

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



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

Date: March 10 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/@winnebagoountywipublicmeeting>

WCPH staff: Send approved meeting notes in PDF form to: CountyClerk@winnebagoountywi.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	person	Lucas Reinke	person	Kate Hancock-Cooke	person	Kim Malouf	virtual
Denise Prehn, MD	person			Toby Vanden Heuvel	person	Kay Horan	absent

WCPH staff/ Invited Guests/others in attendance (indicate V for virtual)					
Doug Gieryn	Jaci Grignon	Anne Boyce	Belinda DeGoey	Ashlee Rahmlow	Wanda Tracy
			Sarahjean Schluechtermann (v)		
	Alex R. (v) UIW-O Nursing student	Tracy Gehrke (v)	Addie Witthun (v) UW-O nursing student	Koby Schellenger	

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: 7:31 am - Meeting called to order at by: Ralph Harrison ROLL CALL: - Names/number of in person: members in person as written above: Ralph Harrison, Lucas Reinke, Kate Hancock-Cooke, Toby Vanden Heuvel, Denise Prehn. - Name/number of Virtual: Kim Malouf	
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>	

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C. Public Comments	Public	Kate Hancock-Cooke: shared updates from the county board of supervisor re: Sheriff Dept agreement with ICE. Shares that Sheriff reports 17 people placed in detention; 10 people were turned over to ICE. 228 bookings in total of people not born in the U.S. 2.5% rate. No clarity from the sheriff what their position is if/when ICE shows up in our area. The Judicial and Public Safety Commission would like to hear if staff hear if ICE is in the area given the PH staff work with populations at risk.	
D. Approval of Minutes		Motion to approve Board of Health meeting minutes from January 13th 2026 in Civic Clerk. Lukas Reinke Second by: Toby Vanden Heuvel - Names/number Voting: 5 in favor present (all present)	
E. Business Items		1. Amend Ordinance Ch 11.11 Appendix A - Sanitarian Fee Schedule for 2026 – 2027. a. The fee schedule is established by reviewing what other county's fee schedule are, what the state required reimbursement/statement license fee, are etc. New Fee schedule represents a 2.5% increase. WCPH tries to keep the cost down and our fees are usually lower than what the state charges. b. The new requirement to license tourist rooming houses (air bnb) does require more labor time. c. This will cover all of the expenses of the cost of the program. Charging far less than what the state would charge if they were doing this. Public receives local service, staff are readily available to establishments; ready to address outbreaks; staff provides education. Motion to approve: Denise Prehn; Second: Toby Vanden Heuvel Vote: all present in favor (5-0). Ralph Harrison, Denise Prehn, Toby Vanden Heuvel, Lucas Reinke, Kate Hancock-Cooke.	Cost Analysis to be prepared for County Board of Supervisors

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F. Director's Report	Doug 1. Review of 2025 income statement and YTD 2026 income statement. 2. Operational Updates from Public Health Divisions: Working with County HR to finalize that job description for the HUD/Lead position and the two Shared Resource Service Project Employees (Epi and Communications). We remain with one vacancy on the TO for a community Health Strategist. Otherwise, the dept is fully staffed. Administration (Admin): • Public Health Week update • Organizational Branding Guide • Tri County CHIP, in progress • Air quality grant work • Unhoused population hazardous weather sheltering plan Communicable Disease (CD): Illness Report – Wisconsin (Data for week of: February 22, 2026-February 28, 2026) • Respiratory Illness ○ Influenza: Overall decreasing (18.9% from 20.3 %). Influenza B increased: 14.1% and Influenza A decreasing at 4.8%. ○ RSV: High activity (9.4%) and increasing across the state. ○ SARS-CoV-2: Low activity (5.5%) and decreasing in Wisconsin. • Current 2025–2026 influenza season: CDC reports 90 influenza-associated pediatric deaths for week ending February 28, 2026. Note: annual counts of reported pediatric flu deaths likely underestimate of true burden. Not all children with influenza are tested; some may only be tested later in their illness, at a point when the virus can no longer be reliably detected from respiratory specimens. 2025 WI Vaccination Rate Data Now Available - Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) Vaccination Rate Maps, 2025 • Child Series (24 mo. Old) - WI 66.9% and Winnebago 69.0% • MMR (24 Mo Old) - WI 79.8% and Winnebago 81.1% Measles: Attended UW Oshkosh measles planning with UWO Student Health Center Legionella: Supporting local facility to investigate and mitigate legionella. Requires coordination with DHS and Environmental Health along with site Facilities and Infection Prevention	
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		Community Health and Prevention (CHP): • Badger State Advocacy Day: March 17, Affordable Housing Advocacy • Provided affordable housing education during rezoning discussions ahead of Neenah Common Council approval of rezoning of mixed- use workforce housing using WHEDA Housing Tax Credits. • We Heart You Event was successful, Presentations by staff, continuing to seek funding for OFR activities • Recent Breakwater article in Oshkosh Herald • Continue to work with Solutions Recovery to support sustainable funding • Moving forward with WPP grant but moving positions to OASD to increase ease of access into schools and sustainability • State Physical and Nutrition Grant awarded Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods to gain community input on barriers and successes on students having reliable and safe access to school. Environmental Health (EH): • Lead Program: 2 Abatements in progress, 1 Ready for Abatement, 4 projects out for bidding, 1 just accepted into the program • Sanitarian Program: 3 new Tattoo establishments, 1 Tourist rooming house, 1 Indian food truck Conducting routine inspections, starting the 2nd school inspections. Walked through 3 establishments post fire to assess reopening. • Environmental Program: • Sent in 1 Bat to State Lab for testing – tested negative for rabies • Investigated a rat bite and discussed with the state rabies prophylaxis. • Conducted environmental health investigation in coordination with the State EPI/Plumber - water sampled and sent to SLH for testing – results are pending Healthy Lifespan (HLS): • Lindsey Uecker attended Nursing Advocacy Day at the capitol (2/24/26) representing WPHA Nursing Section; was able to talk to many of the 800+ attendees interested in learning more about careers in public health. • An MOU has been signed with Oshkosh Fire Dept to review/analyze fall data from 2025; next we'll strategize interventions to improve triage process and track progress.	
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		- Applying for a DHS Maternal Mental Health Innovation grant, up to \$4,000 to hold local focus groups on maternal mental health. - Wisconsin Association Lactation Consultants (WALC) Conference hosted in Oshkosh March 5-6 and led by WCPH staff. - Celebrating the Medicaid Expansion (from 60 days to 1 year) passed for Maternal Health in Wisconsin: Wisconsin moves to expand postpartum Medicaid coverage Women, Infant and Children (WIC): no report.	
G. Communicati on Shared by BOH	All	Ralph Harrison asked a question about the number of homes needed in our community. It seems that homes are being built but are they affordable? Ralph thanked the staff for the good work stating he is nearing the end of his term and appreciates how much he has learned throughout his tenure. Encourages county board supervisors to be involved.	
H. Next Meeting	Board Chair	- Next tentative meeting will be: April 14th, 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: Ralph Harrison - Second: Lukas Reinke Names/number of Voting: all present 5-0. Ralph Harrison, Lucas Reinke, Kate Hancock-Cooke, Denise Prehn, Toby Vanden Heuvel	

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.

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