

**ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 27, 2026**

**PRESENT:** Robert Free, Vice President, Food & Beverages, Bisons  
Baseball/Canalside/Outer Harbor, Chairman, BOH  
Gale Burstein, M.D., Erie County Commissioner of Health  
Marilyn Tuberdyck, BOH Member  
Dolores Funke, BOH Member  
Maureen Montgomery, MD, BOH Member  
Lawrence J. Dupre, County Legislature, BOH Member  
Micheal Merrill, M.D, BOH Member  
Jennifer Delaney – Director, Environmental Health  
Jeffrey Kowalewski, Environmental Health  
Jeffrey Jurewicz, Environmental Health

**REVIEW OF MINUTES October 22, 2025**

Rob motioned to approve the minutes – minutes approved.

**Key Topics & Discussion**

**I. Communications & Membership Updates**

- Participants discussed recent communication challenges within the group.
- Plans were made to formally introduce Chuck Clark as a new representative from the City of Lackawanna at the next meeting.

**II. Tattoo Code Updates**

- Proposed updates to the tattoo sanitary code aim to modernize regulations and reflect changes in the tattoo industry.
- Key proposed changes include:
  - Allowing mobile tattoo studios
  - Permitting temporary tattoo events
  - Strengthening training requirements for tattoo artists aligned with national standards
- Participants acknowledged the potential economic benefits of accommodating new tattoo business models.
- Background context:
  - New York State introduced a statewide body art code in 2017, but it has not been fully adopted.
  - Erie County implemented its first body art code in 1995 and remains ahead of state regulations.
- The implementation date for the updated tattoo code is anticipated to be June 1, pending confirmation.

### **III. Food Policy Council Updates**

- The Food Policy Council has experienced leadership transitions but remains cohesive and focused.
- Upcoming meetings will:
  - Review previous priorities
  - Plan 2026 initiatives
  - Include collaboration with the UB Food Lab
- Additional discussion focused on food security concerns and potential funding sources.

### **IV. Public Health & Vaccination Initiatives**

- Community vaccination clinics have successfully immunized nearly 600 children.
- Public health coalitions are forming to:
  - Strengthen vaccine recommendations
  - Address emerging public health threats
- Ongoing outreach includes:
  - Depression screening and suicide assessment training for primary care providers
  - Educational partnerships with the Buffalo Center for Health Equity (including autism-focused sessions)

### **V. Future Meetings**

- Participants discussed scheduling future meetings for January or early February.
- Tuesdays or Thursdays were preferred for better attendance.
- There was also discussion of potentially shifting meetings to late March or April.

### **VI. Action Items**

- Invite Sarah Goddy and Danielle to the next meeting to provide updates from the Food Policy Council.
- Follow up with Sarah Goddy regarding her continued role as Chair of the Food Policy Council and her priorities for 2026.
- Ensure the formal introduction of new representative from the City of Lackawanna at the next meeting.
- Investigate community response to food security issues and identify potential funding sources for assistance programs.
- Confirm the June 1 implementation date for changes to the tattoo sanitary code affecting tattoo artists and operations
- Explore collaboration opportunities with the UB School of Public Health to engage MPH students in food policy projects.
- Monitor ongoing vaccination clinics and report outcomes, particularly those targeting children in Buffalo Public Schools.
- Continue outreach to primary care providers regarding depression screening and suicide assessment training.
- Coordinate with the Buffalo Center for Health Equity on future educational sessions related to autism and other public health topics.
- Engage local community resources, including potential involvement from the Buffalo Bills or Josh Allen, to support community initiatives.

### **VII. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

- No old business
- The next meeting will be January 27, 2026, at 3:30 PM in Room DD101
- Meeting adjourned