

**BOARD OF HEALTH COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
August 12, 2025**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Dan Hess, Vice Chair William "Casey" Crump, Debbie Condado, Billy Fried, Lenore Lopez, Khristyne Lindgren,

COMMITTEE MEMBERS UNEXCUSED: Marcy Davies

STAFF PRESENT: Linda Conlon, Robbie Deede, Jen Tienhaara, Katherine McGeshick 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/Condado to approve today's agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion to move around. All ayes; motion carried.

Minutes of July 8, 2025: Motion by Crump/Lopez to approve the July 8, 2025, Board of Health Committee minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

Public Comment/Communications: None

Staff Reports – Jen Tienhaara:

Maternal Child Health (MCH): Tienhaara shared a recap of the recent Community Baby Shower and Family Day, an event launched in June with support from an AHEC intern and local partners. Aimed at families with children 8 and under, the event focused on providing items not typically covered by assistance programs, such as diapers, wipes, hygiene products, and onesies. Donations were collected through baby registries set up at Walmart, Target, and Amazon, with drop-off locations arranged at local businesses. In total, the team collected over 6,000 diapers, more than 150 packages of wipes, dozens of hygiene items, and over 60 sets of onesies.

The event was held at the Hodag Dome and featured a free bounce house, games, activities, parfait-making, raffle prizes, and booths from local community resources. Volunteers helped direct families and manage the prize table. Community partners included UW-Extension/Nicolet College, Children's of Wisconsin, the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry, and local businesses such as Trig's, Culver's, and Walmart. Conlon described the event as a long-held vision finally realized and commended the AHEC intern for all of her work. With the event structure now in place, future

efforts should be easier to plan and have the potential to expand and reach more families. Crump suggested involving the Shriners next year.

Tienhaara introduced the new Fatherhood Initiative, which is still in development. The program aims to engage dads more intentionally and ensure they have meaningful access to parenting support. An initial survey will be distributed to partners to gather input on what types of programming would be most helpful, such as weekly gatherings or informational outreach. Conlon emphasized that parenting is parenting, but fathers may benefit from a more tailored approach. The team is continuing to explore options based on community needs. Some discussion followed.

Monthly / Quarterly Reports:

Communicable Disease: Deede reviewed the Q2 communicable disease report, noting an increase in tick-borne illnesses, particularly Lyme disease, as ticks appeared earlier this year. Respiratory cases were down, and overall caseloads decreased. Deede mentioned many individuals were unaware they had been bitten by a tick, highlighting the importance of continued education and post-treatment follow-up after doxycycline use.

PFAS Update: Conlon mentioned that Amy, a researcher from UW with whom we've been collaborating, is working on a new grant application and has revised it based on the feedback she received.

Crump announced a PFAS meeting scheduled for August 21 at the sheriff's department, though the date might change due to conflicts with the DNR. Representatives from the EPA, DHS, and Oneida County will attend. Efforts are underway to promote the meeting through WXPB and local newspapers. The meeting will run from 5:30 to 7 p.m., and Crump hopes it will be informative, especially for those interested in soil sampling. Conlon requested updates be shared as soon as details are confirmed.

PFAS testing is being done in other townships, but community response has been slow. More letters are being sent out by the DNR. Conlon stated that she expects to be able to share new test results next month once the DNR sends them.

2026 LTE Requests: Conlon reviewed the standard 2026 LTE requests.

Motion made by Hess/Crump to approve the standard LTE requests and forward on. All ayes; motion carried.

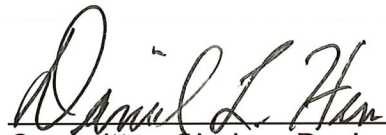
2026 Budget Update: Conlon provided a brief preview of the proposed 2026 Public Health tax levy request, followed by initial discussion. A more detailed review and presentation will occur at the Board of Health meeting on September 9, 2025, when Conlon presents the full budget.

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 major concerns at this time. Hess noted the presentation of the vouchers, purchase orders, line item transfers.

Date and Agenda items for next meeting: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 9am; 2026 Budget; PFAS

Public comment/communications: None



Committee Chair or Designee

Joneil Tess

Committee Secretary