

2025

COUNTY HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL



Lancaster County

ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared By :

Kris Niehaus

Presented To :

County Commissioners



717-664-1207



[County Health Advisory Council](#)



HealthAdvisoryCouncil@lancastercountypa.gov

December 2025



Dear County Commissioners,

On behalf of the Lancaster County Health Advisory Council, I am pleased to present our 2025 Annual Report. This report summarizes our activities, progress, and ongoing efforts to support and advise on matters that impact the health and well-being of our community.

Our Health Advisory Council serves in collaboration with county leadership, public health professionals, and the residents of our county. Representatives from Public Health Preparedness, Penn Medicine, the Amish Safety Committee, Lancaster County Behavioral Health Developmental Services and the US Environmental Protection Agency are among the 2025 presenters.

Over the past year, our members—drawn from many areas of the community—have come together consistently to examine local health concerns, assess emerging data, share insights with public health partners, and explore ways to strengthen collaboration. We remain committed to supporting the county's ongoing work to promote a healthier, better-informed, and more resilient community.

We hope this report offers a clear understanding of our efforts and encourages continued communication and partnership across the county. We appreciate your engagement and value your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Kris Niehaus

Health and Medical Preparedness Coordinator

Emergency Management Division

Department of Public Safety

PO Box 219, Manheim, PA 17545

Phone: 717.664.1207 – Cell: 717.925.0564 Web: www.lancastercountypa.gov

Mission and Role of the Advisory Council

As established by the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners in Resolution No. 71 of 2021, the Lancaster County Health Advisory Council advises the Commissioners on matters of health emergency planning, and provides information, data analysis and recommendations on matters of community-wide health in Lancaster County. Specifically, the Advisory Council shall provide evidence-based advice on the detection, prevention and response to medical illnesses that may or do pose an emergent threat to the health of Lancaster County residents. The Council is solely a creation of the Commissioners and not established pursuant to the Local Health Administration Law (Act 315 of 1951). None of the provisions of the Local Health Administration Law apply to this Council.



2025 Health Advisory Council Members

Chairperson: Dr. Susanne Scott, Family Medicine Practitioner and Lancaster City and County Medical Society

Co-Chairperson: Dr. Bryan Cicuto, Plastic Surgeon with Plastic and Aesthetic Surgical Associates

- **Michael Bromirski**, Superintendent of Hempfield School District
- **Dr. David Gasperack**, VP and Regional Medical Director at WellSpan Health
- **Alisa Jones** (served from Jan-May), President and CEO of Union Community Care
- **Dr. Jeffrey Martin**, Chair/Associate Director Dept. of Family and Community Medicine at Penn Medicine (LGH)
- **Loren Miller**, Elizabeth Township Administrator
- **Dolores Reidenbach, R.N.**, Mental Health Counselor, Client Services Leader
- **Dr. Angela Sonon**, Senior Director of Quality, Safety and Medical Staff at Penn State Health
- **Kim Stonebraker**, Chair, Keystone HealthCare Coalition, Manager of Safety, Emergency Management at WellSpan Ephrata
- **Deborah Willwerth R.N.**, President UPMC Lititz



Meetings and Participation

January 3rd, 2025

Council Members present: Dr. Susanne Scott, Dr. Bryan Cicuto, Dr. David Gasperack, Deborah Willwerth, R.N., Loren Miller, Dr. Jeffrey Martin, and Dolores Reidenbach

Council Members absent: Michael Bromirski, Alisa Jones, Dr. Angela Sonon

Guests Present: Commissioner Ray D'Agostino, Commissioner Alice Yoder, Brian Pasquale, Kris Niehaus and Eugene Lengerich

Speakers: Eugene Lengerich from Penn State University

Topic(s):

- Overview of Public Health Preparedness at Penn State
- Graduate Programs and Mini Symposium at Penn State
- Q&A Discussion with Dr. Lengerich
- Accountability and Public Trust in Public Health



Meetings and Participation

March 7th, 2025

Council Members present: Dr. Bryan Cicuto, Michael Bromirski, Deborah Willwerth, R.N., Dr. David Gasperack, Loren Miller, Dr. Jeffrey Martin, Kim Stonebraker, Alisa Jones and Dolores Reidenbach

Council Members absent: Dr. Susanne Scott and Dr. Angela Sonon

Guests Present: : Kris Niehaus, Commissioner Ray D'Agostino, Commissioner Alice Yoder, Lucy Albright (LNP News), Dr. Jennifer Brubaker, Leah Shermeyer, Grace Lyman, Elizabeth Hivner, Meredith Lasolin.

Speakers: Dr. Jennifer Brubaker, Dr. Jeffrey Martin and Elizabeth Hivner from Lancaster Lead Coalition

Topic(s):

- Lead Poisoning and Community Collaboration
- Lead Free Families Program Overview
- Challenges and Successes of the Lead Free Families Program
- Impact of Lead Poisoning on Public Health
- Questions and Future Discussions



Meetings and Participation

April 23rd, 2025– Special meeting

Council Members present: Dr. Bryan Cicuto, Deborah Willwerth, R.N., Dr. Jeffrey Martin, Kim Stonebraker and Angela Sonon. Loren Miller and Alisa Jones attended virtually.

Council Members absent: Dr. Susanne Scott, Michael Bromirski, Dolores Reidenbach and Dr. David Gasperack.

Guests Present: Brian Pasquale, Michael Fitzpatrick, Kris Niehaus, Ed Chory, Dennis Dougherty, Lindsay Pringle, Cameron Zettlemyer, Luke Drexer, Evan Popalis, Kimberly Ibarra, Ashley Lundy, Dr. Michael Reihart and Lucy Albright

Topic(s):

- This special meeting was called by the council to address a confirmed case of measles in Lancaster County.
- Timeline of events and health advisories
- Healthcare Coalition and School Response
- Community wellness and protective measures
- First responder interface and public information
- Community strategy and vaccination outreach
- Expansion of health services and internal discussions



Meetings and Participation

May 2nd, 2025

Council Members present: Dr. Susanne Scott, Dr. Bryan Cicuto, Michael Bromirski, Deborah Willwerth, R.N., Loren Miller, Dr. Jeffrey Martin, Kim Stonebraker and Dolores Reidenbach

Council Members absent: Dr. David Gasperack, Dr. Angela Sonon and Alisa Jones

Guests Present: Kris Niehaus, Brian Pasquale, Commissioner Yoder, Lucy Albright (LNP News), Dr. Fenimore, Lindsay Pringle, Ed Chory and Jackie Pfursich

Speaker: Dr. Pia Fenimore from the Gun Safety Initiative at Penn Medicine/LGH

Topic(s):

- Firearm Safety Data and Initiative Details
- Community Engagement and Law Enforcement Collaboration
- Clinical Engagement and Provider Training
- School Engagement and Community Events
- Challenges and Future Plans



Meetings and Participation

July 11th, 2025

Council Members present: Dr. Susanne Scott, Dr. Bryan Cicuto, Deborah Willwerth, R.N., Dr. Jeffrey Martin, Kim Stonebraker and Dr. David Gasperack

Council Members absent: Michael Bromirski, Loren Miller, Dr. Angela Sonon and Dolores Reidenbach

Guest present: Kris Niehaus, Brian Pasquale, Lindsay Pringle, Shelly Dehoff, Lucy Albright (LNP News)

Speakers: Lindsay Pringle and Shelly Dehoff from the Amish Safety Committee

Topic(s):

- Overview of Lancaster County Amish Safety Committee
- Demographics and Challenges of the Amish Community
- Farm and Family Safety Days and Collaborative Efforts
- Home Health and Safety, Road Safety, and School Safety
- Challenges and Collaboration in the Amish Safety Committee
- Agricultural Emergency Preparedness
- Grain Bin Rescue Kits and Agricultural Emergency Response
- Mental Health and Agricultural Community



Meetings and Participation

September 5th, 2025

Council Members present: Dr. Bryan Cicuto, Deborah Willwerth, R.N., Dr. Jeffrey Martin, Kim Stonebraker, Loren Miller, Michael Bromirski and Dolores Reidenbach

Council Members absent: Dr. Susanne Scott, Dr. David Gasperack and Dr. Angela Sonon

Guests present: Kris Niehaus, Tania Maser (BHDS) and Lucy Albright (LNP News)

Speaker(s): Tania Maser from Lancaster County Behavioral Health and Developmental Service (BHDS)

Topic(s):

- BHDS Overview
- Core Programs
- Locations
- Data & Program Updates
- Social Media & Youth Mental Health
- Technology & AI – Discussion of AI impacts
- Community Resources



Meetings and Participation

November 7th, 2025

Council Members present: Dr. Susanne Scott, Dr. Bryan Cicuto, Dr. Jeffrey Martin, Kim Stonebraker, Loren Miller and Michael Bromirski.

Council Members absent: Dr. David Gasperack, Dr. Angela Sonon, Deborah Willwerth, R.N. and Dolores Reidenbach.

Guest present: Kris Niehaus, Chris Hurley and Brian Pasquale (DPS), Ashley Nilsen (EPA) and Lucy Albright (LNP News)

Speaker: Ashley Nilsen (US EPA)

Topic(s):

- Overview of EPA's Role and Authorities
- Day-to-Day Responsibilities and Coordination
- Public Health Authority's Role in Emergency Response
- Case Studies: Mercury Spill and Chlorine Release
- Coordination with Local and State Authorities



Awareness Campaigns

The following campaigns focused on educating the community about key health issues. The CHAC is committed to providing clear, accessible information so residents of Lancaster County can make informed decisions about their healthcare.



January

Norovirus



February

Avian Influenza



March

Measles



Summer

Extreme Heat



Priorities and Goals

In 2026, the Lancaster County Health Advisory Council will remain steadfast in its commitment to strengthening the health and well-being of our community, by focusing on the challenges that most directly impact all of our residents. Building on our previous efforts in addiction and mental health, we will expand our priorities to include the broader physical and epidemiological factors that shape health outcomes. By promoting prevention and increasing awareness, we aim to create sustainable improvements in community health. Through the ongoing exchange of data and information between healthcare providers, local leaders, and subject-matter experts, we will strengthen dialogue, broaden knowledge, and advance innovative, evidence-based solutions. Our goal is to ensure that Lancaster County is not only healthier today, but more resilient and prepared for the future.

