

**BOARD OF HEALTH COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
June 10, 2025**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Debbie Condado, Billy Fried, Lenore Lopez, Khrystyne Lindgren, William "Casey" Crump, Marcy Davies

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Vice Chair Dan Hess

STAFF PRESENT: Linda Conlon, Rebecca Wold, Robbie Deede, Nicole Wanty, Breana Johnson, Jasmyne Longo, Bonnie Fralick, Breanne Vos and Joneil Tess

OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Jopek (Lakeland Times), Dorothy Skye

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 Crump/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 May 13, 2025: Motion by Crump/Lopez to approve the May 13, 2025, Board of Health Committee minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

Public Comment/Communications: None

Introduction of Summer Interns: Conlon said we have four interns this summer. They're all doing a great job. Leadership has been talking about ways we can support them better. Our interns help us a lot—they can focus on tasks we might not have time to do ourselves.

Nicole Wanty: Wanty is currently attending Mercer University School of Medicine in Macon, GA, and is on track to graduate in May 2027 with a PhD in Rural Health Sciences. During her internship, she is supporting the leadership team in advancing the strategic plan by developing an evaluation framework that aligns program and coalition goals, performance measures, and objectives. She is also assisting in prioritizing current and future coalition participation. With 15 years of experience in public health research and evaluation, Wanty brings valuable insight to the team.

Breana Johnson: Johnson is currently attending UW—Eau Claire, where she is studying Nursing and Public Health. She is working under State Opioid Response (SOR) funding and is expected to graduate in May 2026.

Jasmyne Longo: Longo is currently a student at UW—Madison, pursuing a degree in Health Promotion and Health Equity, with an expected graduation in December 2025. She is currently working on beach testing and public health communication work.

Kari Herman: Herman was unable to attend the meeting as she was working in the field.

Staff Reports:

Bonnie Fralick:

Fralick, a public health nurse, gave a presentation about the reproductive health program and presented the 2024 Annual Report. The Reproductive Health Program is funded through grants and program-generated revenue, offering affordable, confidential services such as birth control counseling, STI screening, pregnancy testing, and annual exams. Fralick emphasized that the program's focus is to increase access to care, promote client autonomy, and ensure confidential, affordable services for the community.

She highlighted that the program now offers in-house colposcopies for patients with abnormal Pap tests, enabling quicker cervical enabling quicker evaluation of cervical abnormalities and more efficient follow-up and better follow-up. Previously, patients were referred out, often leading to delays or missed care. Having this service in-house improves client care and continuity, reduces billing errors, increases revenue, and makes care more accessible and convenient.

The clinic is one of four regional HIV testing sites and has expanded testing to include syphilis and hepatitis C using both antibody and PCR methods. In-house testing allows for faster results—often within 20 to 30 minutes—and supports expedited referral to care and treatment, leading to better outcomes. Conlon noted that although HIV rates are low in the area, offering accessible testing in the community is still highly valuable. Previously, those without insurance or clinic access were referred to Stevens Point, which created barriers to care.

During May, our Reproductive Health nurses partnered with Rhinelander School District to deliver Human Growth & Development lessons to 4th and 5th graders at Crescent, Pelican, NCES, and Central Elementary Schools. Each grade received three engaging sessions covering fundamental reproductive health topics—including bodily systems, puberty and self-care during this phase—as well as guidance on fostering healthy relationships, personal boundaries, and consent. We're delighted to have launched this collaboration and look forward to continuing this partnership in future years!

Outreach to male clients has also grown, with visits increasing from 14 in 2023 to 32, as the program expands services and promotes men's preventive health.

As part of the Person Centered Contraceptive Care (PCCC) Project, the team partnered with Reproductive Health National Training Center (RHNTC) and University of California - San Francisco and received excellent client feedback through an anonymous survey.

Looking ahead to 2025, the program plans to increase engagement with community partners, continue expanding its client base, improve access to care, and implement new clinic services—which includes collaborating with Koinonia for STI testing.

Monthly / Quarterly Reports:

Health Hazards: Deede presented the 2025 Quarter 1 Health Hazard Report, noting that six new health hazards were reported during the quarter—three of which were related to housing. A total of 46.1 staff hours were dedicated to addressing these cases. Overall, the program is showing improved efficiency compared to previous quarters.

Deede, who serves as the primary lead for health hazard investigations, shared that while the outcomes have generally been positive, results can vary significantly. Some cases present complex challenges without easy solutions. Conlon added that one of the biggest difficulties involves individuals who refuse the services offered to them. These cases often require a significant investment of staff time, and the department doesn't always have the capacity to fully manage them.

Deede noted several recurring themes in the cases, including housing issues, hoarding, and challenges related to an aging population. He emphasized the importance of maintaining a balance—"for everything you bring in, something needs to come out." Landlord-tenant disputes and coordination with human services also remain ongoing challenges, especially when individuals refuse services. In these cases, having a strong network of support is critical to making progress.

Measles Update:

Conlon reported that the outbreak is still ongoing, with cases continuing to appear in surrounding states. A letter and informational packet were sent to local healthcare centers, followed by an update that included current vaccination rates and information on how to access the vaccine.

Conlon noted that health departments are not able to perform testing, so maintaining strong communication with healthcare providers is essential. Deede emphasized that one of the major challenges is the limitation of services—something they continue to monitor closely.

Deede referenced a recent news report that helped illustrate what the situation could look like locally, highlighting the importance of community awareness. In preparation, Wold participated in a tabletop exercise in partnership with Marshfield Clinic. Conlon concluded by saying, "We will be as ready as we can be."

WIC: Conlon shared that the Vilas County Health Department has lost most of its staff. After discussions with their Board members, Vilas County requested that Oneida County WIC program serve Vilas County residents. Conlon noted that this type of shared service model is not unusual, especially given the way public health departments are funded.

Oneida was already serving some Vilas County clients due to staffing shortages there. Conlon explained that the increasing Oneida County WIC service area would improve access to WIC services for Vilas County residents and Oneida County residents, thanks to the larger size and greater capacity of the Oneida County team.

Conlon stated finance staff reviewed the numbers, including increasing the WIC clerk's position to five days per week, and determined that the change would be covered by the additional funding.

Conlon is seeking formal approval. She emphasized that the expansion of the service area would positively impact Oneida County. Conlon said Vos has worked hard over the past two years to expand WIC services and improve access to care, and having a full-time WIC clerk would further support that effort.

Crump asked what would happen if the registered dietitian (RD) were to leave or if there were changes requiring more in-person visits. Conlon responded that the expansion of service area is a positive step and noted that it could be reversed if necessary. She also confirmed that she consulted the state about the arrangement.

Condado/Crump made a formal motion to proceed with expanding the WIC service area into Vilas County. Conlon stated that Oneida County is well positioned to move forward with this plan. All ayes; motion carried.

Reappointment of Board of Health Community Member – Casey Crump: Motion by Condado/Lopez to reappoint Casey Crump to a second three-year term as a Community Member on the Board of Health and forward the recommendation to the County Board for approval. All ayes; motion carried.

Strategic Plan: Conlon provided an update on the strategic plan, noting that a new communication plan is in development. This plan includes strategies for outreach and

community engagement, which have grown significantly over time. The team is also working with two Catchfire volunteers to evaluate and improve the website. Conlon mentioned that they're in a good place right now, focusing on setting priorities and developing a work plan to track progress and measure outcomes. As part of ongoing communication efforts, the Director's Notes are shared with staff each month. Conlon highlighted these updates.

2025 & 2026 Budget Update: Conlon reviewed slide presentation of the 2025 & 2026 Federal budget and the effects it could have on public health and the community. Discussion followed.

PFAS Update: Conlon shared that the EPA contacted her to discuss PFAS and the steps being taken with local camps. She reassured them that signs have been posted, community outreach has been conducted, and another outreach effort is being planned. Fortunately, some proactive measures were already in place.

The EPA's main goal is to ensure that the public is informed—especially when water sources have elevated PFAS levels. They emphasized the importance of educating the community and asked that camps notify parents. Conlon said while activities involving water do not need to be completely eliminated, they recommended limiting activities that involve ingesting water.

Crump is currently working on organizing a town hall meeting for the end of July and is coordinating the timing.

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

Conlon reviewed the 2025 budget, along with the invoices paid report. A discussion followed. Conlon does not have any concerns at this time. Condado noted the presentation of the vouchers, purchase orders, line item transfers.

Date and Agenda items for next meeting: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 9am

Public comment/communications: None



Committee Chair or Designee



Committee Secretary