



City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202

Meeting Minutes

BOARD OF HEALTH

DR. WUJIE ZHANG, CHAIR

Tahira Malik, VICE-CHAIR

*Caroline Gomez-Tom, Dr. Ian Martin, Ericka Sinclair, Penelope
Stewart, Dr. Darlene Beck and Dr. Irum Ziauddin*

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

5:00 PM

City Hall, Room 301A

1. Call to Order

Chair Dr. Wujie Zhang called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

2. Roll Call

Present 8 - Malik, Gomez-Tom, Sinclair, Zhang, Martin, Stewart, Beck and Ziauddin

3. Approval of Minutes from December 3, 2025

Vice Chair Tahira Malik motioned to approve, Dr. Martin seconded, and the motion passed with all in favor and none opposed.

4. Community Updates

Chair Dr. Wujie Zhang shared that Vice Chair Tahira Malik was recognized by MKE Elevate's Safe & Supportive Communities group at the End of Year Celebration.

Board Member Ericka Sinclair shared information about the upcoming Black Health Day MKE 2026 (2/7) and the 4th Annual Intergenerational Colorectal & Prostate Cancer Awareness Health Fair and Charity Basketball Game (3/14).

Link to flyer:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/jvxegsb/lp/cb7b0a95-7d0a-4b09-bb3f-f3d473aff4fc>

Board Member Caroline Gomez-Tom highlighted two resources, the Know Your Rights webpages at the city and county level:

City - <https://city.milwaukee.gov/cityclerk/know-your-rights-and-available-resources>

County - <https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/Know-Your-Rights>

5. Presentation of DHS 140 Level III Certification by DHS Southeast Region Director Matthew Collie

DHS Southeast Region Director Matthew Collie presented Commissioner Totoraitis and the Board with a plaque representing MHD's continued certification as a Level III Health Department after its latest DHS 140 review. Director Collie highlighted MHD's commitment to health equity and organizational change.

6. Presentation of the City of Milwaukee Substance Use Response Strategy and Budget by Commissioner Totoraitis and MFD Chief Aaron Lipski

Commissioner Totoraitis and Milwaukee Fire Department Chief Aaron Lipski presented an Opioid Settlement Fund (OSF) Strategy update, including priorities, contextual tools & frameworks, collaborative work group membership, the Continuum of Care, and budget requests (overall and across the Continuum of Care).

Q&A

Board Member Dr. Irum Ziauddin asked about the timeframe of implementation. Commissioner Totoraitis said there had been spending of OSF between MHD and MFD already; however, this plan looking forward is over a multi-year timeline.

Board Member Dr. Ian Martin asked about the status of the fund. Commissioner Totoraitis said different settlements are still coming in so the total was not yet known.

Chair Dr. Wujie Zhang highlighted the recovery element in the budget. Public Health Strategist Anna Narvey explained the subtotal lines in each of the 4 areas reflect the budget allocation from each of the respective departments.

Board Member Tahira Malik thanked MHD and MFD for the plan. She asked about future partnership with treatment facilities. Commissioner Totoraitis said MHD does not have an active contract with a recovery facility right now but is open to it in the future. Senior Public Health Strategist Anna Narvey explained the budget indicated spending in treatment space itself but not necessarily direct treatment – other counterparts would be providing direct service. Commissioner Totoraitis said MHD's role was not to duplicate the role of the county/healthcare system on OSF. Chief Aaron Lipski said previous grants for MORI were restrictive about how and when to put individuals into treatment and that he was interested in how OSF might support this in the future.

7. Communication from Commissioner Dr. Mike Totoraitis

(A) STI Clinic

Commissioner Totoraitis provided an update on the STI Clinic. MHD is planning to reopen the clinic the week of the 16th, and the clinic will be fully staffed after offer for a Nurse Practitioner.

Commissioner Totoraitis said MHD wants to hire another NP/PA-level practitioner.

Commissioner Totoraitis indicated there was potential future partnership with health systems for the STI clinic's work.

Commissioner Totoraitis thanked Deputy Commissioner Jefflyn Brown, Director of Sexual and Reproductive Health Naomi Jenkins, and HR Director Lindsey O'Connor, as well as Director Jackie Carter and Kristin Urban of the Department of Employee Relations for their dedicated work around the clinic reopening and hiring efforts.

Board Member Ericka Sinclair congratulated MHD on the progress it has made with the clinic.

(b) MCH Strategic Plan

Commissioner Totoraitis shared that MHD has entered into a contract with P3 Consulting. The kickoff steering committee meeting occurred this week. There will be an upcoming data scan and a future feedback role for the Board. It is intended for the plan to be done early summer. Commissioner Totoraitis said MHD is hoping to apply additional funding to implementation and will update the more next month. Commissioner Totoraitis said MHD had onboarded a new Deputy Commissioner of Family & Community Health, Lori Plahmer.

Board Member Ericka Sinclair asked about the Board's involvement in the MCH Strategic Plan. Commissioner Totoraitis said the consultant will be reaching out to the Board to interview the Board and for feedback about a month from now.

8. Future Agenda Items

- (a) Improving Branch Collaborations / Branch Collaboration Assignments
- (b) Review Board's bylaws
- (c) CHAP update
- (d) Introducing new FCH Deputy Commissioner Lori Plahmer
- (e) Presentation of the CHA
- (f) Dr. Ian Martin requested a lead update
- (g) Board Member Ericka Sinclair requested a discussion on how the Board can have public comment be a regular of Board work
- (h) Board Member Ericka Sinclair requested a discussion of ICE operations

9. Adjournment

Chair Dr. Wujie Zhang motioned to adjourn, Board Member Dr. Irum Ziauddin seconded the motion, and it passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 pm.

[251559](#)

Communication relating to the documents submitted to the Board of Health for its meetings in 2026.