

Erie County Board of Health Meeting Minutes

September 15, 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
Dino Marrocco, BOH Member
Maureen Montgomery, MD, BOH Member
Tom Muscarella – Associate Public Health Sanitarian
Jeffrey Jurewicz, Environmental Health
Lawrence J. Dupre, County Legislature, BOH Member
Robert Kaplin M.D., BOH Member

Guest: Danielle Rovillo, Health Equity

Review of Minutes May 5, 2026

Rob motioned to approve the minutes – minutes approved.

Sanitary Code Revisions

- Increased penalties for violations aim to improve compliance and enforcement effectiveness.
- Vending machine regulations established for age-restricted products to enhance public health safety.
- New tobacco regulations include inspection requirements for temporary retail vendors.
- Work with the county attorney, to establish a timeline for the next steps regarding the public hearing and necessary submissions.

Food Policy Council Updates

- Upcoming food policy event will feature various community programs and award recognition.
- The program “Find Fresh” helps people locate fresh food resources via text messages and a phone service. Text ‘FINDFRESH’ to 898211
- App is being tested for a food section that will include all the information as the FIND FRESH program
- The grant had gone way farther than expected, using the extra to be able to send out postcards regarding this program. Chose three areas to send these to
- Urban farming is growing, but land access and soil health issues hinder expansion.
- A postcard campaign expanded outreach to inform communities about local fresh food resources.

Commissioner's Update -Dr. Gale Burnstein

- a. Colorectal Cancer Awareness
 - i. An initiative aims to raise awareness about increasing colorectal cancer rates among younger populations.
 - ii. Vaccination decisions increasingly intertwine with political and societal factors, complicating healthcare discussions.
 - iii. Encouraging to spread awareness to first degree relatives to help lower the risk of finding out later.
- b. Measles
 - i. If you or anyone you may know was exposed to the measles, within 72 hours from their exposure you can give them the immunoglobulin
 - ii. Weekly updates to inform the health departments – number of cases are growing
- c. Rabies Exposure
 - i. Highest number of rabies exposure in the months of July and August
 - ii. Most exposures came from bats

Other Business

- a. No old business
- b. Next Meeting
- c. The next Erie County Board of Health meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2026 at 3:30pm via a zoom call