

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MONTHLY MEETING  
December 17, 2025

- 1) MEETING – called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair, Monica Standel
- 2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 3) MEMBERS PRESENT – Monica Standel, Kevin Watkins, Dawn Fulk, Stephen Smith, Leann Clink, Carolyn Richards & Dave Rushing  
STAFF PRESENT – Greg Brown, Dr. Nevin and T. Berger
- 4) CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD -
  - a) Amanda Shaw – Medicaid coverage for her daughter.

There was a request for a temporary recess by Dr. Nevin, as I.T. was not present to record the meeting. I.T. was contacted. The meeting resumed after a short recess; Amanda Shaw was asked to present again.

  - b) Andrew Eberly – Columbus Twp. – Update on School of Choice admission at Armada School District.
  - c) Sandra Tannehill, Wales Twp. - Michigan Department of Education new guidelines on education and gender ideology.
  - d) Tracy Birgy – Marysville -Yale Clinic and Health Officer's August email, combining MD/HO position.
  - e) Carol Miller – Port Huron – Health Officer's email & Open Meetings Act.
- 5) MINUTES – The Board received the November 19, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion by Richards, seconded by Watkins, to approve the November minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
- 6) BUDGET TO ACTUAL & AP TRANSACTION REGISTER - The Board received and reviewed the November 2025 AP Transaction Register for \$71,386 and the November Budget to Actual Reports. Dr. Nevin discussed the cost of the protein-based COVID vaccine in the amount of \$24,000. Motion by Richards, seconded by Clink to accept November 2025 AP Transaction Register and Budget to Actual Report forwarded to the controller. Roll call 6 Ayes, 1 Ney (Opposed by Watkins).
- 7) CORRESPONDENCE – The Board received the following correspondence:
  - a) SC4 Letter. Dr. Nevin asked that this item be moved to new business and wished to move to Unfinished Business, item b) on the agenda. The Board concurred.
- 8) UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  - a) Physician exemption in absence of state waiver form – Dr. Nevin discussed the confidential letter he sent to the Armada School District on behalf of Mr. Eberly. Dr.

Nevin discussed State Regulations regarding vaccine exemptions and the medical exemption form. Based on the letter sent by the State today, to the Health Officer, he would recommend to the Advisory Board of Health that a letter be drafted from the Health Officer to the State to ask them to formalize what is an appropriate exemption and to make a declaratory ruling on the issue. Richards made a motion to support the writing of a letter to request clarification from the State in the form of a declaratory ruling, pending advice from legal counsel, as to a physician appropriate exemption. Seconded by Clink. Roll call: Leann Clink – Yes; Dawn Fulk – Yes; Steve Smith – Yes; Monica Standel – Yes; Kevin Watkins – Yes. Motion carried. 6 Ayes; 0 Nyes.

- b) Michigan VIS – Dr. Nevin provided the Board with the current State website page from the MDHHS Vaccine Information Statements for Michigan highlighting changes recently made. The MCIR opt out from was also discussed.
- c) 2024 Medical Examiner Annual Report – The Board received the report. Dr. Nevin stated that he believed this to be a good representation of death within St. Clair County.

9) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Dr. Nevin Update
  - (1) Letter to Steve Gura, SC4 – The Board received a copy of the letter. Dr. Nevin had received an email from Mr. Gura asking his opinion on mandatory vaccine of clinical students. Dr. Nevin's letter outlined not supporting mandatory flu & covid vaccine for clinical staff. Discussion followed.
  - (2) New Release from MDHHS regarding new Gun Violence Prevention Task Force report was received by the Board. Discussion followed. Clink made a motion to table the discussion to a later date. Seconded by Richards.
- b) Health Officer Update – Given by Brown.
  - (1) Discussed the information that Liz had received about the Yale Clinic that Great Lakes Bay was not interested in running the school-based clinic in Yale, nor was Community First. The clinic in Yale will be dismantled and items will be put in County storage. Monica asked about Teen Health (Port Huron) open house event. Amy reported it went well.

10) ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

- a) Watkins – Discussed his disappointment that the rural community without student services with the closing of the Yale Clinic. Discussed not being in favor of recombining the Health Officer and Medical Director position.
- b) Rushing – Commented that the Smile on Wheels contract passed at the last BOC meeting with the opt-in/opt-out added to the contract.
- c) Clink – Regarding SC4 discussed personal choice, home school choice, and thanked Greg for clarifying Great Lakes decision to not run a school-based clinic in Yale.
- d) Richards – Discussed Ms. Tannehill comments on Michigan Department of Education (MDE) attempts to circumvent legislative authority with radical and extreme concepts into education. She personally has sent a letter to her local school board to educate

on the MDE recommendation regarding gender identity education. Also expressed her opinion on the health officer and medical director relationship.

- e) Smith – Spoke about the current HD structure and combining positions. Spoke about not having a goal session.
- f) Fulk – Discussed clinic closures and public response. Discussed autism studies. Discussed national news released from the HHS. Discussed her disappointment with current HD leadership. Fulk made a motion at this time to make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to combine the Health Officer and Medical Director into a single position. Seconded by Richards. Discussion followed. Standel called for a roll call vote on Fulk's motion to make a recommendation to the BOC about combining HO and MD position. Clink – abstain for more information; Richards – Yes; Smith – Yes; Fulk – Yes; Standel – No; Watkins – No. Motion carried. 3 Aye, 1 abstain and 2 Nay.
- g) Standel – Discussed the necessity to keep the separation of power to maintain checks and balances by keeping the Health Officer and Medical as separate positions. Discuss the necessity for the Board of Health to have a work session to set goals for the Advisory Board of Health and the Health Department. Currently there are 4 open seats for ABOH positions and those appointments have been tabled until January 8th.

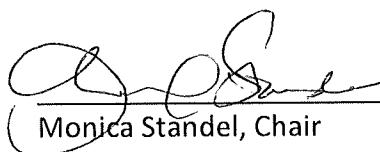
11) NEXT MEETING – The next monthly meeting will be held on January 21, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

12) ADJOURNMENT – Motion by Clink, seconded by Richards to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

**Prepared and submitted by:**

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Elizabeth King, Health Officer - Director



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Monica Standel, Chair



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Carolyn Richards, Secretary

**Distribution to:**

Advisory Board of Health Members  
Board of Commissioners  
Thomas Hull, Interim Administrator/Controller  
Elizabeth King, Health Officer - Director  
Greg Brown, Administrator

To the St Clair County Health Department Advisory Board of Health and County Commissioners,

I would like this email read at the SCCHD Advisory Board of Health Meeting on Jan 21st.

I am speaking out against the St Clair County Medical Director, Dr **Remington Nevin**'s memorandum titled **Promoting and Protecting Vaccine Choice for St Clair County Residents:**

**(Please see attached memo)**

I am very concerned with this memorandum that functions like a consultant's court testimony with **attached exhibits**. Medical professionals have a responsibility to present evidence-based science when proposing a change or making recommendations that affect a population or a patient. This means using reliable empirical data that relies on observation and experimentation found in studies **not just personal theories or beliefs**. Dr Nevin **attempts to discredit the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)**. The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), the Association for Professional in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC), as well as many other medical societies support keeping the vaccine schedule as it was before the NEW ACIP made changes to the vaccine schedule **without evidence-based studies**. This memorandum tries to indicate that Dr. Nevin's opinions and advice is right and **ALL** the doctors and medical professionals that belong to those organizations are wrong. In addition, there has **ALWAYS** been an option to opt out (decline) vaccinations. Dr Nevin insinuates and uses speculation to say that St. Clair County Health Department used coercion when providing vaccinations to the public; however, he has not provided any evidence to support this claim. It is hearsay for Dr Nevin to write in a memorandum what happened during vaccine discussions when he did not work at SCCHD.

The Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) is a software program designed to record vaccines of Michigan residents. Michigan residents are provided with a Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) that provides vaccine information and informs the vaccine recipient of the record created in MCIR. Many people can't remember which vaccines they received. This software provides a vaccines records that **healthcare providers can use to provide clinical guidance and discussion with their patients**. The vaccine record from MCIR is also available for the vaccine recipient to help the individual keep track. Dr Nevin used a petty excuse of a software that sends overdue notices to the physician as a form of coercion.

In this memorandum, Dr Nevin's uses his past memorandums as support of his stance. Dr Nevin did not present any new evidence-based studies that support the safety and efficacy when making changes in the vaccine schedule. In fact, the memorandums that I have seen on every issue, only cite studies that support Dr Nevin's stance. A true professional provides pros and cons and allows the adult to make the choice. Dr Nevin compares our country to other countries that have universal health care. He is not comparing apples to apples. **Changes in**

**vaccine schedules should be made only where there is new evidence from evidence-based studies that demonstrate a change is needed.**

For decades before Dr Nevin was the medical director, St Clair County Health Department's staff and public health nurses have been a **trusted source to many residents and health professionals**. **Dr Nevin instills mistrust in public health and erroneously believes he speaks for the majority**. I am not sure **who funds his opinions**; however, he has restricted access to public health for many St. Clair County Residents. He refuses to trust nurses and nurse practitioners that have decades of evidence of safety and accreditation in the care they provided as public health staff. **He does not need more hours as a public health officer. His contract should not be renewed in July**. We need a medical director that can focus on the public health needs of St. Clair County not the special interest groups that fund him. **The advisory board should investigate facts and what all the other Michigan County Health Departments are doing. Why does Dr Nevin compare our SCCHD to other countries instead of comparing SCCHD vaccine recommendations to all the OTHER MICHIGAN County Health Departments?** Who funds Dr Nevin's Actions. Where is his Conflict of Interest Statement?

I urge the Advisory Board to follow the vaccine advice of **the entire American Academy of Pediatrics as well as all the experts at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services**. **How many of the Michigan county health departments are following the vaccine guidance from MDHHS?** Don't be misguided, by Dr Nevin. For decades, the SCCHD has provided informed choice and the ability to decline vaccinations. Do what is right for the county residents.

Thank you for your time,  
Respectfully submitted, A St Clair County resident  
Sharon Kortas, MSN, RN, CIC

**To:** SCC Board of Health <SCCBOH@stclaircounty.org>  
**Subject:** Please read at 1/21/26 meeting of the Advisory Board

Our current Medical Director of St. Clair County, MI, Dr. R. Nevin, recently sent out a two-page memo to the public that reads less like new medical guidance and more like a very loud reminder of something that was never in danger to begin with: the right to make your own health decisions. That principle has long been embedded in standard medical practice, informed consent, and Michigan law. Presenting it as though it's under siege feels less like reassurance and more like a carefully pitched dog whistle—alerting people to a threat that doesn't actually exist.

The memo circles the same point repeatedly, to the extent that one starts to wonder if the copy-and-paste function got stuck. Repetition, after all, is a classic rhetorical device: say something often enough and it begins to feel urgent, even if nothing has changed. But there is no new policy here, no new restriction, no new risk to personal autonomy—just the same message, echoed again and again, as if volume alone might turn routine medical ethics into a breaking news event.

What's notably absent is alignment with established, evidence-based guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Instead of collaboration with these trusted authorities, the memo positions itself as a kind of lone sentinel—standing watch over freedoms that were never threatened, while quietly stepping away from the consensus of the broader medical and public health community.

The tone suggests an effort to be seen as uniquely authoritative, rather than part of a coordinated system working toward shared public health goals. It's hard not to be reminded of an overlong résumé: impressive in its own way, but also raising the question of whether brevity—and collaboration—might better serve the audience.

Dr. Nevin is clearly intelligent and capable. That's precisely why this is so frustrating. I expected strong leadership from him, not childish games. Has he made an effort to meet and network with the physicians and other healthcare providers in our community? Public health works best when leaders work together, follow evidence, and communicate clearly—without sounding alarms for fires that aren't there. One can only hope that future communications focus less on signaling and more on substance. I ask that our Medical Director focus on his job more constructively. If he cannot provide our county with more substantial education and guidance, I ask that you consider terminating his contract before it ends this summer. He is not an asset for the public health of our county.

Sincerely,  
Debra Roberts, BSN, RN, IBCLC  
Burtchville Township