

**BOARD OF HEALTH COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 10, 2026**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Dan Hess, Debbie Condado (zoom), Billy Fried, Lenore Lopez

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Vice Chair William "Casey" Crump, Khrystyne Lindgren, Marcy Davies

STAFF PRESENT: Linda Conlon, Rebecca Wold, Robbie Deede, Melissa Bryner, Jennifer Tienhaara, Cherie Ceresero and Joneil Tess

OTHERS PRESENT:

Call to order: Chair Hess called the meeting to order at 9:00am on the second floor of the Health & ADRC Building, 100 W. Keenan Street, Rhinelander, WI. The meeting was posted in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law and the facility is handicap accessible.

Approval of agenda: Motion by Fried/Lopez to approve today's agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion to move around. All ayes; motion carried.

Minutes of January 13, 2026 & February 10, 2026: Motion by Fried/Lopez to approve the January 13, 2026 and February 10, 2026 Board of Health Committee minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

Public Comment/Communications: None

Introduction on Intern: Cheri Ceresero: Wold introduced Ceresero, a student with Grand Canyon University, as the department's new nursing intern who will be working with the department for the next 10 weeks. Ceresero introduced herself and she is an RN currently working with geriatric population and lives in Eagle River.

2025 Annual Report: Conlon said we are going to start with Immunization and move on to the car seat program.

Bryner introduced herself and reviewed the Immunizations 2025 Annual Report pages. She also reviewed the Vaccines for Children (VFC) and Vaccines for Adults (VFA) programs. Bryner noted that this season the team was able to offer a larger variety of vaccines at community respiratory illness vaccine clinics during respiratory illness season, which runs from September through November. Conlon said businesses appreciate the additional vaccines offered, as many employees have difficulty taking time off work to get vaccinated. Conlon also mentioned that the department is often sought out by the state as a model for other health departments that want to begin billing for vaccination services. Bryner reviewed adolescent vaccination benchmarks, which have remained about the same, and noted that a catch-up clinic was held to help children get up to date on vaccines.

Bryner, Tienhaara, and Vos are certified car seat safety technicians and set aside a half day each week to provide car seat safety checks. Tienhaara shared that they attended the Minocqua Fire Department open house and are excited about an upcoming car seat technician class on April 20–23 involving the fire department, Aspirus, and Marathon County. The health department will help coordinate an event on April 23 so new students can complete their certification checks. Conlon noted there has been a shortage of car seat technicians in the Minocqua area. Bryner also explained that free car seats are available through a program for qualifying individuals, typically those who meet WIC income guidelines, and that the seats are intended for the child's permanent caregiver. While not everyone qualifies for a free car seat, free car seat safety checks are available to everyone.

Conlon explained that the annual report is intentionally detailed so it is easy for the public to read and understand.

Motion made by Hess/Lopez to approve the annual report as presented and forward in on to the County Board. All ayes; motion carried.

Monthly/Quarterly Reports:

Communicable Disease: Wold reviewed the quarter 4 of communicable disease report. Wold highlighted we tend to see more tick-borne illnesses in quarter 4.

Respiratory Illness: Wold and Deede reviewed Quarter 4 Communicable Disease Highlight for respiratory illness. In 2026, we will be expanding our data collection efforts to better understand flu- and COVID related hospitalizations, including a review of vaccination status among individuals who require hospitalization. Deede talked about the weekly syndromic surveillance done in schools which helps assess the overall health of the community.

Reaccreditation:

Conlon reported that the site visit for the department's PHAB accreditation process is scheduled for April 7. This marks the department's third review through PHAB. While most measures were already closed, a few remaining items required additional evidence and documentation to be submitted in preparation for the visit.

During the site visit, the review team will likely request to speak with some board members. The reviewers are expected to ask questions regarding department operations. Conlon noted that the accreditation process is lengthy, with documentation submission occurring every five years. The department anticipates learning in June whether it will be reaccredited.

PFAS Update: Conlon reviewed the testing numbers and results from the community PFAS testing. Discussion followed.

On Call Process: Conlon stated that the department has been reviewing and comparing the current on-call process with those used by other county departments. Conlon reviewed both the current and proposed processes, and discussion followed.

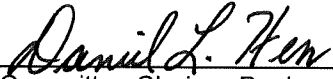
Motion by Hess/Condado to approve the on-call process and forward on to executive committee. 3 ayes; 1 nay (Fried); motion carried.

Vouchers, purchase orders, line item transfers and other fiscal matters:

Hess asked if everyone had reviewed the report. Conlon reviewed the 2025 & 2026 budgets, along with the invoices paid report. Conlon does not have any major concerns at this time. Hess noted the presentation of the vouchers, purchase orders, line item transfers.

Date and Agenda items for next meeting: Next meeting slated for Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 9am, PFAS, Reaccreditation, Out of State Staff Report from Linda Jerzak.

Public comment/communications: None



Committee Chair or Designee



Committee Secretary