

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



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

Date: May 12, 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
Kate Hancock-Cooke	In person	Brenda Pluchinsky	In Person	Bob Poeschl	In Person		
Shiloh Ramos	In Person	Lucas Reinke	Absent				
Kim Malouf	Virtual	Denise Prehn, MD	In Person	Toby Vanden Heuvel	In Person		

WCPH staff/ Invited Guests/others in attendance (indicate V for virtual)					
Anne Boyce	Ashlee Rahmlow	Wanda Tracy	Heidi Keating	Shelley Brown Giebel	Sarahjean Schleuchtermann
Jaci Grignon (V)	Bev Slusarski (V)	Cassie Gregor	Conley Hanson (V)	Lynnsey Erickson (V)	Doug Gieryn
Don (V)	Alana Erickson (V)				

TOPIC	WHO	HIGH LEVEL OVERVIEW/IMPORTANT DISCUSION POINTS
A. Call to Order	Chair	- Start Recording: 7:30am - Meeting called to order at by: Doug Gieryn, Organizational Meeting ROLL CALL: - Names/number of in person: Brenda Pluchinsky, Kate Hancock- Cooke, Shiloh Ramos, Denise Prehn, Bob Poeschl, Toby Vanden Heuvel - Name/number of Virtual: Kim Malouf (V)
B. Roll Call	Chair	Do we have a quorum? Yes - Name/number of Virtual: 7 - Names/number of Absent: 1

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TOPIC	WHO	HIGH LEVEL OVERVIEW/IMPORTANT DISCUSION POINTS
C. Public Comments	Public	None
D. Approval of Minutes		• Motion to approve minutes from BOH meeting March 10, 2026 (included in CIVICCLERK) Toby VandenHeuvel • Second by: Denise Prehn • Names/number Voting breakdown. Passed. All (7) in favor.
E. Business Items		1. Election of Officers a. Chair: Hancock- Cooke nominates Shiloh Ramos, Pluchinsky seconds, all in favor: Ramos accepts b. Vice Chair: Hancock- Cooke nominates Toby VandenHeuvel, second by Pluchinsky, VandenHeuvel accepts, All in favor. c. Secretary: Poeschl self nominates, VandenHeuvel seconds, all in favor. 2. Determine Meeting Dates and Location for Future BOH meetings. a. Survey conducted and board was provided with a calendar of top responses alongside other relevant county meetings b. Hancock- Cooke offered that evening meetings increase transparency for the public c. Suggestion to consider: First Thursday from 11-1pm at DAB 120 i. Motion: Pluchinsky, Second VandenHeuvel, All in Favor 3. Approval of Budget Amendment in the amount of \$158, 913 for the Wisconsin Partnership Program Community Impact Grant a. Motion to discuss: Hancock Cooke, Second Pluchinsky b. Discussion: Ramos yielded floor to Director Gieryn and staff to explain amendment. Finance never entered the initial amendment into the public health budget, so this appears as a new amendment rather than a transfer. Discussions about the positions with OASD (Oshkosh area school district) resulted in a decision for OASD to hire rather than public health. This will allow the positions to be more fully embedded in school, grant greater access to technology and increase potential for sustainability with school district beyond pilot period. c. Pluchinsky suggests presentation at special orders meeting with brief explanation of program with explanation of the need for the change to the school district d. Vote: All in favor

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F. Director's Report	Doug	1. Review of Income Statement a. Director Giernyn reviewed the income statement and highlighted that public health represents approximately 3% of the total County levy. Also highlighted the 2025 Annual Report. 2. Board of Health Orientation a. Board of Health Toolkit available on the website b. Annual Report c. Organizational Chart and introduction to each of the public health divisions area of work 3. Operational Updates from Public Health Divisions: Administration (Admin): • Shared Regional Service Multi-Media and Public Relations position filled. Katy Compton. Shared Regional Service Epidemiologist position, June 1st start date. These are limited term project employees, housed in our department but serving the Northeast Public Health Region (19 LHD's across 17 counties). • Emergency Preparedness and Communication Flood Update: ○ Attended all flooding response calls and contributed to the County flooding response in assistance with messaging, social media posts/events for community resources, and contributed content to the County's Flood Response Guide. • 2025 Annual Report has been submitted to the state. • University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute instructors led training on Communications at our all-staff meeting. This is part of our ongoing Strategic Plan initiative to build visibility and understanding of Public Health in our community. Communicable Disease (CD): • Respiratory Illness: Wisconsin (Apr 26–May 2, 2026) ○ Influenza: very low & decreasing at 1.8% (down from 2.7%); Influenza B at 1.7% and Influenza A at 0.1%. ○ RSV: low & decreasing at 3.0% (down from 4.9%). ○ SARS-CoV-2: very low & stable at 0.8% (down from 1.0%). ○ Pediatric influenza deaths: 158 reported nationally this season; CDC notes this is an underestimate due to limited testing. ○ Rhinovirus/enterovirus - most frequent cause of the common cold and are a common viral trigger for asthma attacks - annual spring rise in cases. • GI Illness ○ Two suspected gastroenteritis outbreaks investigated with DHS Enterics; limited interviews and no specimens collected. Restaurant involved was receptive to workflow improvements.
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	○ Two Salmonella Litchfield cases linked to each other but not to a multistate outbreak identified. Follow-up ongoing. ● Tuberculosis – 2 suspect Tuberculosis cases have been ruled out in the past month ● Hantavirus – Andes Virus HAN Advisory ○ New global cluster: eight cases (six confirmed, two suspected) linked to an international cruise ship; three deaths. ○ Person-to-person transmission possible: Andes virus only hantavirus known to spread this way; requires close, prolonged contact. U.S. risk remains extremely low. ○ Cruise ship exposure: 147 passengers from 23 countries; U.S. travelers being repatriated to Nebraska for monitoring. ○ Clinical considerations: HPS may resemble influenza early; symptomatic individuals are infectious; early supportive care (including ECMO) improves survival. ○ CDC guidance: Airborne isolation, exposure assessment/diagnostic testing; rule out common respiratory, febrile illnesses. ● Measles – Communications. Wanda Tracy, prepared a Measles webpage ready to go live if measles is detected in Winnebago Co. It has been reviewed by two CD PHNs ● Tickborne illnesses – will update next month ○ Anaplasmosis, babesiosis, ehrlichiosis, Lyme disease, Powassan virus infection, Rocky mountain spotted fever, Borrelia miyamotoi, and tularemia ○ Black legged tick most common followed by the American Dog tick, a few Lone Star. ○ Peak season is May to November, mild winters have created longer active seasons. ● Staff Update: Jennifer Zager is retiring, her last day is June 5. Community Health and Prevention (CHP): ● Hannah Wainio will receive the Spirit of Public Health Award at the Wisconsin Public Health Association Annual Conference next week Environmental Health (EH): ● Welcomed Cody, HUD funded lead abatement staff. ● Lead Program – 4 abatement jobs completed since March, 2 Risk Assessments completed and 12 projects are in different steps of the process ● Sanitarian Program – New establishments 2 pools, 4 Tourist rooming house licenses (Air BNB), Dirty Soda Mobile unit and 2 Food establishments licensed since last meeting ● Staff worked on flooding support – water testing kit handout, answered calls from 211 regarding mold, water testing, etc., conducted assessments with EM in Wolf River
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Healthy Lifespan (HLS):

- Family Child Health
 - Awarded \$4,000 for [MCH Innovation Grant Maternal Mental Health](#); Facilitated listening sessions by Jennifer Skolaski and Allison Laverty Montag (IBCLC, and 25+ years of relationships with new parents); WCPH supporting as a fiscal agent and admin support and referral/recruitment
 - Online Referrals utilization from partners double since last year this time; efficient and transparent communication across many agencies that may provide additional support (Healthcare, Human Services, Birth-to-3, Parent Connection, etc.) -
 - Many successful satellite events gaining consistency; Parent Resource Hours Oshkosh and Fox Crossing FD, Walk in Wednesdays (Hyde Center), MCI; community resource fairs / back to school fairs/ etc – bigger needs expected and fundraising as necessary
- Promoting Healthy Aging:
 - Fall Prevention- after a year of coordinating partners and analyzing data, partners, gaps, we have established an MOU to receive all fall events from OFD. In the last year we've recorded ~50 a month within the Oshkosh municipality alone. Next is establishing a protocol for triage and referral to partners. Want to make sure we're managing referrals consistently in a sustainable fashion. (Partners: Fire Department, EMS, ADRC, Senior Centers, YMCA, Emergency Room Managers, 2-1-1, Rebuilding Fox Valley)
 - Healthy Aging Team met with two different divisions of ADRC/Human Services to build relationships, explain services, and improve collaboration (4/22 & 4/28)
 - [Tri-County Living Well SWOC Survey](#) (LHDs: Calumet / Outagamie / Winnebago / Menasha / Appleton)
 - Each Department (COW LHDs) is participating in a Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Concerns alongside DHS to lead our strategic planning for PHA work in the NER. Bringing in familiar partners and doing our best to align with the Tri-County CHIP.
 - A lot of momentum around Fall Prevention and Social Connection
 - Monitoring other risk factors, we're seeing with seniors in our area (mental health, housing, financial wellness/fraud)
 - Wellness Plus – Evidence Based Classes for aging adults: [Wellness Plus - Healthy Aging Classes | Winnebago County, WI](#)
 - From 2024 to 2025, the number of classes increased by 19%

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		▪ From 2024 to 2025, the number of registered participants increased by 22% ▪ From 2024 to 2025, the number of new participants to any wellness plus programs (never before registered) increased by 37.5% ▪ Public Health - Wellness Plus Class Highlights.pdf - All Documents ▪ Wellness Plus Class Highlights - Map ○ Housing Authority (annual contract to offer one PHN to support clients across the 7 locations); Walking with a Nurse efforts starting to engage residents in a healthy environment encouraging questions and building trust. • Wisconsin Well Woman Program ○ 2025 Year in Review ○ 🔄 WWWP team had 44 re-enrollments in April. Historically we see 20-35 per month. Strengthening partnerships with referral agencies, more outreach (Araceli a jack of all trades at family events), and improved communication (texts vs mail) avenues are paying off and adding efficiency.
G. Communication Shared by BOH	All	Dr. Prehn interested to know if the City of Menasha and the County have had any recent discussions about consolidation. Chair Ramos and Director Gieryn will communicate with the County Board chair about the special orders meeting request
H. Next Meeting	Board Chair	• Next tentative meeting will be: June 4, 2026 at 11am •
I. Adjourn	Board Chair	• Motion to adjourn at (time) by: Pluchinsky • Second by Poeschl • Names AND number of Voting breakdown: All in favor. Adjourned at 9:16am

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