

**BOARD OF HEALTH COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
April 8, 2025**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Debbie Condado, Vice Chair Dan Hess, Billy Fried, Lenore Lopez, Khrystyne Lindgren (zoom), William Crump

COMMITTEE MEMBERS UNEXCUSED: Marcy Davies

STAFF PRESENT: Linda Conlon, Rebecca Wold, Robbie Deede, Melissa Bryner, Breanne Vos, Tina Meier and Joneil Tess

OTHERS PRESENT:

Call to order: Chair Condado 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/Crump to approve today's agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion to move around. All ayes; motion carried.

Minutes of March 11, 2025: Motion by Crump/Fried to approve the March 11, 2025, Board of Health Committee minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

Public Comment/Communications: None

Staff Reports:

Melissa Bryner & Breanne Vos – Car Seats: Bryner introduced herself as a public health nurse and certified car seat technician. Bryner shared that the Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) receives grant funding from the Department of Transportation to provide car seats at no cost to eligible families. Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians also offer car seat inspections, safety education, and installation demonstrations at no cost. Proper car seat installation is crucial for child safety, and OCHD is committed to offering these services to ensure correct installation and enhance community safety.

Wold said that while one has to qualify to receive a car seat at no cost, anyone can come to have their personal car seat inspected to make sure it is installed correctly. Conlon highlighted the importance of knowing that car seats are available and properly installed. Most car seats are installed incorrectly, so training is essential.

Bryner and Vos will be attending training in Antigo to earn continuing education units (CEUs) and will need to conduct a certain number of car seat checks to maintain their certification. They are also planning to hold an event in MSA to promote access

in that area. Additionally, OCHD will send another staff member to receive their car seat technician certification this month. They are also looking to host a class next year in Oneida County. Wold noted that in Oneida County, there are very few car seat technicians, but local fire departments, police officers, and social services are interested in training to learn how to install car seats properly. There has been a lack of classes in the area.

Bryner and Vos are looking into instructor training so help other local technicians maintain their certifications. However, they received news that half of their grant funding was cut due to federal budget cuts. Vos also mentioned that they purchased car seats this year, but because of the funding changes, they cannot buy any more car seats for the 2025 grant cycle.

Breanne Vos – Women, Infants & Children (WIC): Vos introduced herself as a public health nurse who took over as the WIC Director in 2023. Vos explained WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and community referrals. Vos reviewed the qualifications to enroll in WIC. For those who qualify, WIC provides supplemental nutritional food every month. Vos highlighted the strong partnerships WIC has with community organizations, especially Children's of Wisconsin.

Vos reviewed the 2024 annual report and reviewed goals for the program. In 2024, WIC hired a new breastfeeding peer counselor, secured a location for a satellite clinic in Minocqua at Holy Family, and made 124 referrals. The number of in-person appointments increased to 164, compared to none in 2023. Additionally, WIC has partnered with approved Farmers Market vendors to provide nutrition benefits, allowing qualifying families to use farmers market checks at approved vendors.

Vos reviewed the Fit Families program that allows families to choose goals they want to work on. Fit Families supports them by sending items like straws and cups each quarter to help them reach these goals along with monthly check ins to see how they are doing with their goals.

Discussion followed.

Monthly / Quarterly Reports:

Environmental Health: Meier introduced herself as an Environmental Health Technician. Meier explained she is in charge of doing the Tourist Rooming Housing (TRH) inspections. Meier explained that while she does the annual TRH inspections, an Environmental Health Sanitarian is required to do them every five years. Conlon mentioned this was a great opportunity to have someone handling

TRH inspections and DNR water test collections. Conlon also shared that Meier has reorganized how inspections and collections are done.

Meier explained the steps involved in conducting TRH inspections. Conlon reminded everyone that these are DATCAP requirements and statutes, which are in place for the safety of people staying in these housing rental units.

Respiratory Illness: Deede reviewed the newly updated pages about respiratory illnesses on the Wisconsin Department of Health Services website. Deede pointed out that there are several pages and trackers that provide an overall snapshot of what is happening in the community. These pages break down the information into multiple views, giving a clearer picture of what is being observed in the area.

Measles Update: Deede gave an update on the measles situation in the United States. The number of cases is updated weekly on the CDC website. Many of the current measles cases are related to travel and there is a large outbreak in Texas. The health department has reviewed what has been happening nationally and is preparing for what to do if there's an outbreak locally. Conlon said they are actively training staff on the health department's response protocols.

Dr. Lindgren asked if the health department is offering measles vaccines for children and adults. Dr. Lindgren confirmed that the MMR vaccine is available for kids through both VFC and private pay at the clinic. However, MMR is not covered at the clinic for adults on Medicare, so many adults are getting vaccinated at pharmacies instead. Conlon said that OCHD offers VFC (Vaccines for Children) program vaccines and they are looking into purchasing vaccines for adults. Conlon mentioned the health department is getting a lot of questions from grandparents who are concerned.

Conlon mentioned a recent power outage led to the loss of some vaccines. The loss falls below the insurance deductible and is therefore not covered. This event has prompted a closer look at vaccine costs, storage risks, and the reliability of our systems.

There are ongoing concerns with our power backup and monitoring systems. Although we have tools like Sensaphone and Per Mar in place, they did not perform as expected during the outage. The backup generator failed to activate, the internet went down, and staff were unable to access the building. These gaps exposed vulnerabilities in both our equipment and our response protocols.

We are currently taking corrective steps, including reviewing our monitoring processes and exploring options for secure building access during emergencies. We are also considering a more robust, layered approach to power and equipment monitoring to avoid future losses. Hess recommended having the generator being checked once a month.

Fried recommended reaching out to vendors about potential product failures and exploring compensation options. Conlon stated that the health department remains committed to strengthening system reliability and is considering an after-action review to capture key lessons and enhance future preparedness efforts.

ANDA Contract: Wold mentioned there were concerns with contract language initially which the vendor would not change. . However, after further review and discussion, OCHD was given permission by the vendor to fill out the application without signing or agreeing to problematic sections of the application. Conlon mentioned working with ANDA will allow them to make purchases at a better price with more options available. Conlon added that they reached out to other health departments in the state to see who is using ANDA and what their experience has been. There were no noted concerns. No contract needs to be signed.

Reaccreditation Update: Conlon explained that all documents need to be uploaded by the beginning of September. It can take a long time to gather everything, especially when they have to go back and find evidence. They are currently working on it and will continue to keep updating in future meetings.

2025 Budget: Conlon shared that the department has lost about \$39,000 in the 2025 budget due to federal budget cuts. To help cover these losses, they are using part of a grant intended for the 2026 budget and drawing from program fund balances.

Conlon mentioned that some of the lost funds were allocated for CredibleMind, a mental health resource. Conlon emphasized the importance of securing continued funding for CredibleMind, especially in light of the recent cuts to mental health hotlines.

Conlon explained that both adult and youth substance use programs have been affected. Every day brings new challenges. Unfortunately, grants that were already contracted are now being pulled back, which is not something they normally do. Crump added that many programs in Health and Human Services (HHS) that were once considered protected are now at risk.

Wold mentioned the health department has a donation-based mini grant connected to the car seat program, where people can choose to donate when they receive a free car seat or

car seat check Conlon suggested being upfront and letting families know the service is free but that donations are welcome.

There was discussion about looking for outside support. Crump asked whether they had reached out to groups like the Shriners. Other suggestions included WPS, Walmart, the Lions Club, and Kiwanis, to see if any of them might be willing to donate or help support the programs.

PFAS: Crump, newly elected Stella town board chair, said he will be requesting a full update from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Crump also plans to contact Amy Schulz from UW-Madison regarding the PFAS grant, asking if she could provide an update on the issue, if possible. This information would help keep the public informed. Conlon agreed that an update would be helpful, especially to explain where the funding is and what is being done with it. Conlon also mentioned that the DNR could provide an update on available funds to be used to update wells. Discussion followed.

Conlon asked Crump if there was anything specific he needed from her. Crump asked Conlon if she would be able to help secure a location for an update to take place.

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

Conlon reviewed the 2024 and 2025 budgets, along with the invoices paid report. A discussion followed, and Conlon expressed no concerns about the incoming revenue or the overall budget for 2025 at this time. Condado noted the presentation of the budget report and invoices paid report.

Date and Agenda items for next meeting: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 9am

Public comment/communications:

Janeil Tess

Committee Chair or Designee

Committee Secretary