

**BOARD OF HEALTH OF FREDERICK COUNTY**  
**MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT**  
**Monday, October 22, 2025**

**Agenda Item:** Orientation for Liaisons

**Presenter:** Dr. Barbara Brookmyer

Dr. Brookmyer started the orientation for the new board liaisons at 5:30pm.

The orientation included information about the Frederick County Board of Health, an overview of public health, and the history of public health in Frederick County.

**New Board Liaisons**

Name	Present	Absent
Ms. Katie Silver – Chamber of Commerce member	X	
Dr. Sarah Singh – Mental health professional	X	

**Dr. Barbara Brookmyer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.**

**Welcome**

Dr. Barbara Brookmyer, Health Officer for Frederick County and Executive Officer of the Board of Health welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Quorum**

Dr. Barbara Brookmyer recognized those present:

**Board Members:**

Name	Present	Absent
Dr. Barbara Brookmyer (Health Officer)	X	
Council Member Mason Carter	X	
Council Member Jerry Donald	X	
Council Vice-President Kavonté Duckett	X	
County Executive Jessica Fitzwater		X
Council Member MC Keegan-Ayer	X	
Council Member Renee Knapp	X	
Council Member Steve McKay		X
Council President Brad Young	X*	

\*Attended virtually

**Board Liaisons**

Name	Present	Absent
Dr. Jennifer Cooper – Nurse	X	
Dr. Rene Najera – Epidemiologist	X*	
Dr. Michael Schaden – Veterinarian	X	
Dr. Scott Stanley – Science related background	X	
Ms. Katie Silver – Chamber of Commerce member	X	
Dr. Sarah Singh – Mental health professional	X	

\*Attended virtually

**Guests & Staff**

Name	Present	Absent
Carmen Arias, Frederick County Health Department	X	
Ragen Cherney, Frederick County Chief of Staff for County Council	X	
Miriam Dobson, Frederick County Health Department	X	
Rissah Watkins, Frederick County Health Department	X	

**BOARD OF HEALTH OF FREDERICK COUNTY****MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT****Monday, October 22, 2025****Agenda Item: Public Comments****Presenter: Dr. Barbara Brookmyer**

There were no public comments

**Agenda Item: Approval of the minutes: 7/21/2025****Presenter: Dr. Barbara Brookmyer**

Motion to approve 7/21/2025 meeting minutes as written. Motion passed: 7-0-2

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Not Present
Dr. Barbara Brookmyer (Health Officer)			X			
Council Member Mason Carter			X			
Council Member Jerry Donald			X			
Council Vice-President Kavonté Duckett			X			
County Executive Jessica Fitzwater						X
Council Member MC Keegan-Ayer	X		X			
Council Member Renee Knapp		X	X			
Council Member Steve McKay						X
Council President Brad Young			X			

**Agenda Item: Respiratory Season Update****Presenter: Dr. Miriam Dobson**

Dr. Miriam Dobson, director of Community Health Services Division for the Frederick County Health Department, provided an overview on the current respiratory virus season. Dr. Dobson covered information for COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial (RSV) as well as new vaccine guidance.

**Agenda Item: Updates on Medicaid****Presenter: Dr. Barbara Brookmyer**

Dr. Barbara Brookmyer gave an overview of the current situation of Medicaid Benefits. She shared the possible impact that the proposed changes will have on Maryland residents as well as the implementation timeline for these changes. Dr. Brookmyer also shared information on where to apply for Medicaid or MCHP and what actions the FCHD is taking to support Frederick County residents.

**Agenda Item: Community/Public Health Nursing:  
Opportunities through Partnership****Presenter: Dr. Jen Cooper**

Dr. Jen Cooper, Nursing Department Chair for Hood College, presented an overview of their nursing program and the importance of partnerships within the community. Dr. Cooper shared some of the challenges and successes of their program.

**Agenda Item: Administrative Updates****Presenter: Dr. Barbara Brookmyer/Rissah Watkins****Final report on the Maryland Commission on Public Health**

Dr. Barbara Brookmyer reported that the Commission adopted its final report on September 25, 2025, she also gave an overview of the findings and recommendations. There is a press conference scheduled for November 13th to announce the final report and next steps.

**Closure of Mental Health program**

Dr. Barbara Brookmyer gave an update on the closure of the Frederick County Health Department Mental Health Services (MHS) program. She reported that Effective August 1, 2025, both clinics at 350 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD 21702 and 300 A South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727 have closed. All Clients in contact with the MHS program were successfully connected to other providers. Dr. Brookmyer noted that the Mental Health Association's Walk-In Clinic at 340 Montevue Lane is still open!

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Implementation of Environmental Health Services (EHS) cost adjustment

Dr. Barbara Brookmyer reported that the EHS cost adjustments went into effect on September 1, 2025. Notifications to appropriate entities were made and so far, there has not been negative feedback. Next step is for EHS staff to work on developing a process for reviewing the rate structure on a regular basis.

Maryland Rural Health Transformation Listening Sessions

Dr. Barbara Brookmyer reported that the state of Maryland is applying for federal funding under Make Rural America Healthy Again. The Department of Health requested that local health departments hold listening sessions to gather input from the public. The Frederick County Health Department held 3 sessions and has forwarded the feedback to the state. Dr. Brookmyer also shared the timeline for this process.

Annual Report and foundational public health areas

Ms. Rissah Watkins, Director of the Office of Planning, Assessment and Communication for the Frederick County Health Department presented the Frederick County Health Department FY25 Annual Report, highlighting some of their programs' achievements.

**Agenda Item:** Old Business

**Presenter:** Dr. Barbara Brookmyer

Orientation for newly appointed liaisons was completed earlier, prior to this meeting.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- May, 2026 – Dr. Barbara Brookmyer shared that there will be a presentation on the Local Behavioral Health System.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:54pm

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Barbara Brookmyer, MD, MPH  
Health Officer for Frederick County  
Board of Health Executive Officer and Secretary