

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 17, 2025  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

APPROVED MINUTES

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, July 30, 2025

<1:00 PM – 4:00 PM>

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair Dr. Christopher Strang (DNR) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hasmik Mkrtchyan                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair Dr. Mark Werner (DHS)   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greg Pils (DNR)                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secretary Dr. James Schauer        | <input type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Rowland                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jon Audhya (SMPH)                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zana Sijan (WDNR alternate)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Robert Corliss                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Becca Fahney (WDNR alternate)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jessica Blahnik                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Paula Tran (DHS alternate)                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gina Green-Harris                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Anna Benton (DHS alternate)                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gil Kelley                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Sheryl Bedno (DHS alternate)            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Larson                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andrea Poehling (SMPH alternate) |

WSLH STAFF PRESENT:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Errin Rider            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Strebel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allen Benson               | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Al Bateman           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Karbowski | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Conklin  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jan Klawitter   | <input type="checkbox"/> Tip Vandall              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nancy McLean    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Sterk     |

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- ☒ Sara Anderson
- ☒ Kayla Neuman
- ☒ Dr. Jocelyn Hemming

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GUESTS PRESENT: WSLH Newborn Screening Director Dr. Mei Baker is a guest presenter discussing implementation of Newborn Screening for X-Linked Adrenoleukodystrophy (X-ALD) and Mucopolysaccharidosis Type I (MPS I).

**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

**Item 1. ROLL CALL**

At 1:05 PM, WSLH Board Chair Dr. Chris Strang called the meeting to order.

At 1:05 PM Chair Dr. Chris Strang and WSLH Executive Assistant Sara Anderson initiated and conducted the roll call of the Board members. All Board members or their designated representatives were present except for Dr. Rob Corliss, Jessica Blahnik, Gina Green-Harris, and Rebecca Rowland.

**Item 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

At 1:06 PM, WSLH Board Chair Dr. Chris Strang entertained a motion to approve the March 19, 2025 minutes as submitted. Greg Pils moved for approval and Dr. Mark Werner seconded. A voice vote to approve the minutes for the record was passed and accepted.

**Item 3. REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA**

Not applicable for this meeting.

**Item 4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

Not applicable for this meeting.

**Item 5. BOARD MEMBERS' MATTERS**

DNR Representative Greg Pils told the Board that the federal EPA budget is working its way through Congress and could include funding cuts. The EPA budget changes could affect DNR's delegated authority and requests for testing and services at the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene.

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**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**Item 6. IMPLEMENTATION OF NBS FOR X-ALD AND MPS I** WSLH Newborn Screening Director Dr. Mei Baker gave a presentation on the addition of X-Linked Adrenoleukodystrophy (X-ALD) and Mucopolysaccharidosis Type I (MPS I) to the Wisconsin Newborn Screening panel, effective August 1, 2025. Dr. Baker gave an overview of the newborn screening system in Wisconsin and provided the Board with a technical presentation on the new disorders, how the WSLH screens for them, the importance of confirmatory testing, and a discussion of treatment options for affected babies.

**Item 7. FINANCIAL REPORT** WSLH Chief Financial Officer Kevin Karbowski gave an overview of the full financial report included in the July 2025 Board agenda packet. Mr. Karbowski stated that the WSLH fiscal year ended on June 30, 2025; noting that the WSLH had a break-even budget of \$1.6 million. WSLH clinical activity rose substantially, with clinical revenue being above budget by \$2.4 million. Mr. Karbowski pointed out new grant activity for Forensic Toxicology. He also said the Wisconsin Occupational Health Lab (WOHL) had testing increases from new and existing customers that WOHL Director Steve Strebel believes will continue into the future. Mr. Karbowski explained that the WSLH hires DHS employees as part of our agreements with DHS; hence the rise in salary expenses. WSLH grants are down by around 8% which in turn leads to indirect expenses dropping as well. In terms of this year's Fiscal Year Budget, there is an operating loss of around \$1.3 million brought on by moving various activities and purchases from fiscal year 2026 to fiscal year 2025. Additionally, this operating loss is attributed to the depreciation of departmental instrumentation that will not be replaced.

**Item 8. FY 26 Budget** - WSLH Chief Financial Officer Kevin Karbowski presented the WSLH FY 26 budget included in the July 2025 Board agenda packet. At 1:42 PM, WSLH Board Chair Dr. Chris Strang called for a motion to approve the FY26 Budget as proposed. Greg Pils moved for approval and Andrea Poehling seconded. A voice vote to approve the budget was passed and accepted.

**Item 9. CONTRACTS REPORT** WSLH Chief Financial Officer Kevin Karbowski, on behalf of WSLH Accounts Receivable and Contracts Manager Tip Vandall, presented the contracts executed since the March 2025 Board meeting. There are a total of 6 renewal contracts amounting to

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\$779,404.00. Additionally, there are a total of 3 new contracts amounting to \$5,858,740.00. Mr. Karbowski concluded by stating that the grand total between the 6 renewal contracts and the 3 new contracts equals out to a grand total of \$6,638,144.00.

**Item 10. DIRECTORS REPORT**

**ATP UPDATE** – WSLH Chief Financial Officer Kevin Karbowski provided an update regarding the release and implementation of Workday across the University of Wisconsin System, including the WSLH. Mr. Karbowski said the Workday journey has been an exciting one and that the roll out has overall been successful. WSLH Human Resources Director Nancy McLean had shared with Mr. Karbowski that the Workday roll out has gone smoothly from an HR perspective. From a finance perspective, the Accounts Receivable team has run into some unknowns and surprises but have largely been able to make purchases according to the new system. Mr. Karbowski said the primary unknown still being resolved includes how to gather the financial information to create the necessary financial reports using Workday's new technology.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT** – WSLH Communications Manager Jan Klawitter shared select items from the full Public Relations Report included in the July 2025 Board agenda packet.

**Item 11. WSLH DIRECTOR SEARCH UPDATE (Closed Session)** WSLH Board Chair Dr. Chris Strang announced in open session that the Board will go into closed session to discuss the candidates for the Director position under the exemption to the open meetings law in Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(c) and that the Board will be adjourning directly from closed session. At 1:56 PM, WSLH Board Chair Dr. Chris Strang asked for a motion for the Board to move into closed session. Dr. Mark Werner moved for approval and Greg Pils seconded. A voice vote to go into closed session was passed and accepted. (NOTE: At this point all WSLH staff left the meeting.)

**Adjourning**

(Per an email from WSLH Chair Dr. Chris Strang) At 2:13 PM, WSLH Board Chair Dr. Chris Strang entertained a motion to adjourn the WSLH Board Meeting. A motion to adjourn was offered by John Larson and seconded by Dr. Mark Werner. All present provided a voice vote of approval, and Dr. Strang adjourned the meeting at 2:14 PM.