



MEETING MINUTES

Committee: Board of Health
Date: Wednesday, January 8, 2025
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: Health Care Center Board Room, Health Care Center

The Committee held the following discussion at the meeting detailed above:
 Cell phones to be silenced.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Mayr.
2. Recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Recognize members to be excused.** Motion by Bauknecht, second by Dr. Nielsen to excuse Baumgartner, Zagar, and Dr. Snider. All ayes, motion carried.

BOH COMMITTEE		
Name	Role	Status
Todd Mayr	Chairman	Present
Benjamin Baumgartner	Member	Absent
Roy Dieck	Member	Present
Zack Zagar	Member	Absent
Andrew Bauknecht	Member	Present
Dr. Jeffrey Nielsen	At-Large Member	Present
Dr. Andrew Snider	Medical Advisor	Absent
Katie Snipp	At-Large Member	Present
Non-Committee Members Present		
Name	Interest	
John Zenkovich	DSS/Health Director	
Meghan Williams	Public Health Officer	
Jean Turunen	Public Health Nurse	
Darlaen Jansen	Unified School District of Antigo- School Nurse	
Judy Popelka	Citizen	
Becky Rank	Deputy County Clerk, Recording Secretary	

4. **Approve previous BOH minutes of November 13, 2024:** Motion by Bauknecht, second by Dr. Nielsen to approve the previous meeting minutes of November 13, 2024. All ayes, motion carried.
5. **Public requests for items to be added to future meeting agendas:** None.
6. **Health Department budget:** DSS/Health Director Zenkovich stated the 2024 budget will stay in the green, there are some adjustments and bills that need to be entered but overall the budget looks good. The 2025 budget just started, no new updates. Zenkovich discussed with the Committee how some of the grant cycles work. Information only.

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- 7. Health Department Update:** Public Health Officer Williams presented the Committee with a written report. Williams stated the Community Health Specialist Position has been filled. Alec Tennesen started on December 9, 2024. Williams stated the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) grant has been extended through December 2025, and any remaining funds will need to be spent by December 31, 2025. All 2024 grants have been completed, continuing to work with Aspirus on the Community Health Needs Assessment, and results will be shared once available. Received Immunization WI Grant for \$24,658. The focus will be assessing the factors influencing and attributing to vaccine hesitancy and addressing the hesitancy, and will also focus on identifying communication strategies. Williams updated the Committee on the Environmental Health DNR TNC Water Program, that 107 facilities in the DNR TNC program require annual testing and site visits or sanitary surveys. As of December 31, 2024, all facilities have been tested for bacteria and nitrates. Williams updated the Committee on the Environmental Health DATCP Licensing Program, stating that 33% of inspections have been completed for the licensing year (July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025). Williams gave an update on communicable diseases, seeing an increase in Pertussis (whooping cough), continuing to see STI cases, and waterborne and vector-borne diseases that require follow-up. The Health Department will be hosting a COMET training on January 24th from 10:00-11:30 a.m. The COMET training is “Recognizing that mental health functions on a spectrum”. COMET teaches people how to intervene when they encounter someone who is in a “vulnerable space” and helps shift the person’s mental health trajectory back to a place of wellness instead of proceeding towards a mental health crisis. COMET helps fill a gap and is a strong complement to other strategies to reduce the suffering resulting from the high levels of stress in rural, agricultural communities. The Health Department’s goal is that COMET will be another strategy people can use in addition to Credible Mind and other resources. Information only.
- 8. Legislative Updates:** Public Health Officer Williams presented the Committee with a handout on the WPHA WALHDAB 2025-2026 Policy Agenda. Williams stated she would like Committee support to advocate for the needs of Langlade County. Williams read the four policy priorities that will be discussed: Prioritize funding for local and tribal health departments to carry out essential and mandated public health responsibilities and services; Funding for community-based organizations, local and tribal health departments, and hospitals to address community-specific health gaps based on community health needs assessments; Support the recruitment and retention of the public health workforce in Wisconsin; Assuring public health authority for control of communicable diseases and other public health threats.

Williams discussed upcoming revisions to ATCP 72 which regulated the licensing and inspection of Hotels, Motels, and Tourist Rooming Houses. Williams stated this would be an opportunity for the BOH Committee to have input on legislation as these are not updated very often. There will be a public hearing in which comments can be submitted. Williams asked for Committee approval for herself, DSS/Health Director Zenkovich, and Environmental Health Specialist King to draft and submit a letter regarding changes to be brought forward for discussion and review at this Public Hearing. The committee approves Williams, Zenkovich, and King to submit a letter regarding comments and concerns on behalf of the BOH Committee. Information only.

Discussion on: water testing requirements, lab capacity both locally and across the state, changes to the licensing categories and fee structure, and safety measures.
- 9. Jean Turunen, Public Health Nurse, Program Update:** Public Health Nurse Turunen updated the Committee on the highlights of communicable disease monitoring. Turunen stated she is the backup on the immunization program. Turunen stated she is the chair for the Mental and Wellbeing Collation. Turunen stated she will be attending the Bar League meeting, handing out costers and fliers promoting the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Program and the Creditable Mind

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Program. Turunen updated the Committee on the Family Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention, stating in 2024 there were 202 children tested for elevated lead levels in Langlade County, in 2023 it was 152. Out of the 202 tested, 13 children had elevated blood lead levels. Turunen discussed the process the Health Department has to take when elevated levels are detected. Information only.

- 10. School Updates:** Unified School District of Antigo School Nurse Jansen updated the Committee, stating in the Antigo School District they are seeing lots of upper respiratory illness, seeing more untreated cases. Jansen stated she is also seeing GI issues, stating peppermint lifesavers have helped with symptoms. Jansen is happy to announce those showing positive with COVID-19 have been staying home for the recommended 5 days. Jansen stated she completed CPR training in the classroom with students and the sports coaches. Jansen stated the Antigo School District is considered a Health Health School District. Jansen updated the Committee on lice within the schools, stating children are not sent home anymore. Jansen stated she and the schools are working with families on education, and if needed, lice prevention products. Information only.

New Business:

- 11. Appoint 2 at-large Board of Health members to 2-year terms:** At the November 13, 2024 BOH Meeting the Committee members in attendance made a recommendation to appoint 2 at-large Board of Health Members, due to lack of quorum the recommendation was not acted upon at that meeting. Motion by Bauknecht, second by Mayr to appoint Dr. Jeff Nielsen and Katie Snipp to the Board of Health Committee as members at-large. All ayes, motion carried. The committee and those in attendance did introductions. Snipp gave the Committee her education and professional background. The committee welcomed Snipp to the Committee. Dr. Nielsen is a returning member. Information only.
- 12. Recognize service to the Board of Health by Judy Popelka:** DSS/Health Director Zenkovich thanked Judy Popelka for all of her years of service to the Board of Health Committee. Zenkovich stated Mrs. Popelka has shown a passion for maintaining good water quality and concern for the health needs of the rural areas in Langlade County. Mrs. Popelka shared with the Committee handouts she has collected over the years on water quality. A round of applause was given for Mrs. Popelka's years of service. Information only.

Old Business:

- 13. County Administrator Updates:** Not in attendance.
- 14. Set date for the next meeting: (March 12, 2025):** The next meeting will be March 12, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at the Health Care Center Boardroom.
- 15. Adjourn meeting:** Motion by Dr. Nielsen, second by Bauknecht to adjourn the meeting at 5:49 p.m. All ayes, motion carried.

Minutes submitted by:

Becky Rank, Deputy County Clerk, Recording Secretary