

Lake County Illinois

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



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, October 14, 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 9 - Chair Fornero, Vice Chair Smith-Taylor, Secretary Lara, Member Aaroneaux, Member Argueta, Member Bejster, Member Chuc, Member Hernandez and Member Ross Cunningham

Absent 2 - Member Scheurer and Member Young

3. Pledge of Allegiance

This matter was presented.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1

September 9, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [GC Meeting Minutes 9.9.25 - DRAFT](#)

Chair Fornero asked for a motion to approve the September 9, 2025, meeting minutes as presented.

Aye: 9 - Chair Fornero, Vice Chair Smith-Taylor, Secretary Lara, Member Aaroneaux, Member Argueta, Member Bejster, Member Chuc, Member Hernandez and Member Ross Cunningham

Absent: 2 - Member Scheurer and Member Young

5. Public Comment to the Council

Chair Fornero announced that he has decided to step down as Chair and retire from the Governing Council. Chair Fornero reflected on his tenure, noting the successful years he has served as Chair, highlighting the strength of the Governing Council, and expressing pride in the agency's achievements. Chair Fornero will retire at the conclusion of the December 9, 2025 meeting, which will be his final meeting. Chair Fornero thanked the Lake County Health Department staff and his fellow Council members for their support, involvement, and contributions throughout his tenure.

6. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Hoff reported the following:

1. 30th anniversary of the Lake County Health Department's Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). The milestone was recognized across our clinic network to honor three decades of delivering comprehensive, community-based primary care to underserved and uninsured residents of Lake County. Events and outreach activities generated strong engagement from patients, community partners, and local stakeholders, highlighting the FQHC's role in improving access to preventive, primary, behavioral health, and dental services regardless of ability to pay. Leadership emphasized the continued commitment to health equity, quality of care, and integrated services as we look ahead to the next 30

years of FQHC success.

2. Executive Director Hoff thanked Chair Fornero for his years of service and exemplary leadership, noting his impactful work and involvement. While saddened by his upcoming departure, Executive Director Hoff wished him a wonderful retirement. Chair Fornero requested that any interested members wishing to be considered for the Governing Council Chair position submit their interest via email to Khiabet Mata by the end of the month.

3. Executive Director Hoff acknowledged concerns regarding the current community environment, including the presence and involvement of ICE agents. He reaffirmed the agency's commitment to ensuring healthcare is available to all who need it, regardless of immigration status.

4. Executive Director Hoff also noted awareness of the current federal government shutdown. While there has been no impact to the Health Department to date, the agency remains vigilant and prepared for any potential effects.

Member Chuc inquired about the status of the North Chicago building and construction, noting an influx of recent questions from community members and patients seeking clarity on service availability. Executive Director Hoff shared that reconstruction is well underway with significant progress in core infrastructure and interior buildout since the work began. Member Chuc asked whether a reopening date had been set, as the anticipated timeline appeared to be shifting. Director of Finance and Administrative Services, Angela Cooper, explained that delays stem from ongoing challenges with the insurance carrier and its contractor related to approvals and scheduling, which have affected sequencing of trades and inspections. Director Cooper emphasized that meetings are happening regularly with all parties to resolve outstanding items, mitigate further delays, and maintain continuity of patient care through temporary service arrangements. While a firm date has not yet been confirmed, Director Cooper affirmed the project is advancing toward completion and reopening soon, with updated timelines to be communicated as milestones are met.

7. Action items

7.1

Proposed 2026 Governing Council Meeting Dates - Hoff

Chair Fornero asked for a motion to approve the proposed 2026 Governing Council meeting dates, as presented. Motion by Member Ross Cunningham, second by Member Hernandez. All in favor, voice vote, motion carried.

Aye: 9 - Chair Fornero, Vice Chair Smith-Taylor, Secretary Lara, Member Aaroneaux, Member Argueta, Member Bejster, Member Chuc, Member Hernandez and Member Ross Cunningham

Absent: 2 - Member Scheurer and Member Young

8. Presentations

None

9. Discussion Items

9.1

FY2025 Payor Mix: December 1, 2024 - August 31, 2025 - Cooper

Attachments: [GC Payor Mix Through Q3 Graph](#)

Director of Finance & Administrative Services, Angela Cooper, presented the FY2025 Payor Mix: December 1, 2024 - August 31, 2025.

10. Director of Healthcare Operations Report

10.1

Director of Healthcare Operations Report - Burke

Attachments: [FQHC Healthcare Operations Metric Dashboard 10.25](#)

Director of Healthcare Operations, Kim Burke, reported that as of September 24, 2025, there are 4,130 individuals on our general medicine new client wait list, 3,815 adults and 315 pediatrics. The total new client wait list has been increased by 743 individuals. There were 710 adults and 33 children added to the wait list since the September 9, 2025, report to Governing Council. There are currently 43 new patient appointment slots/week.

11. Director of Finance & Administrative Services Report

11.1

Director of Finance & Administrative Services Report - Cooper

Attachments: [FQHC Aug 25](#)

Director of Finance & Administrative Services, Angela Cooper, presented the financial report for August 2025 referencing the detailed statements included in the packet.

12. Added to Agenda

Member Ross Cunningham expressed her gratitude to Chair Fornero for his leadership of the Governing Council and wished him well in retirement. Member Ross Cunningham also shared her sadness upon learning of the passing of former Executive Director Dale Galassie.

13. Old Business

None

14. New Business

None

15. Executive Session

None

16. Adjournment

Chair Fornero adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.