

Mar 9, 2026

Public Health Board Meeting

Invited Sylvia Zhonnie Tranner Sharpe Steve Hiatt Ron Skinner Jamie Harvey
Joell Lambdin Suzette Morris Revina Talker Mike Moulton Lois Young

Summary

The board, including Ron Skinner, Sylvia Zhonnie, Lois Young, and Steve Hiatt, met Tranner Sharp, where they unanimously approved a motion to interview all four candidates—Brady and the three state-approved applicants—for the Health Officer position to ensure fairness and avoid discrimination concerns, tentatively scheduling interviews for March 20th. Mike Moulton also provided updates on staff changes, including the resignation of Marta Mooneyan and the hiring of Devynn Gappmayer as the full-time administrative assistant, and highlighted ongoing initiatives such as the public health dashboard development and efforts to improve departmental culture and employee retention. The board also agreed to review the bylaws before their next meeting on May 18th in Montezuma Creek. The board received financial and program updates from the business manager Joell Lambdin and Health Officer Mike Moulton.

Details

- **Meeting Opening and Administration:** Ron Skinner opened the public health board meeting at 12 PM on March 9th, 2026, confirming a quorum of four board members: Ron Skinner (Chair), Sylvia Zhonnie (Vice Chair), Lois Young, and Steve Hiatt. The board unanimously approved the meeting minutes. Ron also apologized for previous scheduling miscommunications, noting an adjustment to May 18th for a scheduled visit.
- **Motion to Enter Closed Session:** Following the administrative approvals and noting no public comment, the board moved to enter a closed executive session.

Steve made the motion to enter a closed session. Lois seconded the motion, and the board affirmed it.

- **Closed Session ended and Regular Session resumed at 1:38 pm.**
- **Review of Bylaws:** The board members were asked to review the current bylaws, specifically section 4.1, and bring any potential additions or changes to the next meeting scheduled for May 18th in Montezuma Creek. A request was made to have the bylaws presented in a "red line" version, clearly showing the old text and the new additions, which Mike Moulton agreed to circulate in future revisions.
- **Financial Update:** The business manager provided a financial update, noting that the month-end report for November has been submitted and confirmed by the state, but is currently with the federal government for final acceptance, which is a lengthy process. Due to being short-staffed and the prolonged process of federal review, the business manager is still behind on the December and end-of-year reports.
- **Personnel and Program Updates:** Marta Mooneyan has resigned, and the position for a part-time front desk/office assistant has been posted, with interviews beginning soon. Devynn Gappmayer has taken on full-time duties and administrative work, and Rebecca Benally is hiring for a part-time health educator. The Children with Special Health Care Needs program recently held a successful autism clinic, which resulted in a waiting list and the potential for increased grant utilization.
- **Grant Initiatives and Rural Health Transformation:** Rebecca Benally attended a traditional tobacco grant conference and is looking into organizing a similar conference in San Juan County, while also investigating the grant funds that could allow a board member to attend an out-of-state conference. Discussion was held regarding the Rural Transformation Grant, which is being managed by the governor's office, but the specifics of local health department involvement and allocation remain unclear, with the state having until the end of March to decide.
- **Emergency Preparedness and Other Initiatives:** Mike Moulton reported that the emergency preparedness plan is still in draft form, a duty that has been deferred due to a lack of time. Mike Moulton will share the old emergency plan and the current draft with the board before or during the next meeting. Tisheena, the epidemiologist, is working with the state to develop a public health dashboard

that provides real-time, localized information for San Juan County to better inform prevention efforts.

- **Staff Communication and Newsletter Content:** Mike Moulton agreed to the suggestion of sharing the board newsletter with all staff, noting that the business manager is the one compiling it under their direction. The board also requested that the newsletter be updated to include success stories from each department and updates on epidemiology, which they consider important information to share with the community.
- **Clarification on Financial Reporting:** A board member expressed concern over the delayed and changed format of the financial reports, noting that the prior manager, Tyler, provided timely closed reports and did not mention the extensive state and federal review process. Mike Moulton provided clarity, explaining that they have been limited by the county in updating financial numbers due to staffing changes and the required multi-step process of state and federal approvals for financial reports and funding disbursements.
- **Financial Software Access and Accounting Updates:** Mike Moulton is in talks with Tranner to gain privileges to enter information directly into the accounting software, aiming to reduce the delay in providing financial updates. The plan is to provide all accounting information in a timely manner, and this effort is intended to clarify why information is behind schedule. A separate item was a spelling correction for Rebecca's name in the newsletter, which Mike Moulton committed to fixing.
- **Emergency Preparedness Training Opportunity:** Sylvia Zhonnie informed the group about an opportunity for staff to attend an emergency preparedness event where all expenses are paid, noting that this is available through the national IHS and under FEMA. They suggested this is a good opportunity that would benefit public health and also potentially UNHS. Mike Moulton confirmed they would make copies of the information to share.
- **Website and Staffing Updates:** The department's website still needs to be updated with current staff names, which Mike Moulton is working on, as previous attempts to delegate this task failed due to the complexity of the backend system. Marta, the former administrative assistant, left the previous week, and Devynn Gappmayer has taken over the role as the full-time administrative assistant, having started two weeks ago. Mike Moulton is scheduled to sit down

with staff, including Dennis and Autumn, to review and update links, acknowledging the difficulties associated with staff turnover.

- **Employee Retention and Culture Initiative:** There was a discussion about motivating and retaining employees, and the board discussed this topic two years ago. Mike Moulton shared that their goal for the year is to work as a team to change the department's culture, focus on camaraderie, and build relationships of trust so that all employees feel supported. They noted that the department has been slowly changing a negative narrative and is now receiving compliments from the community, with the aim of making Public Health a desirable place to work.
- **Collaborative Efforts and Positive Attitude:** The importance of setting aside personal feelings to work for the betterment of the people was emphasized. Joell Lambdin's background in HR has allowed them to observe a huge change in personnel, attitudes, and culture, driven by Mike's vision for the department. The collaboration among different managers, such as the environmental health manager and the nursing manager going to White Mesa together, demonstrates resource efficiency and teamwork.
- **Contract Amendments and Funding Updates:** Mike Moulton provided an update on contract agreements, noting that most are five-year agreements that have recently been renewed or amended since December. The amendments generally involve updating the next year's batch of funding from the state, which can range from a few hundred to a couple of thousand dollars. Furthermore, for unilateral changes, such as increasing or releasing the next batch of funding within a five-year contract, the state is no longer requesting the amendments be signed for approval, which reduces the need to present them to the Commissioners for signature.
- **Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items:** The next meeting is scheduled for May 18th, and Ron Skinner will coordinate with others on the agenda. One item on the agenda will be a visit from the health officer of the Southern Ute tribe on May 18th in Montezuma Creek, who will share an overview of what they are doing. The board members were also reminded to review the bylaws so they can vote on adding a small section, following discussion with the attorney.