council through the pandemic.

6. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Christopher Hoff, reported the following:

1. Executive Director Hoff thanked Chair Fornero for his dedication and many years of service to the Governing Council, noting that this meeting marked his final meeting as Chair. Executive Director Hoff highlighted the Governing Council's role in overseeing the operations and budget of the Health Centers and expressed appreciation for Chair Fornero's leadership and support of the Governing Council throughout his tenure.

2. Executive Director Hoff provided a brief update on the discussion held at the prior meeting regarding Illinois' new pathway to licensure for International Medical Graduates (IMGs). He explained that under the pathway, IMGs may apply for a limited license and practice under the direct supervision of a licensed physician in the same specialty for two years. Following this period, IMGs may apply for a restricted license and must then complete an additional two years of service in under served areas before becoming eligible to apply for a full Illinois medical license. Executive Director Hoff noted that Kim

Burke will provide a more detailed presentation on this topic at the January Governing Council meeting.

3. Executive Director Hoff reported that work toward reopening the North Chicago Health Center is ongoing. Executive Director Hoff stated that reconstruction of the facility is progressing well and that the majority of work has been completed. The remaining items are limited to final phases of access control and fire alarm system installation, which are required to be fully operational to obtain a certificate of occupancy. He noted that because the project originated from an insurance claim related to the near-total loss of the building, the agency continues to work closely with insurance partners to finalize these items. Coordination is ongoing to ensure systems are installed, tested, and approved as expeditiously as possible.

4. The agency will be holding a state of public health briefing the following day with state legislators and their staff. Executive Director Hoff explained that the purpose of the briefing is to provide updates on key public health issues, including vaccine access, mental health resources, and the respiratory illness season. Executive Director Hoff also noted that the agency will be requesting legislative support for three items: commercial insurance coverage for crisis behavioral health services, increased state funding for the Local Health Protection Grant, and continued funding to support core public health services.

7. Action items

7.1

Recommendation to Approve New Governing Council Member - Hoff

Chair Fornero introduced newly appointed Member Barnes to the Governing Council and invited Member Barnes to join the rest of the Council at the table.

Chair Fornero asked for a motion to approve the recommendation of the Nominating Committee and accept the membership of Renae Barnes to the Governing Council effective December 9, 2025, for a term of 2 years. Motion by Member Bejster, second by Member Argueta. Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

Aye: 6 - Chair Fornero, Secretary Argueta, Member Bejster, Vice Chair Hernandez, Member Ross Cunningham and Member Young

Absent: 4 - Chair Smith-Taylor, Member Lara, Member Hegar Chuc and Member Scheurer

7.2

Proposed Slate of Governing Council Officers - Fornero

Chair Fornero opened the floor for additional nominations prior to the determination of a final slate for vote. Member Ross Cunningham nominated Member Bejster for Chair. Member Bejster thanked Member Ross Cunningham for the nomination but declined due to personal commitments. Member Bejster expressed confidence Member Smith-Taylor would serve effectively as Chair. No further nominations were presented.

Chair Fornero asked for a motion to approve the following 2026-2028 slate of

officers:

Chair: Miriam Smith-Taylor

Vice Chair: Manuel Hernandez

Secretary: Miriam Argueta

Motion by Member Bejster, second by Member Young. Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

Aye: 6 - Chair Fornero, Secretary Argueta, Member Bejster, Vice Chair Hernandez, Member Ross Cunningham and Member Young

Absent: 4 - Chair Smith-Taylor, Member Lara, Member Hegar Chuc and Member Scheurer

7.3

Licensed Independent Practitioner (LIP) Privileging and Credentialing, Reappointment, Approval of Privileges, Revision of Privileges - Burke

Chair Fornero asked for a motion to approve the appointment, reappointment, approval of privileges, or privilege revision of the twelve (12) licensed independent practitioners, as presented:

Recommendation Initial Appointment:

-Melissa Tamondong, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Recommendation for Reappointment:

-Spiros Lafazanios, DDS, Dentist

-Maria Molnar, DMD, Dentist

-Craig Showalter, MD, Addiction Medicine

-Leslie Villalobos, Family Nurse Practitioner

-Syeda Zahedi, MD Family Medicine

Recommendation for Approval of Privileges:

-Idries Abdur-Rahman, MD OB/Gyn

-Jamil Abdur-Rahman, MD OB/Gyn

Recommendation for Revision of Privileges:

-Brandon Barrios, APRN, Family Nurse Practitioner

-Katelyn Breitenstein, APRN, Family Nurse Practitioner

-Kattryn Guardiano, APRN, Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

-Suketu Patel, APRN, Family Nurse Practitioner

Motion by Member Ross Cunningham, second by Member Hernandez. Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

Aye: 6 - Chair Fornero, Secretary Argueta, Member Bejster, Vice Chair Hernandez, Member Ross Cunningham and Member Young

Absent: 4 - Chair Smith-Taylor, Member Lara, Member Hegar Chuc and Member Scheurer

8. Presentations

None

9. Discussion Items

None

10. Director of Healthcare Operations Report

10.2

Director of Healthcare Operations Report - Burke

Attachments: [FQHC Healthcare Operations Metric Dashboard 12.25](#)

Director of Healthcare Operations, Kim Burke, reported that as of November 12, 2025, there are 3,958 individuals on our general medicine new client wait list, 3,583 adults and 375 pediatrics. The total new client wait list has been increased by 347 individuals. There were 330 adults and 17 children added to the wait list since the November 18, 2025, report to Governing Council. There are currently 41 new patient appointment slots/week.

11. Director of Finance & Administrative Services Report

11.1

Director of Finance & Administrative Services Report - Cooper

Attachments: [FQHC Oct 25](#)

Associate Finance Director, Jean Haag reviewed the finance report in the packet.

12. Added to Agenda

None

13. Old Business

None

14. New Business

None

15. Executive Session

None

16. Adjournment

Chair Fornero adjourned the meeting at 6:08 p.m.