



# Barry-Eaton District Health Department

Barry County: 330 W. Woodlawn Ave., Hastings MI 49058  
Phone: 269-945-9516 Fax: 517-543-7737

Eaton County: 1033 Health Care Dr., Charlotte, MI 48813  
Phone: 517-543-2430 Fax: 517-543-7737

## Minutes of the Barry-Eaton District Board of Health

December 12, 2025

1033 Health Care Dr., Charlotte, MI 48813

1:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order	The meeting was called to order by Chair Getty at 1:00 PM
2. Attendance Roll Call	<p>Board Members Present: Commissioner Catherine Getty, Commissioner Keith Barber (Arrived at 1:18 PM), Commissioner Bruce Campbell, Commissioner Jim Mott, and Commissioner Bob Teunessen.</p> <p>Staff Present: Rebekah Condon (Health Officer), Milea Burgstahler (PPE/EH Director), and Kali Nichols (PCH Director).</p>
3. Motion to Approve the Agenda	Motion by Commissioner Teunessen, Supported by Commissioner Mott to approve the agenda as provided. All ayes, motion carried.
4. Approve the November 21, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes (ACTION)	Motion by Commissioner Mott, Supported by Commissioner Teunessen to approve November 21, 2025, meeting minutes as provided. All ayes, motion carried.
5. Limited Public Comment	None
6. Finance Report	<p>a. Review of the Monthly Financial Statement Sarah Jennings, Maner Costerisan, gave a financial update.</p> <p>b. Approve Payables in the Amount of \$294,094.77 (ACTION) Motion by Commissioner Campbell, Supported by Commissioner Teunessen to approve the payables.</p> <p>Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Catherine Getty: Aye Commissioner Bruce Campbell: Aye Commissioner Jim Mott: Aye Commissioner Bob Teunessen: Aye</p>
7. Standing Reports	<p>a. Environmental Health</p> <p>i. Jodi Pessell, Environmental Health Supervisor, presented on Radon Action Month, which will take place in January. Jodi explained that raising awareness about radon is important because it is a silent, odorless radioactive gas and the second leading cause of lung cancer. She noted that radon gas can seep into buildings through foundation cracks and other openings. Jodi explained that radon testing is simple and that home test kits are available at both health department locations, as well as at Delta Township Hall and the Delton Library. The only way to know if a home has elevated radon</p>



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	<p>levels is to test. It is recommended that homes be tested every two years because homes settle over time and new foundation cracks can form.</p> <p>b. Planning, Promotion, and Evaluation</p> <p>i. Kaylynne Luzbetak, Community Health Promotion Specialist, provided an update on the Tobacco Program. She shared statistics on teen nicotine use in Barry and Eaton counties based on results from the 2023–2024 Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth survey of 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. The data showed that the average age of first tobacco use was approximately 12.5 years old. Barry and Eaton County data indicated that 86.6% and 84.5% of high school students reported never trying cigarette smoking; 98.1% and 99.1% reported no use of chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, snus, or dissolvable tobacco in the past 30 days; and 89.6% and 88.1% reported not vaping in the past 30 days. Kaylynne explained that most students are obtaining these products from friends, family, or online, as the majority of surveyed students reported not purchasing products from stores or gas stations. She also described alternatives to suspension, including a tiered approach focused on education and evidence-based programs that help keep students in school.</p> <p>ii. Aurelia Pena, Epidemiologist, presented to the BOH on the current state of communicable diseases in the counties. She shared resident data on respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19, pneumonia, and RSV, all of which were currently at or below expected seasonal levels. Aurelia noted that higher illness rates are anticipated following the holiday season as people return to school and work settings. She also presented data on seasonal patterns of hand, foot, and mouth disease during outbreak years, as well as Lyme disease trends, which peaked in July and have shown longer seasonality compared to 2024. Additionally, Aurelia provided data on deaths by suicide in Barry and Eaton counties, showing a decrease in Eaton County and a doubling in Barry County at this time. She further discussed statistics related to cold- and heat-related illnesses, vaccine-preventable diseases such as pertussis, elevated rates of campylobacter during the past summer, and the first reported human infection of H5N5 avian influenza in Washington State.</p>
8. Health Officer Report	<p>a. Rebekah informed BOH members of the signed Barry County contract agreement to subsidize a 30% fee increase in Environmental Health, with implementation scheduled to begin January 1, 2026.</p>



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9. Other Business	None
10. Adjournment	Chairperson Getty adjourned the meeting at 1:43 PM.

Catherine Getty, Chair

Rebekah Condon, Health Officer

NEXT MEETING: January 16, 2026 in HASTINGS, MI

Should any person attending this meeting require accommodations, please notify the office three business days prior to the meeting at 517-541-2694.