PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING
October 7, 2026

Committee Members Present:

1. Vanessa Fuentes, Chair
2. Marc Duchen, Vice- Chair
3. Ryan Alter
4. Jose Velasquez

Additional Council Members Present:

1. Krista Laine

Call to Order

Chairwoman Fuentes called the committee meeting to order at 10:00AM.

Public Communication: General

There were 8 speakers.

Approval of Minutes

1. **Approve the minutes for the September 2, 2026, meeting of the Public Health Committee**
   The minutes of the September 2, 2026, meeting was approved. The motion was made by Council Member Velasquez and seconded by Vice-Chair Duchen. The motion passed on a 4 – 0 vote.
2. **Approve the corrected minutes for the June 5, 2024; September 4, 2024; February 5, 2025; March 5, 2025; April 2, 2025; October 1, 2025; February 4, 2026, meetings and the May 22, 2024, Special Called Meeting of the Public Health Committee**.
   The corrected minutes were approved. The motion was made by Council Member Velasquez and seconded by Vice-Chair Duchen. The motion passed on a 4 – 0 vote.

Discussion and Possible Action

3. **Discussion and possible action on social services strategy that will include issue area, compliance, and policy discussion**
   The Committee were briefed by Daniel Culotta, Assistant Director; Kerri Lang, Director of Austin Budget and Organizational Excellence, and Assistant City Manager, Stephanie Hayden-Howard. The committee approved recommending to the full council, changes to the social services strategy. The motion was uploaded as backup. The motion was made by Chairwoman Fuentes and seconded by Council Member Velasquez. The motion passed on a 4 – 0 vote.

Briefing

5. **Briefing by Central Health on the Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026 Year of Access accomplishments, Fiscal Year 2026 - 2027 Budget investments highlights, and Mental Health Care Planning.**
   The Committee received a briefing from Dr. Pat Lee, President & CEO; Dr. Manuel Martin, Secretary of Central Health Board of Managers; Perla Cavazos, Chief Governance and Government Affairs Officer; Monica Crowley; Chief Strategy/Planning Officer & Senior Counsel, all from Central Health; Sydney Harris, Sr. Consultant from Health Systems Desi

Discussion and Possible Action

4. **Discussion and possible action regarding updates to the No Wrong Door initiative, a coordinated crisis response program, identifying permanent supportive solutions for high utilizers.**

   The committee received a briefing from Robert Kingham, Court Administrator for Austin Community Court and David Gray, Director from Austin Homeless Strategies and Operations. Three motions were uploaded and made to recommend changes to Council regarding the No Wrong Door Initiative. The first motion was made by Council Member Velasquez and seconded by Council Member Duchen. The motion passed on a 4 – 0 vote. The second motion was also made by Council Member Velasquez and seconded by Council Member Alter. The motion passed on a 3 – 1 vote, with Vice-Chair Duchen voting in opposition. The third motion was made by Chairwoman Fuentes and seconded by Council Member Velasquez. The motion passed on a 4 – 0 vote.

Future Items

6. **Identify items to discuss at future meetings.**

   Chairwoman Fuentes made note that in the November meeting, Homeless Encampment Management Strategy, Social Services, and an appointment to the Board of managers for Central Health.

Chairwoman Fuentes adjourned the committee meeting at 12:05 PM.

The minutes were approved on the 4th day of November 2026. The motion was made by Vice-Chair Duchen and seconded by Chairwoman Fuentes. The motion passed on a 3 – 0 vote, with Council Member Velasquez absent.