County Boards of Health

County Boards of Health (BOH) protect and promote public health. BOH places emphasis on educating community members on issues such as general health, maternal care, HIV/AIDS prevention, communicable diseases, and nutritious eating. BOHs also oversee the regulation of environmental health and regulating restaurants and businesses for compliance with health codes.

Joining the Board

BOH members are appointed by a county's Board of Commissioners. The board is comprised of eleven members including one county commissioner and community members with a range of professional backgrounds.

Time Commitment

Most BOHs set monthly or quarterly meeting times, depending on the needs of the county government. Weekly commitments vary. Members are encouraged to attend community activities that would benefit from their presence and strengthen the board's relationship with the community.

Appointment and Election process

For those interested in serving as a member of your local county BOH, applying may be as simple as checking postings in the local newspaper or county social media feed, or making a phone call. In larger counties, a more rigorous application process may be required.

Impact

Through having a diverse board of members, BOHs have a broad expertise on a variety of common community health problems. These boards have the authority and responsibility of creating rules and regulations to promote the public health of their communities.

Relevance to the Local Food System

BOH are the gatekeepers of the local policies that counties choose to take on in support of healthy eating

Terms of Service

The term of service for members, excluding the County Commissioner position, is three years. Members may be re-elected to serve up to three consecutive terms. Board members must be county residents,.

Member Spotlight

Michael Kilian serves on the board as an engineer perspective. He values the collaborative nature and the community service spirit of the board. Kilian's most rewarding experiences include assisting and mentoring Warren County Health Department Directors

"Board members need to have the public or the interest of the organization at heart and not be driven by any personal agenda. They need to be looking at the whole picture."
- Michael Kilian