**BOARD OF HEALTH COMMITTEE**
**MEETING MINUTES**
**July 14, 2026**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Dan Hess, Vice Chair William "Casey" Crump, Lenore Lopez, Robb Jensen, Ann Huntoon, Dr. Khrystyne Lindgren

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Sandy Hamburg

**STAFF PRESENT:** Linda Conlon, Rebecca Wold, Shelby Moore, Moriah Gross, Kallie Volk, Maddie Engebretsen and Joneil Tess

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

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**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 Jensen/Huntoon to approve today's agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion to move around. All ayes; motion carried.

**Minutes of June 9, 2026:** Motion by Crump/Lopez to approve the June 9, 2026 Board of Health Committee minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

**Public Comment/Communications:** None

**Introduction of New Introduction:**

**Kallie Volk** – Wold introduced Volk as one of our AHEC interns who is working on a number of projects. One of her big project is the community baby shower and family day.

Volk introduced herself and is from Three Lakes. She will be a senior at UW Milwaukee this year where she is majoring in kinesiology, with minors in chemistry and biology along with a pre-med emphasis. She is also working on Med One this summer.

**Mackenzie Troyer** – Wold introduced Troyer as our new finance technician. Troyer introduced herself. She is originally from New Jersey. Troyer graduated in 2019 from UW Superior with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Sustainable Management. Troyer, her husband and daughter currently live in Hazlehurst.

**Staff Reports:**

**FACT:** Moore introduced herself as the lead of the Northwoods Tobacco Free Coalition. Moore said Chiamulera is FACT coordinator but is stepping down and Moore will be taking over the position this next school year. Moore said they had a really passionate groups of kids this year. She reviewed the work the FACT program worked on this school year and mentioned the strong collaboration they have with James Williams Middle School.

**WINS:** Gross introduced herself as the Community Health Specialist and the lead for the Wisconsin Wins (WINS) program. She gave an overview of the program and its goal of preventing youth access to tobacco and nicotine products through compliance checks and retailer education. Gross reported that underage sales have increased in the counties served by the program, but Oneida County is currently on track with the state average. The goal is to continue improving and perform better than the state average.

Gross shared that a new round of compliance checks has started for the July–June fiscal year. She also recognized the strong group of 16 and 17 year olds who helped with the program this year and many will return for this next fiscal year. Retailers continue to receive resources such as ID reference cards, magnifying glasses, digital ID calendars, and scanners to help verify IDs. Gross explained that violations may result in citations to the business and trained clerk, with a $263.50 forfeiture in Oneida County that goes to the county's general fund.

**Tobacco:** Moore shared an update on the FACT program, which is part of the Northwoods Tobacco Free Coalition. She explained that building the current FACT group took about seven years. Students across the state participated in a survey, with over 100 local students sharing concerns about family and friend health, social isolation, and the impact of tobacco and vape marketing. The group chose to focus on social isolation this year and worked on ways to help students build connections with others.

Moore also discussed efforts to address vape use and disposal. Currently, there are no vape disposal locations in the Northwoods, with the closest option in Wausau. The program is working with Rhinelander and Lakeland Union High School districts and hopes to expand efforts with Three Lakes and local vape shops. Moore emphasized the importance of preventing youth from starting and providing support for those who want to quit. She also noted that school consequences for vaping vary by district and the program encourages non-punitive approaches that focus on education and support.

**Environmental Health:** Engebretsen introduced herself as an Environmental Health Specialist and reviewed her presentation on lake water quality. She shared that the department is testing five beaches this summer for E. coli and monitoring for harmful algal blooms (HABs). With warmer temperatures, algae blooms may become more common. Because it is difficult to tell if a bloom is toxic, the department focuses on public education. Residents can report algae blooms online or they can call the health department.

**Rural Health Transformation Grant**: Conlon shared information about a grant opportunity to support Community Health Workers (CHWs). She explained that CHWs are not case managers but work with individuals to connect them to services, including housing, mental health resources, and other community supports. This could help people who are unwilling to work with traditional case managers, especially those facing health hazards or homelessness.

Conlon provided an overview of a proposed regional and/or partnership with Human Services type of grant to support Community Health Workers. Discussion followed.

Jensen asked about the demand for the position and how the partnerships would work. Conlon explained that a Community Health Worker does not necessarily need a college degree, which may increase the number of applicants.

**2026 WIC LTE Expanded Hours**: Conlon requested an increase in WIC LTE clerk hours due to a staff member being out on extended FMLA leave. She explained that the additional hours are needed to help support WIC services and that funding is available through the WIC grant to cover the increase. The request is for an additional 276 hours.

Conlon noted that this request is outside of the regular budget process and will need approval from the Executive Committee. Motion by Jensen/Hess to approve the additional 276 LTE hours and

forward the request to the Executive Committee, contingent on the hours being covered by grant funding. All ayes; motion carried.

**2027 LTE Requests:** Conlon reviewed the 2027 LTE Requests. Discussion followed. Motion by Jensen/Hess to approve the 2027 LTE Requests and forward them to LRES and the Executive Committee. All ayes; motion carried.

**Strategic Plan**: Conlon shared that financial planning is an important part of the department's strategic plan. The goal is to increase financial stability by maintaining a diverse funding system. She explained that most of the department's budget does not come from tax levy and highlighted strengths such as strong billing practices, grant writing, and responsible financial management.

Conlon also discussed financial risks, including uncertainty with federal, state, and local grant funding. The department continues to look for ways to improve sustainability, such as serving as a fiscal agent for regional grants, expanding services, and reviewing billing and fee options. She noted that fees must be balanced with community needs. Discussion followed.

Conlon shared that the department's strategic plan includes six goals and objectives focused on long-term sustainability. The plan and supporting documents will be shared with the Board.

**PFAS:** Conlon shared that the DNR will no longer offer PFAS testing. When the testing was first available, participation was low. Interest has increased, but funding for the program is ending. Residents who received a testing letter and want to participate must pick up their testing kit by July 26 and return it by no later than August 2.

Conlon noted that Oneida County has not seen large PFAS impact areas like the Stella area, but there is PFAS scattered across the county UW has also sent letters to some residents for PFAS testing as part of a research study. The study may include both blood and water samples, and there are efforts to seek additional funding to expand the research.

Crump shared that a PFAS update meeting for Stella is being planned for September. A meeting notice will be sent out, and the department will also receive the final DNR testing report.

**Vouchers, purchase orders, line item transfers and other fiscal matters:**
Hess asked if everyone had reviewed the report. Hess noted the presentation of the vouchers, purchase orders, line item transfers.

**Date and Agenda items for next meeting:** Next meeting slated for Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 9am, Budget

**Public comment/communications:** None

Daniel L. Hess
Committee Chair or Designee

Joneil Tess
Committee Secretary