



# City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
53202

## Meeting Minutes

### BOARD OF HEALTH

**DR. WUJIE ZHANG, CHAIR**

**Tahira Malik, VICE-CHAIR**

***Ruthie Burich-Weatherly, Caroline Gomez-Tom, Dr. Ian Martin,  
Ericka Sinclair, Penelope Stewart, Ald. JoCasta Zamarripa  
and Dr. Darlene Beck***

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**Wednesday, January 8, 2025**

**5:00 PM**

**City Hall, 200 E Wells St, Rm 303**

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#### **1. Call to Order**

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

#### **2. Roll Call**

**Present** 6 - Zhang, Burich-Weatherly, Gomez-Tom, Martin, Stewart and Zamarripa

**Absent** 1 - Sinclair

**Excused** 2 - Malik and Beck

#### **3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 7, 2024**

Board Member Ruthie Burich-Weatherly motioned to approve, Board Member Ald. JoCasta Zamarripa seconded, and the motion passed with all in favor and none opposed.

#### **4. Community Updates**

Chair Dr. Wujie Zhang shared that MKE Elevate celebrated its End of Year event on December 12th. There were no further updates.

#### **5. Communication from Health Commissioner Dr. Mike Totoraitis**

(1) 2025 Planning

Commissioner Totoraitis presented on DHS 140 (MHD is completing its 5-year renewal review in March) and the PIE Deputy Commissioner vacancy (an internal hire will be announced soon). Commissioner Totoraitis presented on highlights of the Strategic Plan to be implemented in 2025, including (1) the new EHR implementation that is scheduled to go live in April and (2) Public Health 3.0 through Priority Based Budgeting for the 2026 budget.

Board Member Penelope Stewart inquired about Public Health 3.0 stakeholder survey results. Commissioner Totoraitis said the results would be available early February.

Board Member Ruthie Burich-Weatherly inquired about how MHD will work with community partners to implement future investment and divestment in programs under PH 3.0; Commissioner Totoraitis said this will be addressed during a future budgetary planning exercise that will investigate partnerships, forecasting federal changes to public health funding, engaging the Board to tap into its networks, and potential funding from national foundations.

Board Member Ruthie Burich-Weatherly asked about the potential to refuse government funding that comes with conditions. Commissioner Totoraitis said that the budget exercise would investigate how MHD might respond to those situations through an analysis of the current funding structure.

(2) Lead Enforcement

Commissioner Totoraitis also presented an update on lead enforcement, including universal child blood lead testing recommendations and future investigation into recommendations for pregnancy screenings, a sample enforcement timeline, and enforcement metrics.

Board Member Caroline Gomez-Tom asked about the success rate for punitive actions actually resulting in lead remediation. Commissioner Totoraitis will follow up that information.

Board Member Ruthie Burich-Weatherly asked for clarification on the tax roll impact. Commissioner Totoraitis said that tax roll impact could be found by subtracting citation fees issued by the Court from the amount of reinspection fees issued.

(3) Communicable Disease

Lastly, Commissioner Totoraitis gave a Communicable Disease update. Commissioner Totoraitis shared that respiratory viruses are trending up, masking will soon be implemented in MHD's client-facing clinics, and that there is active wastewater surveillance of H5N1.

**6. MKE Elevate (CHIP) Presentation on Racism and Health Equity (Steering Committee)**

Strategy Director Marques Hogans presented on an overview of the Community Health Improvement Plan (including vision, timeline, roles) and introduced the overarching priority of racism and health equity. Strategy Director Marques Hogans also presented on the main focus areas of Household Income (including Economic Security projects), Life Expectancy (including plans for a research brief), and Civic Engagement (focusing on increasing voter registration and voting).

Strategy Director Marques Hogans spoke to ways the Board could get involved in this work (including sharing educational materials, connecting MHD to partners, identifying focus group participants for life expectancy research, as well as communication methods like social media and email lists).

Board Member Caroline Gomez-Tom suggested MHD look at the County's Youth Commission as a model for youth civic engagement.

Board Member Penelope Stewart inquired about focus groups with young people on these issues. Strategist Anneke Mohr responded that there had been on the topic of mental health, but not for racism & health equity.

Board Member Ald. JoCasta Zamarripa requested information on the zip codes for voter turnout. Staff will follow up with the map.

Board Member Ald. JoCasta Zamarripa inquired about life expectancy for the Hispanic/Latinx community. Strategist Anneke Mohr responded with the results of the 2022 Community Health Assessment and also the potential to investigate this further in focus groups. Board Member Ald. JoCasta Zamarripa also suggested staff update the presentation to include the Hispanic/Latinx data.

Board Member Ruthie Burich-Weatherly asked about working with the state on the issue of voter registration, including the idea of automatic voter registration. Strategy Director Hogans responded that MHD was not currently involved with the state on this but would investigate the suggestion.

Board Member Dr. Ian Martin inquired about voter turnout data. Staff will follow up with that information.

## **7. Branch Collaboration Updates**

An update from Board Member Dr. Darlene Beck will be shared via email.

## **8. Board Meeting Scheduling**

Chair Dr. Wujie Zhang reported that most board members preferred a monthly meeting, according to the survey. The Wednesday 5-6pm time slot was confirmed.

Commissioner Totoraitis will bring vouchers for parking to the next meeting.

**9. Future Agenda Items**

- State Legislative Package
- Rotation of branch presentations & MKE Elevate

Generally, Board Member Ruthie Burich-Weatherly highlighted WALHDAB membership & resources. Board Members were reminded that Economic Interest forms will be due soon. Chair Dr. Wujie Zhang reminded the Board to reach out if they wanted their website bios updated.

**10. Adjournment**

Board Member Dr. Ian Martin motioned to adjourn, Board Member Penelope Stewart seconded the motion, and it passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 pm.

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Communication relating to the documents submitted to the Board of Health for its meetings in 2025.