

Winnebago County Public Health (WCPH) Department Board of Health Minutes



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Winnebago County
Health Department

Date: January 13, 2026 **Time:** 7:30 to 9:30 am

Location: In Person: David Albrecht County Administration Building 112 Otter Avenue, Oshkosh WI.

Virtual: Teams: [Join the meeting now:](#) **Meeting ID: 245 749 367 599**

Passcode: m7pmvv

Recordings of Winnebago County Meetings including Board of Health Meetings can be found on the Winnebago County Clerk You Tube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@winnebagocountywipublicmeeting>

WCPH staff: Send approved meeting notes in PDF form to: CountyClerk@winnebagocountywi.gov

Name of Board Member	In person Virtual Absent	Name of Board Member	In person Virtual Absent	Name of Board Member	In person Virtual Absent	Name of Board Member	In person Virtual Absent
Ralph Harrison	Absent	Lucas Reinke	X (in person)	Kate Hancock-Cooke	X (in person)	Kim Malouf	Absent
Denise Prehn, MD	X (in person)			Toby Vanden Heuvel	X (in person)	Kay Horan	X (in person)

WCPH staff/ Invited Guests/others in attendance (indicate V for virtual)					
Doug Gieryn	Jaci Grignon	Anne Boyce	Belinda DeGoey	Ashlee Rahmlow	Wanda Tracy
Koby Schellenger	Lynnsey Erickson V	Bev Slusarski V	Danielle Florence V		

Topic	Who	High level overview; Important discussion points; decisions. ONLY VOTES FROM MEMBERS ATTENDING IN PERSON CAN BE COUNTED. PLEASE INDICATE THIS IN THE NOTES.	Any action needed? By whom?
A. Call to Order	Chair	- Start Recording: 7:32 am by Kay Horan - Meeting called to order at by: Kay Horan at 7:32am ROLL CALL: - Names/number of in person: 5 members in person as written above - Name/number of Virtual: 0 board members appeared virtual	

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B. Roll Call	Chair	Do we have a quorum? Yes <i>ONLY THOSE PRESENT COUNT FOR QUORUM AND VOTING. PLEASE INCLUDE NUMBER OF YES, NO, ABSTAIN VOTES</i> •	
C. Public Comments	Public	None	
D. Approval of Minutes		• Motion to approve Board of Health meeting minutes from December 2025 in Civic Clerk. Kate Hancock- Cooke • Second by: Dr. Denise Prehn • Names/number Voting: Passed 5/0	

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E. Business Items		1. Budget Amendment: Acceptance of a HUD Lead Abatement Grant for \$4.4 M for Winnebago County Public Health. a. \$4.4 million over 4 years to create lead safe homes in Winnebago County. Funds will be used for lead abatement and staffing to create healthy indoor environments for children and families. Funding allows WCPH to double current capacity and includes a full-time position to oversee the grant and work. b. Lucas Reinke: Move to accept budget amendment, Second by Kate Hancock- Cooke c. Discussion and explanation of budget and process d. Kay Horan called for Vote. Passed. 5/0 2. Table or Organization Change for Public Health: Add one Lead Abatement Program Coordinator. a. Move to accept by Kate Hancock- Cooke, Second by Lucas Reinke b. Discussion: Reiteration that the position is dependent upon acceptance of grant funds. c. Friendly amendment offered by Kate Hancock Cooke: Amend Resolution: Table of Organization Change for Public Health to amend line 32 to state, "that it hereby approves adding one Lead Abatement Project Coordinator position funded by the HUD Grant, to the Table of Organization." i. Vote on friendly amendment: Passed. 5/0 ii. Resolution as amended: Passed. 5/0	

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F. Director's Report	Doug	1. Operational Updates from Public Health Divisions: Administration (Admin): - Welcome Alyssa Ferlo as our new Administrative Associate III. Today is her first day. - Continuing to work on the Annual Report and Tri- County Community Health Improvement Plan Communicable Disease (CD): Illness Report – Wisconsin (Saturday, January 3rd) - Respiratory Illness - Influenza: Activity remains very high but may be decreasing in Wisconsin (currently 28.4%, down from 37.9%). - RSV: Low activity (2.0%) and stable across the state. - SARS-CoV-2: Moderate activity (6.9%) and increasing in Wisconsin. - For the current 2025–2026 influenza season, the CDC has reported 17 influenza-associated pediatric deaths as of the week ending January 3, 2026, with elevated flu activity nationwide. This follows a severe 2024–2025 season, which saw a record high of 289 pediatric deaths, underscoring the serious risks influenza poses to children. - Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCFs): Experiencing a significant increase in respiratory illness, primarily due to influenza, with some COVID-19 cases reported. Overview of HHS Proposal (<i>HHS Immediate Release – January 5, 2026</i>) - The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) continues to recommend the evidence-based childhood vaccine schedule published by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Additional Updates - Currently collaborating with DHS to gather more information on local salmonella cases that may be linked to a multi-state outbreak. - The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program compliance visit, previously noted at our last meeting, was canceled and has been rescheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2026 Community Health and Prevention (CHP): - WPP grant went to P&F last week and passed 3-2 and will go to County Board on 1/ 20/26.	
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		• We Heart You Event will occur on March 4, 2026. Registration is free. • Engaging in Statewide partnerships to determine both statewide and local strategies for food security that may be applicable in Winnebago County. Environmental Health (EH): • Lead program - 1 project starting next week, 2 projects with start dates TBD, 3 projects are out for bid. • Sanitarian program - 1 new Tattoo establishment in Oshkosh. 1 tourist rooming house in Oshkosh and one in Winneconne. • January is Radon Awareness month: we are selling radon test kits for \$5 for the month of January (\$10 after). Following an interview on Fox 11, 53 kits were sold at the Oshkosh Farmers Market. We will have staff at the farmers market 1/17 to sell kits. Healthy Lifespan (HLS): No Report Women, Infant and Children (WIC): • Caseload count for November was decreased from October which is expected due to the holidays with increased no show rates and less clinic days. • Unduplicated number of participants for 2025 is 3621 individuals. 2024 unduplicated participation was 3647. • Reviewed that WIC participants interact with WIC staff 4 times per year with 1-2 of them being in person visits. • Reviewed highlights of new federal food guidance including limiting processed foods and added sugars while highlighting whole foods and full fat dairy and meat. Concerns with maintaining 10% or less of intake from saturated fats with whole fat dairy and meat. 2. Review of Income Statement December 2025: posted on Civic Clerk	

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G. Communicati on Shared by BOH	All	Feb 10 meeting conflicts with WCA legislative forum and BOH may not have quorum. Board decided to skip the February meeting. Discussion about citizen- involved boards and the benefit of allowing for virtual participation and voting.	
H. Next Meeting	Board Chair	- Next tentative meeting will be: March 10, 2026 - The Board of Health typically meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month unless an additional meeting is needed at 7:30 am	
I. Adjourn	Board Chair	- Motion to adjourn at (time) by: Lucas Reinke - Second Toby VandenHeuvel Names/number of Voting: Passed. 5/0	

Mission:

Winnebago County Public Health protects and promotes health through services, partnerships and equitable practices and policies so all can live their best life.

Vision: Healthy people building thriving communities.

Please send it to the County Clerk at CountyClerk@winnebagocountywi.gov as they work with IT to post everything. These will then be posted on the COUNTY PUBLIC MEETINGS YOUTUBE CHANNEL.