



Public Health

Idaho North Central District

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MINUTES
Board of Health Meeting
March 26, 2026
Nez Perce County Office

Board Members Present:

Connie Osborn
Brad Higgins
Justin McLeod (via Teams)
Tom Lamar
Dr. Kloepfer
Joe Gish
Vince Frazier

Staff Present:

Kayla Sprenger
Tara Macke
Sherise Bruce
Mike Larson
Rachael JeanBlanc

Excused:

Guests:

Mike Kane
Keith Havens
Xavier Figueroa, Ph.D.
Nicolas Hulscher, MPH
Dennis Riando
Laura Ann Demaray

The March 26, 2026, Board of Health meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chair Tom Lamar.

Chair Lamar asked for approval of the December 11, 2025, Board of Health Meeting minutes as mailed.

MOTION: Connie Osborn moved, and Joe Gish seconded the motion to approve the Board of Health Meeting Minutes as presented. Carried unanimously.

Public Health – Idaho North Central District has created a Board of Health email for public comment. Comments in response to an agenda item for a specific meeting date must be received 24 hours in advance of the applicable meeting for routing and board member review.

Public Comment

Testimony

Individuals provided public testimony in support of the proposed resolution #202-01-0001 authorizing and approving the Idaho North Central Health District to request the IRIS vaccine lists and vital statistics death data from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and further providing for and effective date.

Keith Havens stated that he experienced adverse health effects following COVID-19 vaccination and described his personal experience.

Other speakers expressed support for further study and data collection.

Dr. Xavier Figueroa spoke in support of the proposed resolution and Commissioner Gish’s request to review vaccination and death records. He described the Institutional Review Board (IRB) process and stated that the proposed research protocol meets applicable standards for human subjects’ protection, data privacy, and regulatory compliance, including safeguards for de-identification of personal information.

Nicholas Hulscher, an epidemiologist affiliated with the McCullough Foundation, spoke in support of the proposed resolution. He stated that, in his view, existing research suggests a possible link between COVID-19 vaccines and certain adverse outcomes, including death, and emphasized the importance of further population-level data analysis to better understand potential impacts.

Dennis Riando spoke during public comment and encouraged the board to make relevant public health data more accessible. He referenced information he had reviewed regarding mortality and disability trends and expressed the view that increased transparency and access to data would benefit the public.

Laura Demaray, an Idaho resident, spoke in support of Commissioner Gish's proposed resolution. She expressed concerns about COVID-19 vaccines and emphasized the need for access to local public health data to evaluate potential impacts. She encouraged the board to take action to review data and consider measures to protect public health.

Martin Shaw, Chairman of the Latah County Republican Committee provided a resolution in support.

Ross Miller, Chairman of the Nez Perce County Republican Committee provided a resolution in support.

At the request of a Board member, Mike Kane, legal counsel for PH-INCD provided input regarding the proposed resolution for the Idaho North Central District to partner with an Institutional Review Board (IRB). Counsel expressed uncertainty as to whether an IRB alone would satisfy requirements under Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Counsel indicated willingness to assist the Board as needed.

Board Reports

Data Request Legal Responses

Ms. Sprenger provided the Data Request Legal Responses for review prior to the meeting.

Resolution 2026-01-0001 – Research Request

Commissioner Gish requested that the Board revisit a previously failed resolution, new resolution slightly different than previous. Addition of Rasmussen poll data included. Discussion held, questions asked for legal opinions. Health District counsel Mike Kane provided input. Questions asked of Dr. Figueroa and Mr. Hulscher, input was provided.

MOTION: Joe Gish moved, and Justin McLeod seconded the motion to approve Resolution #2026-01-001 for the purpose of discussion. Discussion held. Votes 1 aye, 6 nays. Motion failed.

Financial Report

Ms. JeanBlanc presented the February FY 2026 Financial Reports:

As of the February report, we are 69.23% of the way through the fiscal year. February revenue year-to-date totaled \$4,808,263 with a year-to-date revenue balance of \$1,192,529, this is a 80.13% of budgeted revenue for the FY. Personnel expenses totaled \$2,594,747, with a year-to-date balance of \$1,778,045 this is 59.34% of the budgeted amount for the FY. Operating expenses year-to-date in February are \$347,588 with a year-to-date balance of \$375,412, this is 48.08% of the budgeted amount for the FY.

MOTION: Joe Gish moved, and Vince Frazier seconded the motion to approve the February Financials as presented. Carried unanimously.

Budget Amendment

A budget amendment was proposed to increase the Trustee Benefits and Pass-Through budget line item from \$650,000 to \$1,050,000, representing an increase of \$400,000. This adjustment is intended to support ongoing crisis center partnership contract. The additional funding will be covered by increased revenue from crisis center contracts with Magellan. This amendment brings the total budgeted expenses to \$6,400,792.

MOTION: Connie Osborn moved, and Brad Higgins seconded the motion to approve the Budget Amendment as presented. Carried unanimously.

Write-Off Reports

None at this time.

Director’s Report

SRCC – Annex Building Agreement

Ms. Sprenger reported that the Memorandum of Agreement is still in the process.

Legislative Updates

Ms. Sprenger reported that the State Home Visitation dollars were removed from the Health & Welfare budget which will result in a \$76,000 loss for the coming fiscal year for our program. Approximately 10 families will have to be exited from the program unless revenue sources can be found.

There was also a solid waste bill removing public health from solid waste regulation in the State of Idaho. Moving forward, all solid waste involvement would be through an agreement with DEQ if they choose.

A bill related to domestic water use would change the agency’s role in reviewing new subdivisions, shifting from conducting technical reviews to accepting certifications from developers. This would result in a different process for evaluating water use in new developments.

A bill related to direct-to-consumer food sales. It was noted that the bill shifts the regulatory approach away from preventive, inspection-based food safety oversight toward a more consumer choice-driven model. Certain producers would no longer be required to obtain training, certification, or pay associated fees, and legislation may impact licensing requirements for some food producers, including those involved in meat sales.

Budget Planning


Ms. Sprenger will have a DRAFT FY27 prepared for Board review at the April 23, 2026, Board of Health Meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 9 a.m. at the Public Health office in Nez Perce County. The meeting will be available via Microsoft Teams and in person.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:14 a.m.



Tom Lamar
Board Chair

Attest: 

Kayla Sprenger, Director
Secretary to the Board

Board Minutes approved on May 28, 2026.