

CHIPPEWA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2025
CHIPPEWA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, RM 302
7:45 AM

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Kari Ives	Chippewa County	District 21, Chair	Present	
Lee Hennick	Chippewa County	District 15, Vice-Chair	Present	
Dennis Bachman	Chippewa County	District 5	Present	
James Ericksen	Chippewa County	District 8	Present	
James Meinen	Chippewa County	District 20	Present	
John Halbleib	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Present	
Nichole Wallsch	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Absent	
Robert Bullwinkel	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep, MD	Absent	
Marcia Kyes	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Present	

Others Present: Human Services Staff: Bobbie Jaeger, Paul Brenner, Brandi Engel, Sarah Zielke, Michelle Fellom; Public Health Staff: Brittnay Fortuna, Sarah McQuillan, Maryn Bengs, Nikki Hoernke; County Staff: Andy Albarado

3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD

There were no members of the public wishing to be heard.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Lee Hennick, District 15, Vice-Chair
SECONDER:	James Meinen, District 20
AYES:	Ives, Hennick, Bachman, Ericksen, Meinen, Halbleib, Kyes
ABSENT:	Wallsch, Bullwinkel

1. Approve the Agenda

2. Approve the Minutes

Health & Human Services Board - Regular Meeting - Jul 17, 2025 7:45 AM

3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - September 18, 2025

5. REPORTS

1. ADRC Board Minutes - May 8, 2025

Health & Human Services Board

Minutes
Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

August 21, 2025
7:45 AM

The minutes of the 05/08/2025 Aging & Disability Resource Center Board Meeting were presented for review.

2. Human Services Success Story - ADRC - Michelle Fellom

Michelle Fellom, Elder Benefit Specialist with the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC), reported on a consumer who sought help from the ADRC with a Senior Care application. While receiving assistance, it was learned that the consumer was low on assets, received \$2,400/month for income, and was the sole caregiver for his wife whom has Parkinson's. The consumer had a Medigap insurance policy and out of pocket prescription costs totaling 40% of their monthly income. After further exploration by staff, the ADRC was able to assist him with applying for the Medicaid Purchase Plan program, and also helped his spouse apply for Long Term Care Medicaid. These programs allowed the consumer to drop his expensive Medigap policy, saving hundreds of dollars each month, and also provided access to an in-home caregiver for continued support.

3. Public Health Policy, Practice, and People - Children's Resource Center-West - Maryn Bengs

Maryn Bengs, Children's Resource Center-West (CRC) Program Coordinator, provided a brief overview of the Children's Resource Center-West: a program to guide families of children with special needs to access information and resources within their communities. Bengs reported that they held a focus group to hear from families in the rural communities. An emerging theme from this focus group was the need for further support for parents themselves to continue to support their children. With a more holistic approach in mind, the team has integrated Parent Resilience as a core component of their practice. They have also hosted in-person and virtual workshops to allow parents to connect with each other as well as professional resources.

4. Human Services Director's Program and Financial Report – Bobbie Jaeger, Paul Brenner

Human Services Director, Bobbie Jaeger, presented the Human Services Program and Financial Report. Jaeger highlighted several items from her report: There is discussion regarding the use of AI to help with efficiencies in services. DHS is updating federal grant manuals to note that federal funds will not be used for DEI Initiatives. The Birth to Three program received a record number of referrals in July, CPS was active with reports, and Youth Justice referrals have been increasing. The Youth Justice program received a renewal of their Continuation Innovation Grant allowing for ongoing support to their BTAM and Coalition initiatives in the community. Jaeger highlighted the monthly budget and indicated the difficulty in predicting what months will have higher needs. DHS participated in the CFPD National Night Out event and recently hosted the annual Foster Care picnic.

5. Public Health Director's Program and Financial Report – Brittnay Fortuna

Public Health Director, Brittnay Fortuna, presented the Public Health Program and Financial Report. Fortuna highlighted several items from her report: August is National Immunization Awareness Month and they are participating in immunization clinics prior to the school year starting. There have been no measles cases reported in Chippewa County. August 31 is Opioid Misuse Prevention Day. Overdoses are higher in Chippewa County compared to neighboring counties, but the death rate due to overdose is declining. The Environmental Health team's inspections this past month included numerous seasonal vendors such as food trucks, campgrounds, and pools. WIC is working to educate families on the food package changes that will be happening. The state is also working to authorize Kwik Trip as a WIC vendor. 214 vouchers were issued for the Farm Fresh Produce program. The Big Beautiful Bill cut funding for the FIT Families program and they've also seen impacts on funding for their ForwardHealth Grant which allows the team to offer assistance in Medicaid & FoodShare enrollment. The Children's Resource Center-West had an increase in referrals compared to June. The team has submitted a grant for data-tracking of tick-borne diseases and outreach. They are also in the process of completed the application for the Immunization Grant as well as the Reproductive Health Grant.

Health & Human Services Board

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7:45 AM

6. Public Health 2023-2026 Strategic Plan Update - Nikki Hoernke
Nikki Hoernke presented an update on the Strategic Plan. They have seven goals based around four priority areas: Communications, Health Equity, Performance Management, and Workforce & Engagement. There has been significant work done towards meeting their goals and they will begin preparing and refining their next strategic plan to be followed for the next three years.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Chair, Kari Ives, presented an idea for further discussion from the WCA calling for resolutions in support of IM administration.

8. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 AM.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Ericksen, District 8
SECONDER:	Lee Hennick, District 15, Vice-Chair
AYES:	Ives, Hennick, Bachman, Ericksen, Meinen, Halbleib, Kyes
ABSENT:	Wallsch, Bullwinkel

CHIPPEWA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 17, 2025
CHIPPEWA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, RM 302
7:45 AM

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Kari Ives	Chippewa County	District 21, Chair	Present	
Lee Hennick	Chippewa County	District 15, Vice-Chair	Present	
James Ericksen	Chippewa County	District 8	Present	
James Meinen	Chippewa County	District 20	Present	
John Halbleib	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Present	
Nichole Wallsch	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Absent	
Robert Bullwinkel	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep, MD	Late	7:56 AM
Marcia Kyes	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Absent	

Others Present: County Administrator Andy Albarado; Human Services Staff: Bobbie Jaeger, Brandi Engel, Paul Brenner, Kyra Secraw, and Sarah Zielke; Public Health Staff: Brittnay Fortuna, Audra Knowlton, and Sarah McQuillan; County Staff: Leah Simington

3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD

There were no members of the public wishing to be heard.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT: APPROVED [5 TO 0]
MOVER: John Halbleib, Citizen Rep
SECONDER: James Meinen, District 20
AYES: Ives, Hennick, Ericksen, Meinen, Halbleib
ABSENT: Wallsch, Kyes
AWAY: Bullwinkel

1. Approve the Agenda

2. Approve the Minutes

Health & Human Services Board - Regular Meeting - Jun 19, 2025 7:45 AM

3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - August 21, 2025

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Public Health 2026 Budget - Brittnay Fortuna/Sarah McQuillan

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jul 17, 2025 7:45 AM (Consent Agenda)

Health & Human Services Board

Minutes
Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

July 17, 2025
7:45 AM

Public Health Director Brittnay Fortuna shared a comparison of the 2025 Budget and the proposed 2026 Budget. She highlighted the following from her budget presentation: personnel costs, revenue sources, tax levy allocation by division, a synopsis of each Public Health Division's funding, and the funding's impact on services. Fortuna shared the department's focus moving forward and concerns.

The Public Health 2026 budget was approved to forward to the County Administrator.

RESULT:	FORWARD BUDGET TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Lee Hennick, District 15, Vice-Chair
SECONDER:	James Meinen, District 20
AYES:	Ives, Hennick, Ericksen, Meinen, Halbleib, Bullwinkel
ABSENT:	Wallsch, Kyes

2. Resolution to Create One Full-Time Social Worker Position in the Department of Human Services as Part of the 2026 Budget Process

Human Services Director Bobbie Jaeger gave a brief overview of the position that is in the Children's Long Term Support program. This position is necessary to maintain the caseload and the no-wait list required by the state.

Resolution approved as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John Halbleib, Citizen Rep
SECONDER:	James Meinen, District 20
AYES:	Ives, Hennick, Ericksen, Meinen, Halbleib, Bullwinkel
ABSENT:	Wallsch, Kyes

3. Resolution to Create One Part-Time Elder Benefit Specialist in the Department of Human Services as Part of the 2026 Budget Process

Human Services Director Bobbie Jaeger gave a brief overview of the position, which will be funded by an anticipated increase in the state budget. The position is needed due to increasing demands for benefits.

Resolution approved as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Meinen, District 20
SECONDER:	Lee Hennick, District 15, Vice-Chair
AYES:	Ives, Hennick, Ericksen, Meinen, Halbleib, Bullwinkel
ABSENT:	Wallsch, Kyes

4. Human Services 2026 Budget - Bobbie Jaeger

Human Services Director Bobbie Jaeger presented a department budget overview. She highlighted the following: the total levy remains the same as in 2025, and 2026 challenges, including potential Medicaid cuts and out-of-home placement rising costs. The proposed budget includes the Consortium budget, too.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jul 17, 2025 7:45 AM (Consent Agenda)

Health & Human Services Board

Minutes
Regular Meeting

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The Human Services 2026 budget was approved to forward to the County Administrator.

RESULT:	FORWARD BUDGET TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Meinen, District 20
SECONDER:	James Ericksen, District 8
AYES:	Ives, Hennick, Ericksen, Meinen, Halbleib, Bullwinkel
ABSENT:	Wallsch, Kyes

6. REPORTS

1. Public Health Director's Program and Financial Report – Brittnay Fortuna
Public Health Director Brittnay Fortuna presented the Public Health Program and Financial Report. Fortuna highlighted from her report: FSRL license renewals, Mass Public Alerting Campaign video through the Public Health Preparedness program to sign up for alerts (Fortuna will send the video to the Board members,) air quality education and the alerting website, WIC food package changes, measles update, communicable disease reports, Red Drive Blood Drive on July 23, tobacco compliance checks, sharps initiative data, and Single Point of Entry data.
2. Human Services Director's Program and Financial Report – Bobbie Jaeger, Paul Brenner
Human Services Director Bobbie Jaeger presented the Human Services Program and Financial Report. They have been dedicating time to the state and federal level budgets/funding, and now they will move to understanding the changes and timelines. Jaeger highlighted the SNAP program's potential funding impacts and the daily rate increase for juvenile corrections. County Administrator Albarado added that changes can be made to the budget if there are funding cuts. Jaeger thanked the Human Services employees celebrating July anniversaries, including Tom Diel, celebrating 37 years of service. She thanked Paul for all his work on the budget.

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

8. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 AM.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Ericksen, District 8
SECONDER:	James Meinen, District 20
AYES:	Ives, Hennick, Ericksen, Meinen, Halbleib, Bullwinkel
ABSENT:	Wallsch, Kyes

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jul 17, 2025 7:45 AM (Consent Agenda)

CHIPPEWA COUNTY**ADRC (AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER) BOARD****REGULAR MEETING****MAY 8, 2025****CHIPPEWA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, RM 302****3:30 PM****1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Chair Darren Kirby.

2. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Darren Kirby	Chippewa County	District 5, Chair	Present	
Patricia German	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Absent	
Larry Marquardt	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Present	
Don Hauser	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Present	
Yvonne Hedrington	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Present	
Cindy Spaeth	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Present	
Renee Thompson	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Present	

Others Present: Human Services Staff: Paul Brenner, Brandi Engel; ADRC Staff: Sarah Zielke, Erika Stevens

3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD

There were no members of the public wishing to be heard.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Cindy Spaeth, Citizen Rep
SECONDER:	Don Hauser, Citizen Rep
AYES:	Kirby, Marquardt, Hauser, Hedrington, Spaeth, Thompson
ABSENT:	German

1. Approve the Agenda

2. Approve the Minutes

ADRC (Aging & Disability Resource Center) Board - Regular Meeting - Mar 13, 2025 3:30 PM

3. Schedule next meeting date - July 10, 2025

5. REPORTS

1. ADRC Staff Presentation - POA Document Clinic - Erika Stevens

ADRC Options Counselor, Erika Stevens, presented information regarding the division's initiative to offer Power of Attorney clinics to the Chippewa County communities. In partnership with the Recovery and Wellness Consortium's Adult Protective Services Unit, these clinics were first offered starting in 2024 and

ADRC (Aging & Disability Resource Center) Board

Minutes

May 8, 2025

Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

3:30 PM

offer education and guidance to community residents. Clinics are scheduled bi-monthly through the end of 2025.

2. ADRC Manager Program and Financial Report – Sarah Zielke/Paul Brenner

ADRC Manager, Sarah Zielke, presented the ADRC Manager Report. She highlighted several items from her report, including an increase in both interest and participation in the nutrition programs. The Cafe 60 program has increased to 36 participants, while the Meals on Wheels program presently has a wait-list. The division is recruiting volunteers to help add additional routes to the Meals on Wheels program - especially in the rural communities.

Senior Fiscal Manager, Paul Brenner, reviewed the Fiscal Report through April 2025.

3. ADRC Advocacy Report – Sarah Zielke

ADRC Manager, Sarah Zielke, shared current advocacy information. Highlights shared included advisement that, due to the reorganization of the Administration for Community Living at the federal level, longer response times are expected. This is not expected to affect how the ADRC presently operates. It was also noted that the President's leaked 2026 Federal Budget Proposal suggests an elimination of SHIP/MIPAA funding. This funding has a direct impact on Elder Benefit Specialists. Potential funding changes also includes an impact to Preventative Health Promotion Programs. Notably, it is typical for the budget proposal to change through the congressional process before being finalized later this year.

4. ADRC 2025 Program Prioritization Education - Sarah Zielke

ADRC Manager, Sarah Zielke, reviewed the 2025 Program Prioritization. Board members are asked to complete the ranking and return it to Brandi Engel by June 2. The Program Prioritization form will be emailed to Board members.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. ADRC 2025 Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement - Sarah Zielke

ADRC Manager, Sarah Zielke, reviewed the Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest Agreements. Board members are asked to sign these policies on an annual basis per state requirements.

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

8. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:24 pm.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Larry Marquardt, Citizen Rep
SECONDER:	Cindy Spaeth, Citizen Rep
AYES:	Kirby, Marquardt, Hauser, Hedrington, Spaeth, Thompson
ABSENT:	German



STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION
HUMAN SERVICES SUCCESS STORY - ADRC - MICHELLE FELLOW

5.2

Elder Benefits Specialist, Michelle Fellom, will share a story about a consumer she assisted with connecting to additional services allowing them to gain access to further assistance and overall saving them hundreds of dollars each month.



STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION

PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY, PRACTICE, AND PEOPLE - CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTER-WEST - MARYN BENGIS

5.3

Planning and Strategy Program Coordinator Maryn Bengis will present on the Children's Resource Center-West's recent work around parent resiliency.

Children's Resource Center - West

Integrating Parent Resilience into Family Support

At the Children's Resource Center - West (CRC-West), our work is rooted in listening to and responding to the needs of families raising children with special health care needs. Through a series of focus groups conducted for the state, families consistently shared that their greatest need was to feel more connected to each other and more supported in their own resilience-so they could continue to provide the best possible care for their children.

From Identified Need to Action

In response, CRC-West has integrated **parent resilience** as a core component of our practice. This approach aligns with our mission to provide family-centered support and resources that strengthen both the child and the family as a whole. Parent resilience is not just a concept-it is a practical skillset that helps caregivers manage stress, maintain hope, and adapt to challenges over time.

Putting Resilience into Practice

Our integration of parent resilience includes:

- **Curriculum Development:** Creating educational resources and learning opportunities focused on resilience skills, stress management, and self-care for caregivers.
- **Family Events:** Hosting in-person and virtual gatherings where families can connect, share experiences, and build a sense of community.
- **Toolkits and Resources:** Providing tangible take-home materials that reinforce resilience strategies and can be used long after an event or session ends.

Impact on Families

By embedding resilience into our programs, CRC-West has seen families:

- Increase their sense of connection and peer support
- Strengthen coping strategies for daily and long-term challenges
- Build confidence in their ability to navigate systems and advocate for their children

Why It Matters

When caregivers are resilient, they are better equipped to support their child's development, manage the complex demands of care, and sustain their own well-being. This benefits not only individual families but also the broader community.

CRC-West will continue to prioritize parent resilience as a key element of our services, ensuring that our policies, procedures, and daily practices reflect what families have told us they truly need: connection, support, and the skills to thrive.



STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION
HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR'S PROGRAM AND FINANCIAL REPORT –
BOBBIE JAEGER/PAUL BRENNER

5.4

Human Services Director, Bobbie Jaeger, and Senior Fiscal Manager, Paul Brenner, provide a department program and financial report for review and discussion.

Human Services Director's Report

Board Meeting Date: August 21, 2025

WCHSA Updates

Division of Children and Families (DCF) and CYF PAC

- Extended the Civil Rights plan through 2026
- Discussing proposed restrictions on the use of artificial intelligence
- Counties are waiting on direction from DCF to fix old, substantiated cases that didn't get finding letters

Division of Health Services (DHS)

- DHS is updating federal grant manuals with updated language including assurances that federal funds will not be used for DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion)
- Collection Incentives from DHS to IM Consortia were delayed
- IM Contract negotiations are underway between the state and consortia. Major areas being discussed include no increase in funding as well as SWICA workload, SNAP and Medicaid impact to workload, alignment of eligibility policies across Medicaid, Foodshare, and childcare programs, and pressure to reduce Foodshare error rates.

Behavioral Health PAC

- No meeting

Department and Division Updates

Work Anniversary CONGRATS and THANKS to the following staff for their service and dedication:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Kelly Zimmerman, WRRWC – 19 Years | • Cindy Sarazen, ADRC – 2 Years |
| • Michelle Phelps, RWC – 19 Years | • Elizabeth Patten, CWDA – 2 Years |
| • Trish Houle, RWC – 19 Years | • Laichia Xiong, CPS – 2 Years |
| • Carmen Olson, ADRC – 3 Years | • Mikala Talbot, CPS – 1 Year |
| • Macey Awe, CPS – 3 Years | • Lisa Traun, ES – 1 Year |

Division Updates

Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

- In partnership with the Chippewa Falls YMCA, ADRC has launched the Brain & Body Fitness Program—a free wellness opportunity for individuals living with dementia and their care partners. Program highlights:



- 12-week session, 2x per week
- Benefits include reduced stress, improved mood and sleep
- At completion, participants receive a FREE one-year YMCA membership!
- Our nutrition program has served over 20,000 meals in the first half of 2025—promoting health, independence, and connection.
- Ann Mueller has been promoted to Lead Site Aide. This position has been implemented to enhance coordination and support for nutrition site staff and volunteers. This critical role strengthens day-to-day operations and improves service delivery
- 1,100+ hours of respite care provided to informal caregivers from January to June—offering much-needed relief and support.

Children, Youth & Families (CYF) Division

Birth to Three (B-3)

- The Birth-to-Three Program has remained busy throughout the summer with a record number of referrals, thirty-four, in July 2025. This comes at a time when the team is currently down a Physical Therapist due to a retirement in May 2025. The Birth-to-Three Program is excited to welcome a new Physical Therapist in October 2025. Until then, the team is picking up the extra work and helping one another out to ensure all families are receiving necessary services and support.
- In regard to data, the team recently received their local determination status from the State which was “Meets Requirements;” this signifies the amazing work the team does! In addition, the team just completed their annual MetaStar review and are awaiting the results.

Children, Youth & Families (CYF) Division

Child Protective Services (CPS)

- In July 2025, the Child Abuse and Neglect Access Line received seventy-three new reports alleging child abuse and/or neglect; of those reports, twelve were screened-in to complete an assessment and sixty-one were screened out.
- In July 2025, Child Protective Services removed one child due to medical trauma.
- In July 2025, two children were reunified.

Children, Youth & Families (CYF) Division

Children with Differing Abilities (CWDA)

- Continue to onboard new staff.
- Will be losing a staff at the end of August and recruitment will begin Sunday.
- Still working through Gainwell transition and Avatar updates
- Continue to work on employee satisfaction goals
- Represented at National Night out and will be also doing Foster Care event.



Children, Youth & Families (CYF) Division

Youth Justice (YJ)

- Continue forward progress with BTAM and expanding our Coalition.
- We have been notified that we were awarded the continuation innovation grant, to continue supporting our BTAM and Coalition initiatives.
- There has been a rise in young kids (ages 12-14) being referred for significant delinquency crimes.
- Exploring expanding Youth Court into CFMS to divert kids from a JCI referral.

Economic Support (ES) Division

- Beginning 8/4, GRC is shifting focus to implement a Precertification Review (PCR) tool as part of a statewide effort to reduce FoodShare errors by catching and preventing them before they occur and count against us. Wisconsin's active error rate is currently over 7% and all consortia are being asked to take proactive steps to help bring this rate down as quickly as possible. By doing so, we have a valuable opportunity to make a positive impact on state and local budgets and the availability of programs and services now and in the future.
- FoodShare MER (Management Evaluation Review) will be held on 8/13.
- The Federal Budget Bill includes a provision that requires states to cover a portion of FoodShare benefits if error rates exceed the federally established 6% threshold. DHS plans to request additional funds through the 1310 Amendment to support consortia and DHS in maintaining low error rates.
- Given DHS's commitment to covering the additional 25% match and their goal to secure funding for error reduction strategies, GRC may proceed with filling existing vacancies.

Recovery & Wellness Consortium (RWC) Division

- RWC division attended the National Night Out on August 5th. Citizens over the age of 11 experienced the visual impairment that happens when a person consumes excessive alcohol in one setting. With "dunk goggles", participants learned how alcohol dramatically impairs a person's balance, vision, reaction time and judgment.
- Angela Trapani (RWC new provider) has settled into her role as medication prescriber. Angela has a strong interest in working with high need youths and their families and provide consultation to DHS staff.
- RWC welcomes new staff Bailey Bergeman and Leah Olson to CCS program. Bailey has strong experience working with adults with serious mental illness. And Leah has previous experience as a service facilitator in our children's unit.



2025 Monthly Fiscal Information

Through Month of: July 2025

2025 Budget (Total is \$37,539,226): \$21,897,883 **Prorated – 7 months**

Expenses Paid (Through July 31): 16,700,384

Variance to Budget: \$5,197,499

Note: The July Over/(Under) amounts are an estimated annualized amount for each placement category. Prior months estimated amounts are shown to indicate if expense variances are trending up, down, or remaining the same.

2025 Kinship Placement with a Relative

Month	Kinship	Projected Cost	2025 Grant Amount*	Over/(Under)
January	80	\$351,072	\$454,500	(\$103,428)
February	77	340,536	454,500	(113,964)
March	77	347,772	454,500	(106,728)
April	75	338,960	454,500	(115,540)
May	75	335,534	454,500	(118,966)
June	75	334,152	454,500	(120,348)
July	72	334,356	454,500	(120,144)

2025 Children and Youth in Out-of-Home Placements

Month	Out of Home*	Out of Home**	Projected Cost	2025 Budget	Over/(Under)
January	29	0	\$1,365,828	\$1,046,000	\$319,828
February	31	0		1,046,000	
March	31	0	1,785,004	1,046,000	739,004
April	28	3	2,106,305	1,046,000	1,060,305
May	27	0	2,006,351	1,046,000	960,351
June	30	0	1,989,873	1,046,000	943,873
July	30	0	1,951,154	1,046,000	905,154

*Children and Youth in Placement: Foster Care, Treatment Foster Care, Group Home, Residential Care

**Additional children placed with relatives (unpaid)



2025 Adult Mental Health CBRF Out-of-Home Placements

Month	Out of Home	Projected Cost	2025 Budget	Over/(Under)
January	13	\$281,328	\$479,041	(\$197,713)
February	15	399,708	479,041	(79,333)
March	12	474,756	479,041	(4,285)
April	15	457,618	479,041	(21,423)
May	20	492,574	479,041	13,533
June	15	492,340	479,041	13,299
July	11	418,408	479,041	(60,633)

2025 Institute for Mental Disease (IMD) Placements

Month	Inpatient Days	Projected Cost*	2025 Budget	Over/(Under)
January	161	\$1,090,296	\$878,000	\$212,296
February	100	751,591	878,000	(126,409)
March	146	852,716	878,000	(24,284)
April	152	1,079,421	878,000	201,421
May	115	1,048,961	878,000	170,961
June*	136	1,130,311	878,000	252,311

*June IMD is the most recent invoice received

Note: The following reports show monthly disbursement amounts for each placement category. The month shown is the month the invoice was paid (not the month the charge was incurred).

2025 Kinship

Month	Amount Paid	Monthly Grant Amount
January	0	\$37,875
February	28,058	37,875
March	28,734	37,875
April	27,902	37,875
May	27,326	37,875
June	27,882	37,875
July	27,280	37,875
Total	\$167,182	\$454,500 (Year)

2025 Children & Youth Placements

Month	Amount Paid	Monthly Budget
January	0	\$87,167
February	134,373	87,167
March	82,173	87,167
April	189,086	87,167
May	254,735	87,167
June	155,431	87,167
July	159,577	87,167
Total	\$975,577	\$1,046,000 (Year)



2025 Adults in CBRF Placement

Month	Amount Paid	Monthly Budget
January	0	\$39,920
February	17,553	39,920
March	49,898	39,920
April	24,651	39,920
May	43,143	39,920
June	27,472	39,920
July	34,368	39,920
Total	\$197,065	\$479,041 (Year)

2025 IMD

Month	Amount Paid	Monthly Budget
January	0	\$73,166
February	0	73,166
March	99,603	73,166
April	35,034	73,166
June	79,404	73,166
July	351,114	73,166
Total	\$565,155	\$878,000 (Year)



Child Protective Services (CPS) Screened-in CPS Reports Yearly Comparison

Year	Screened in CPS Reports January-July	Number of IA Workers	End of Year
2025	113	4	N/A
2024	107	4	180
2023	91	4	167
2022	123	4	189
2021	140	4	199

WCHSA Caseload Recommendations

Initial Assessments: 11 cases per worker with no more than 6 new assessments per worker per month

Ongoing: 10 cases per worker with no more than 15 children per worker

Current CPS Family Caseloads (08-13-25)

Caseload Type	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE
Initial Assessment	9	8	7	5					
Ongoing					7	5	10	3	8

Total Families/Cases Open: Initial Assessment = 29; Ongoing = 33; equals 62 Total

Out-of-Home Placement Yearly Comparison

Total Children/Youth Served January - July for each year listed below (includes Kinship)

2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
104	64	135	156	168	176	183	198	173	119	61

Children/Youth Opened in CCS and/or CLTS (Aug 2025)

Children/Youth Opened in July	17
Children Waiting to be Screened to Determine Eligibility	13
Waitlist - CCS	5
Waitlist - CLTS	12

Current IMD Expenditures (Jan-June 2025)

Children/Youth – IMD*	\$ 42,454
Adults – IMD	522,702
Total	\$565,156

Yearly Comparison Crisis: Jan – June

	Adults	Children
2025	**	**
2024	352	69
2023	400	95
2022	432	123
2021	379	126

Yearly Comparison Youth Justice Referrals

Year	Jan-May	End of Year
2025	112	N/A
2024	101	277
2023	128	243
2022	130	263
2021	93	236





STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION
PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR'S PROGRAM AND FINANCIAL REPORT –
BRITTNAY FORTUNA

5.5

Public Health Director Brittnay Fortuna provides a department program and financial report for review and discussion.



Administration Division

The Admin Team continues to support the community in various ways. They have been processing overdue Food, Safety, and Recreational Licensing (FSRL) renewals and TN water bills, assisting with scheduling appointments, loaning out wheelchairs, distributing materials for the preparedness Tick/Mosquito Campaign, and answering general public health questions. Their ongoing efforts ensure that the community has access to essential health resources and support.

April has been busy addressing inquiries about car seat safety, conducting car seat installations, providing Breastfeeding Peer Counseling to 83 women (43 are pregnant and 39 are currently breastfeeding), and taking minutes for the Child Death Review and Overdose Fatality Review meetings.

Sarah finalized the department budget for Health & Human Services Board approval to forward to the County Administrator. She also completed the WIMCR (Wisconsin Medicaid Cost Report) for 2024. WIMCR is a system where counties submit cost reports to ForwardHealth for certain community-based Medicaid services. This allows counties to receive additional federal funding for providing these services. Christina continues to ensure that payroll is entered on time for the department and that billing for services is submitted promptly.

Community Health Division

National Immunization Awareness Month

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) — a time to highlight the importance of vaccination for people of all ages and the role it plays in protecting public health. At the Chippewa County Department of Public Health, we remain committed to promoting immunization across the lifespan to prevent the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases.

Local Efforts and Updates

- **Childhood Immunizations:** Our nursing team continues to provide routine childhood vaccinations in accordance with the Wisconsin Immunization Program. We've maintained strong partnerships with local schools and childcare providers to ensure children are protected and ready for the school year.
- **Back-to-School Clinics:** In preparation for the 2025–26 school year, our department is offering immunization appointments throughout August. These clinics aim to reach families who may need last-minute access to required vaccines, such as Tdap, Meningococcal, and MMR.

- **Adult and Maternal Vaccines:** Our department consistently offers adult and maternal immunizations year-round, including influenza, COVID-19, Hepatitis A & B, and Tdap for pregnant individuals. These services are part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring equitable access to recommended vaccines for all community members, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.
- **Vaccine Promotion & Education:** Throughout August, we are sharing NIAM messaging via social media. Topics include vaccine safety, immunization schedules, and reminders for adolescents and adults who may be overdue for certain vaccines.
- **Data and Improvement Focus:** Our team regularly reviews immunization data to identify areas for improvement and address disparities. This includes evaluating coverage rates in specific populations and communities to better target outreach.

Why It Matters

Vaccines are one of the most effective tools for preventing disease and reducing healthcare costs. NIAM is an opportunity to celebrate our successes in immunization coverage while addressing gaps and ensuring our community remains protected against preventable illness.

Measles Update-August 2025

- **Local Status:** As of August 1, Chippewa County continues to report no confirmed cases of measles.
- **Wisconsin Cases:** On August 2, the Wisconsin DHS confirmed nine measles cases in Oconto County, all linked to the same out-of-state travel exposure. No public exposure sites have been identified, and the risk to the broader Wisconsin community remains low.
- **National Context:** Across the United States, the 2025 measles surge has reached 1,356 confirmed cases as of August 5, the highest annual total since 1992, and exceeding earlier years, including 1,274 in 2019. CDC data reports 32 outbreaks so far in 2025, and 87 percent of the 1,356 confirmed cases are outbreak-associated. Hospitalizations account for roughly 13 percent of cases. The majority, over 90 percent, of cases are in individuals who were unvaccinated or had unknown vaccination status.
- **Risk and Response:** Although Chippewa County has not experienced local transmission, national and state trends reinforce the ongoing risk of measles importation, especially during heavy summer travel. We maintain continuous coordination with Wisconsin DHS, local healthcare providers, and schools to ensure timely detection, reporting, and investigation if cases arise.
- **Vaccination Promotion:** We continue to actively promote MMR vaccination, particularly for anyone who may be missing one or both recommended doses, such as school-aged children, caregivers, travelers, and individuals uncertain of their vaccination history. Clinics remain available and accessible.
- **Preparedness Efforts:** Our department remains engaged in preparedness planning, including surveillance, simulated case response exercises, public education campaigns, and outreach in under-vaccinated communities to strengthen immunization coverage.

Opioid Misuse Prevention Day & Local Progress on Overdose Prevention Efforts

Each year on August 31, we observe Opioid Misuse Prevention Day to remember those who have lost their lives to overdose, to honor the grief of families and loved ones left behind, and to support individuals and communities affected by substance use. This day serves as a reminder of the ongoing need for awareness, compassion, and action across the nation, the state of Wisconsin, and right here in Chippewa County.

According to the 2025 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, the Overdose Death Rate per 100,000 people is 16 in Chippewa County, compared to 9 in Dunn County, 12 in Barron and Clark Counties, and 18 in Eau Claire County. Thankfully, our actual overdose death numbers are decreasing from 13 in 2023, 5 in 2024, and to date, 0 in 2025. However, we do know that overdoses are still occurring. Using the Wisconsin Suspected Overdose Alerts for Rapid Response data dashboard, we can see that in the past year, there have been 53 ambulance runs due to overdoses.

This decrease in overdose deaths can likely be attributed to multiple factors; however, evidence shows us that by providing harm reduction resources like Narcan, drug testing supplies, and safe disposal options, along with providing education, the risk of overdose and death decreases.

Since the beginning of the year, we have distributed a total of:

- 79 Xylazine testing kits
- 302 Fentanyl testing kits
- 692 boxes of Narcan
- 80 Detera medication deactivation bags

Additionally, 148.4 lbs. of sharps have been safely disposed of since April through Health Department collections, the April National Drug Takeback event, and the newly installed sharps disposal kiosks. We have also provided 16 Narcan Administration trainings, reaching 338 individuals since the beginning of the year.

This highlights the importance of continued investment in prevention, harm reduction, and community education to sustain this progress and save lives.

Family Foundations Site Visit for Nurse Family Partnership

On July 23, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families conducted a site visit as part of the annual review for the Family Foundations Home Visiting (FFHV) Program. Our department receives FFHV funding to support the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) in Chippewa, Eau Claire, and Dunn counties. This funding plays a vital role in enabling us to provide high-quality, evidence-based home visiting services to first-time parents.

The site visit findings confirmed that the Western Wisconsin Nurse-Family Partnership Consortium is performing very well, with all program areas meeting expectations and no corrective actions required. The state highlighted our strong community partnerships, success in engaging families through

parent cafés and playgroups, and the growing recognition of NFP's value in our region. In particular, our collaborative work with WIC and local Family Resource Centers was noted as a strength.

This positive review reflects our team's commitment to maintaining fidelity to the NFP model, supporting nurse retention and professional development, and responsibly utilizing the program funds to achieve meaningful outcomes for families.



Communicable Disease

The Health Officer is required by Wisconsin State Statute 252.05 to report information on current communicable disease reporting and follow-up to the Health and Human Services Board. In July, we received 182 new reports: 45 confirmed (14 Chlamydia, 14 Lyme Disease, and 2 COVID-19); 21 probable cases (19 Lyme Laboratory Reports, 1 Campylobacteriosis, and 1 Arboviral Illness); and 85 that did not meet the definition of a case (19 Lyme Laboratory Reports, 12 Hepatitis C-Chronic, and 9 Hepatitis A). See the attached report for further breakdown by disease type.

Environmental Health Division (EH)

July is always a busy month for the Environmental Health team with the Northern Wisconsin State Fair and Rock Fest. The Environmental Health team completed over 85 inspections. The team has completed 53 licensing inspections focusing on our mobile food trucks, campgrounds, and swimming pools. A few local fairs and festivals remain this summer that bring in local and Wisconsin-based

mobile and transient food stands, as well as our local farmers markets. The team continues to visit with these owners and events, educating people on food safety and sanitary practices. Our goal is always to provide accurate information to help keep our communities healthy and safe!

The water lab has been busy processing 20 DNR TN water samples for bacteria and nitrate. The Environmental Health summer intern has continued sampling beaches and looking for blue-green algae across Chippewa County, and has recommended one beach closing and two advisories.

Looking forward, the Environmental Health team will continue to complete the remaining seasonal facilities, campgrounds, etc., and finish our required DNR seasonal sampling requirements. Targeted outreach is being created and will be published on our media platforms to continue educating the community about safe water and food throughout August. Topics featured will include home canning practices, gardening food safety tips, beach and water safety, and tick and Lyme disease. Be sure to check those out!

Nutrition Division

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program

We are working on notifying all WIC families as well as all Chippewa County family practice, women's health, and pediatric providers of WIC food package changes that will be starting in October.

The WIC fiscal year (FY) will be changing. Currently, it is according to the calendar year (CY), but in 2026 it will be adjusted to October 1 – September 30.

The State WIC Office is currently in the process of preparing to authorize Kwik Trip to accept WIC benefits. The tentative timeline for this is mid-September. The State WIC Office is also in the process of finalizing our state formula rebate, which occurs every five years. This is planned to be announced by early September. We have had Abbott (Similac) as our contract formula since 2020.

NEW Farm Fresh Produce Program Updates

As of August 8, we have issued 214 booklets of vouchers. Currently, 10 farmers and farmstands in Chippewa County have agreed to accept the Farm Fresh vouchers, with verbal agreements from several others. We've also received interest from farmers at the Cadott Farmers Market and at least one farmstand in Bloomer. We continue to seek additional farmstands—including orchards—especially in rural areas of Chippewa County, to participate in the program.

If you have a contact or would like us to reach out to a local farmstand, please get in touch with our main WIC office at 715-726-7903 or via email at wic@chippewacountywi.gov. More information is also available on our website: [Farmers Market Programs | Chippewa County, WI](#).

Fit Families Update

Fit Families is a SNAP-Ed program designed to help families with children aged 2–4 develop healthier habits. The program focuses on increasing fruit and vegetable intake, choosing healthier beverages,

reducing screen time, and promoting physical activity. Families participate in a year-long program that includes monthly coaching check-ins to support and encourage their progress. In addition to working directly with families, the program also works to positively influence policy, systems, and environmental changes in these focus areas within our community.

On Friday, July 4, the president signed the budget reconciliation bill—the One Big Beautiful Bill Act—which eliminates new or future federal funding for SNAP-Ed after September 30, 2025.

On Monday, July 28, we were notified that Fit Families will no longer be funded starting in fiscal year (FY) 2026, which begins October 1, 2025. Although our State Fit Families Coordinator was hopeful that alternative funding would become available, that has not materialized. At this time, it's unclear whether there will be any federal efforts to restore funding for this important work. We were anticipating \$44,860 of funding for FY26.

What This Means Moving Forward

We have been instructed to complete and document all August monthly contacts in our REDCap tracking system by August 30. At this time, there are 51 children currently enrolled in the program who will need to be graduated or marked as complete.

Chippewa County has proudly offered the Fit Families Program for the past 13 years, enrolling and graduating over 600 children. Chippewa County has also been a mentor site providing expertise and guidance for seven Fit Families projects for the last 12 years. This program has consistently demonstrated meaningful, measurable outcomes for enrolled families. Year after year, we see children in the program consuming more fruits and vegetables, reducing intake of juice and sugar-sweetened beverages, decreasing screen time, and increasing physical activity.

Here are just a few quotes from families who have graduated from the Fit Families Program:

- They gave me resources to include vegetables in her daily diet in various ways and reducing her screen time down. They have also helped the whole family eat better and become more active. We are enjoying so much more family time together outside and indoors that doesn't involve the TV.
- Fit families helped my little girl drink more water and cut down the sugary beverages from daily to once a week!
- It helped him grow out of his addiction to chocolate milk
- Focused on the importance of my child being involved in the preparation of healthy foods. Also, the importance of going outside and getting fresh air while being active.
- The Fit Families program really did encourage us to try new vegetables, try different ways of preparing vegetables, and motivated us to spend more time outside being active. We have enjoyed the program and my daughter was excited to receive the incentives.

Additionally, we need to finalize all ongoing policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) work. All relevant work must be entered into the PEARS system no later than September 15.

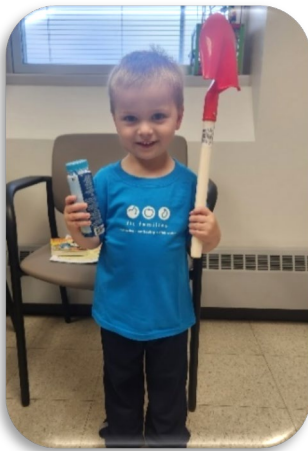
One of our most impactful collaborations was helping to establish the new Monday Market at the Y, one of the only markets in Chippewa Falls that accepts EBT and provides Market Match, making it easier for families to use food assistance benefits to buy local, nutritious foods. We used Fit Families funding to support staff time needed to develop and implement the Farm Fresh Produce Program from the generous community donation received. This program is another example of how we have worked to increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables for families who need it most.

We will be actively seeking other funding opportunities and remain hopeful that we can secure new support to continue this important work.

The end of SNAP-Ed funding also means that our longstanding partnership with FoodWise will come to an end. For several years, WIC and Fit Families have collaborated with FoodWise to offer programs such as grocery store tours called *Shopping Matters*, which helped families maximize their WIC, FoodShare, and personal fruit and vegetable budgets. Together, we also provided recipe demonstrations, food sampling, nutrition education sessions at WIC clinics, virtual nutrition classes during the pandemic, and our Fun at the Farmers Market classes. Our last Fun at the Farmers Market class for the season was held on Thursday, August 7.

On behalf of our Nutrition Division staff, we want to extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to the FoodWise team. Their dedication and passion for improving the health and well-being of low-income, at-risk populations have been invaluable and will be deeply missed in our community. We sincerely hope that funding will return in the future, allowing this vital program and partnership to be renewed.

Pictures of our Fit Families and FoodWise partnership activities



ForwardHealth Grant

The passage of the Big Beautiful Bill includes a number of changes to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, known as FoodShare in Wisconsin). The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is looking at this recently passed budget and working with federal partners to understand the details of how the legislation will affect our [Medicaid](#) and [FoodShare](#) members. They are also working on a plan for implementation that will span the next few years.

Pangya and Stephanie are attending relevant webinars about these changes so that we can pass along updates and changes to our local partners and community members that we are assisting. As we learn more about these required changes, DHS will notify affected members by sending notices, texts, and emails. The best way for members to stay connected is through the ACCESS.wi.gov website or the [MyACCESS smartphone app](#). We will also announce some of the changes broadly, as appropriate, using channels like the DHS website, social media, press releases, and email listservs.

Red Cross Blood Drive



Please join us for the Chippewa County Courthouse Blood Drive on Wednesday, September 17, from 10 am-4 pm.

Each donation will ensure patients in need have lifesaving resources in the weeks to come.

1 hour, 1 donation can help save up to 3 lives.

As an added thank you, each donor will receive one of four mystery tees with an iconic Red Cross and PEANUTS design.

[Sign Up Today for the Chippewa County Courthouse Blood Drive](#) or call the Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767 or Stephanie Abbe at 715-726-7870. THANK YOU!

Planning and Strategy Division

Redesigned for Residents: A More Accessible Public Health Website

The department recently launched a redesigned website to serve residents better and improve access to public health information. A quality improvement project guided this effort, focused on enhancing usability, clarity, and accessibility.

Previously, the site was organized by internal divisions, which often made it challenging for community members to locate the information they needed. Based on usability testing and staff feedback, the new design is organized around six more intuitive categories:

- Your Health
- Home & Environment
- Business & Licensing

- Community Efforts
- Data & Reports
- About Us

The redesigned layout improves access to information across all public health programs and divisions. Visual icons, simplified navigation, and a cleaner layout help ensure the site is usable for a broad range of visitors.

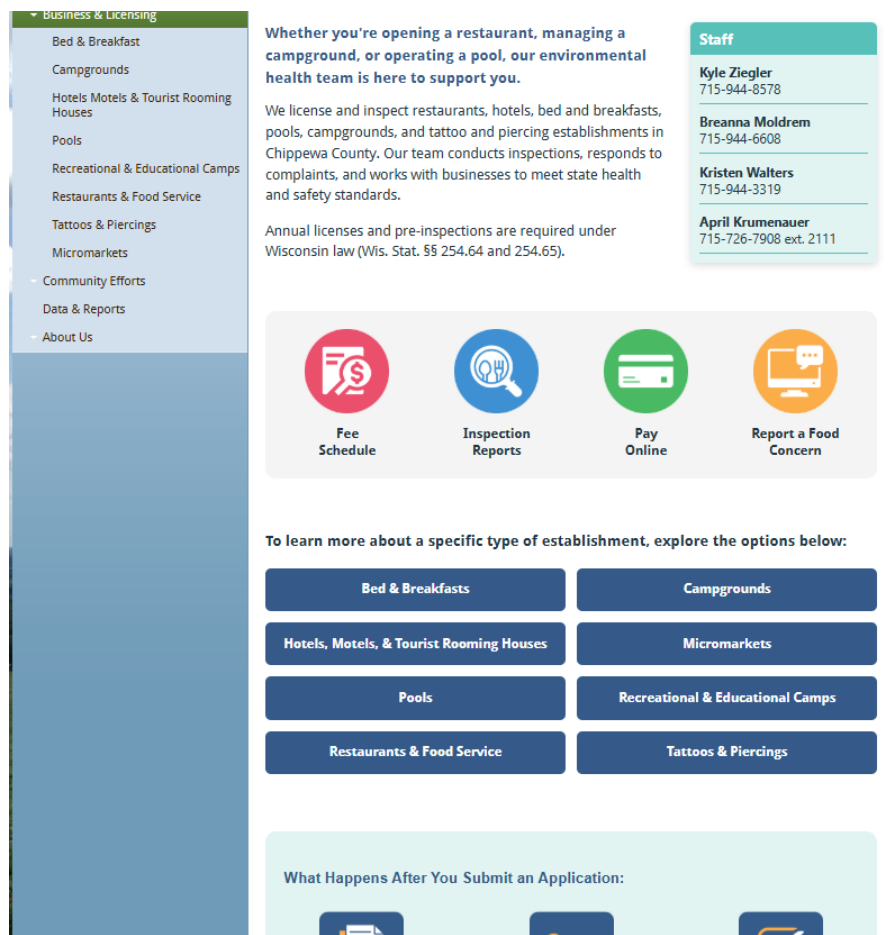
This project was a collaborative effort, bringing together the Planning & Strategy Division, the department's Communications Strategic Priority Area team, and all program divisions. We also worked in close partnership with Chippewa County IT, aligning our efforts with the County's broader web audit and transition to a new platform later this year.

As part of our continuous improvement process, we'll be monitoring website analytics and checking in with front desk and administrative staff to identify the most common public inquiries. These insights will guide future refinements, such as updating Quick Links and homepage flow.

Website link: www.chippewacountywi.gov/publichealth

Check out a few of our updated pages:

Business & Licensing



Medical Equipment Loan Closet

- Communicable Disease
- First Breath
- Forward Health Programs
- Immunizations
- Pregnancy & Parenting Young Children
- Public Health Related Resources
- Reproductive Health
- Free Medical Equipment Loan
 - WIC
 - Home & Environment
 - Business & Licensing
 - Community Efforts
 - Data & Reports
 - About Us

If you live in Chippewa County and need medical equipment, we can help you borrow it for free.

The Chippewa County Department of Public Health and Rutledge Charities offer medical equipment loans to people who live in Chippewa County at no cost.



Borrow a Wheelchair

If you need a wheelchair, the Chippewa County Department of Public Health can help. This location provides **wheelchairs only** to Chippewa County residents.

Location & Contact

Address: 711 N. Bridge Street, Room 121, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
Phone: (715) 726-7900
Hours: Mon–Thurs: 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Fri: 7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

How It Works

1. Call to check if a wheelchair is available.
2. Visit during office hours to pick it up.
3. Borrow the wheelchair for up to 6 months.



Borrow Other Medical Equipment

Rutledge Charities offers a wider variety of medical equipment:

- Bath Benches
- Canes
- Commodes
- Crutches
- Knee Scooters
- Toilet Risers
- Walkers

Location & Contact

Address: 404 N. Bridge Street, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
Phone: (715) 723-6618
Hours: Monday–Friday: 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

How It Works

1. Call Rutledge Charities to see what's available.
2. Visit during office hours to pick it up.
3. Borrow the equipment for up to 6 months.

Supporting the Supporters: CRC-West Reaches More Caregivers Across the Region

In June 2025, CRC-West hosted two in-person Compassion Resiliency Workshops—one in Roberts, WI (outside of Hudson) and one in La Crosse. These evidence-informed events supported parents and caregivers of children with special health care needs by offering practical tools for managing stress, building self-compassion, and connecting with others facing similar challenges.

Caregivers of children with complex diagnoses—including autism, ADHD, epilepsy, Down syndrome, and mental health concerns participated in grounding activities, guided breathing, and small-group conversation.

Feedback was heartfelt and affirming:

"The moment we closed our eyes and practiced self-compassion—I started to cry. It felt good."

"We just need more of this conversation. It's refreshing and applicable."

These events not only supported attendees in the moment—they deepened trust and expanded our reach. After the workshops, several families contacted us for additional resources, helping us connect with caregivers in areas of our region where we've had less direct engagement. In Roberts, a trusted local parent group that co-hosted the event began regularly sharing CRC-West's events and content in their highly active private Facebook group, further increasing visibility with rural families.

These outcomes demonstrate that when families are supported in ways that feel relevant, accessible, and respectful, they stay connected and help others connect, too.

Chippewa County Healthy Communities

As part of its role as the backbone organization for Chippewa County Healthy Communities (CCHC), the Chippewa County Department of Public Health provides coordination, facilitation, and strategic support, including the Drug-Free Communities grant. This work is led by the Planning and Strategy Division, which oversees day-to-day coalition activities and partner engagement. Recent highlights from CCHC include:

- **Building Coalition Infrastructure**

The coalition is developing a public-facing website to improve visibility and access to resources. A New Member Manual and Bylaws are also in final review to support long-term sustainability and shared understanding among members.

- **Strengthening Substance Use Prevention**

Within the Voices in Prevention (VIP) Action Team, we've established a new subcommittee in partnership with the Chippewa County Harm Reduction Committee to align and coordinate efforts.

- **Innovative Outreach and Education**

The VIP team created a Harm Reduction Gallery Walk, a portable visual display designed to help children and families better understand harm reduction practices. This new tool will be featured at upcoming community events.

- **Improving Event Safety**

VIP is also assessing underage alcohol and drug use at local festivals, which will inform the development of future best practices for event and festival organizers.

- **Deepening Community Engagement**

The coalition is actively participating in community outreach events across Chippewa County, including National Night Out in Cornell and Chippewa Falls, Back-to-School events in the

Stanley-Boyd and Lake Holcombe School Districts, and the Chippewa County Foster Kinship Care event.

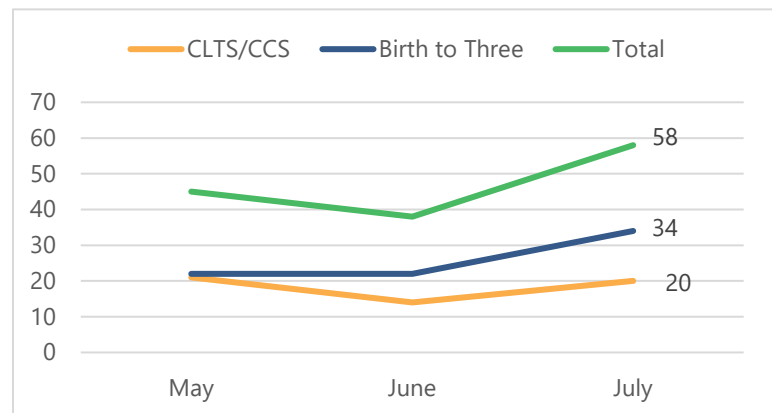
- **Federal Grant Reporting**

We are wrapping up Year 6 of the Drug-Free Communities Grant and are in the process of completing the annual DFC Progress Report.

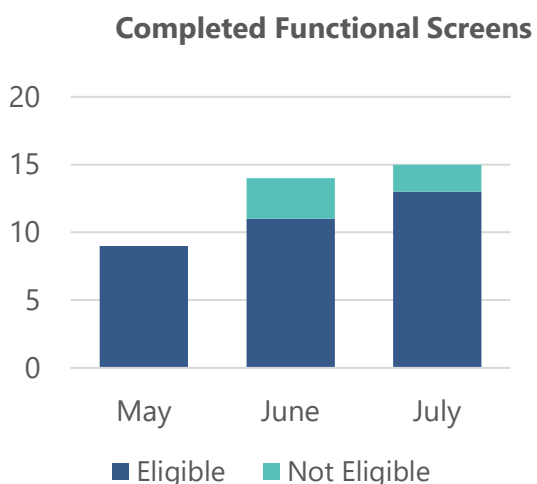
Single Point of Entry: Centralized Support for Families of Children with Special Needs in Chippewa County

The CRC-West serves as the Single Point of Entry for families in Chippewa County seeking support for children with special needs. This means families can contact CRC-West as a central place to access a variety of services without needing to reach out to multiple organizations. Under a contract with the Department of Human Services, CRC-West connects families to programs like Birth to Three, Children's Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) and the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver and assists with functional screenings for these services.

July saw a large increase in referrals, with 58 referrals this month.

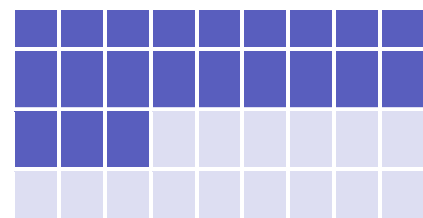


To ensure that children receive timely assistance, Wisconsin's Department of Health Services has established a [45-day standard for determining eligibility following a referral](#). Meeting this standard is crucial, as it reflects our commitment to connecting families with essential resources efficiently.



Over the last 6 months, the Average Number of **Days from Referral to Eligibility** is

30 days



Years of Service

CONGRATULATIONS to the following staff for their hard work and dedication to providing excellent customer service to the citizens of Chippewa County.



- ❖ Jenny Lenbom, Community Health Registered Nurse – 19 years
- ❖ Nikki Hoernke, Planning and Strategy Division Manager – 6 years
- ❖ Tabby Wessels, Community Health Intake Nurse – 6 years



**Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Division of Public Health
PHAVER - WEDSS**

County Board of Health Report

Jurisdiction: Chippewa County

Received Date: 7/1/2025 to 7/31/2025

Disease	Confirmed	Probable	Suspect	Not A Case	Total
LYME LABORATORY REPORT	0	19	0	19	38
LYME DISEASE, ERYTHEMA MIGRANS (EM) RASH	14	0	1	6	21
CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS INFECTION	14	0	0	0	14
HEPATITIS C, CHRONIC	0	0	0	12	12
HEPATITIS A	0	0	0	9	9
STREPTOCOCCAL DISEASE, INVASIVE, GROUP B	0	0	4	5	9
LEAD-BLOOD LEVELS - ADULT	0	0	0	8	8
ANAPLASMOSIS, A. phagocytophilum	3	0	1	2	6
TUBERCULOSIS, LTBI - LABORATORY RESULTS ONLY	0	0	6	0	6
E-COLI, ENTEROPATHOGENIC (EPEC)	0	0	5	0	5
CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS	1	1	2	0	4
HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE, INVASIVE DISEASE	1	0	0	3	4
HEPATITIS B, CHRONIC	0	0	0	4	4
VARICELLA (CHICKENPOX)	0	0	1	3	4
BABESIOSIS	0	0	1	2	3
NOT REPORTABLE	0	0	1	2	3
PERTUSSIS (WHOOPING COUGH)	2	0	0	1	3
STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIAE, INVASIVE DISEASE	0	0	1	2	3

Disease	Confirmed	Probable	Suspect	Not A Case	Total
TUBERCULOSIS, LATENT INFECTION (LTBI)	0	0	3	0	3
ARBOVIRAL ILLNESS, WEST NILE VIRUS, Unspecified	0	0	1	1	2
CORONAVIRUS, NOVEL 2019 (COVID-19)	2	0	0	0	2
CORONAVIRUS, NOVEL 2019 (COVID-19) - ASSOCIATED HOSPITALIZATION	1	0	1	0	2
GONORRHEA	2	0	0	0	2
ARBOVIRAL ILLNESS, POWASSAN, NEUROINVASIVE	0	1	0	0	1
ARBOVIRAL ILLNESS, ZIKA VIRUS	0	0	0	1	1
ASBESTOSIS	0	0	1	0	1
CANDIDA AURIS, UNSPECIFIED	0	0	0	1	1
CARBAPENEMASE PRODUCING ORGANISM (CPO)	0	0	0	1	1
CARBAPENEMASE PRODUCING ORGANISM (CPO), COLONIZATION/SCREENING	0	0	0	1	1
E-COLI, ENTEROTOXIGENIC (ETEC)	0	0	1	0	1
E-COLI, SHIGA TOXIN-PRODUCING (STEC)	1	0	0	0	1
EHRlichiosis/ANAPLASMOSIS, undetermined	1	0	0	0	1
GIARDIASIS	1	0	0	0	1
MEASLES (RUBEOLA)	0	0	0	1	1
MYCOBACTERIAL DISEASE (NON-TUBERCULOUS)	1	0	0	0	1
SALMONELLOSIS	1	0	0	0	1
STREPTOCOCCAL DISEASE, INVASIVE, GROUP A	0	0	0	1	1
TOXOPLASMOSIS	0	0	1	0	1
Total	45	21	31	85	182

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Public Health Financial Results

July 2025

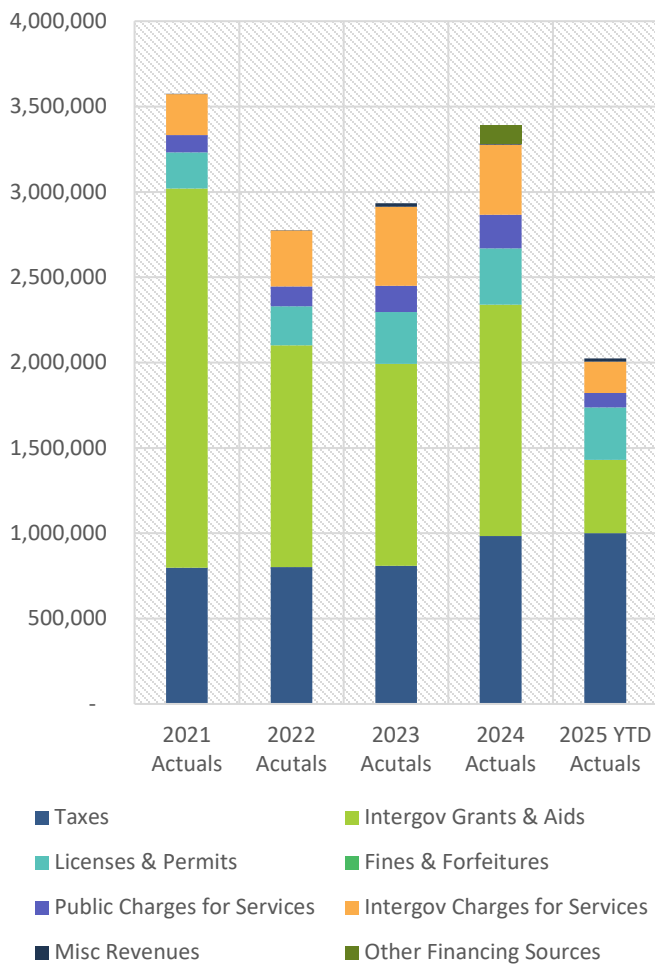
Fund	Description	Revenue			Expense		
		Budget	Actual	% Collected	Budget	Actual	% Spent
54100	Community Health	\$ (593,947.00)	\$ (540,070.03)	90.9%	\$ 593,947.00	\$ 287,528.10	48.4%
54121	Nurse Family Partnership	(123,650.00)	(57,043.33)	46.1%	123,650.00	63,486.46	51.3%
54123	Farmers Market	(3,930.00)	(162.37)	4.1%	3,930.00	357.92	9.1%
54125	Prenatal Care Coordination	(27,536.00)	(10,673.88)	38.8%	27,536.00	20,764.92	75.4%
54127	Healthy U	(31,393.00)	(22,755.13)	72.5%	31,393.00	16,094.38	51.3%
54128	Public Health Preparedness	(47,943.00)	(16,290.05)	34.0%	47,943.00	25,564.84	53.3%
54129	TN Program	(56,587.00)	(45,961.28)	81.2%	56,587.00	26,233.94	46.4%
54130	CHIP Coalition	(4,500.00)	-	0.0%	4,500.00	254.81	5.7%
54132	Drug Free Community Grant	(139,083.00)	(46,101.18)	33.1%	139,083.00	48,293.09	34.7%
54133	Iron Will Endowment Fund	(1,881.00)	(2,190.73)	116.5%	1,881.00	19.16	1.0%
54135	Bright Start River Source	(10,997.00)	(10,350.10)	94.1%	10,997.00	9,968.88	90.7%
54138	Planning & Strategy	(325,662.00)	(306,487.73)	94.1%	325,662.00	185,691.84	57.0%
54140	WIC	(433,809.00)	(268,865.51)	62.0%	433,809.00	218,117.88	50.3%
54142	Maternal & Child Health Program	(32,143.00)	(6,395.89)	19.9%	32,143.00	8,919.99	27.8%
54144	Wisconsin Wins	(5,065.00)	(1,105.64)	21.8%	5,065.00	4,454.79	88.0%
54149	Pre-Venture	(20,747.00)	(2,590.87)	12.5%	20,747.00	2,675.80	12.9%
54150	Prevention	(9,346.00)	(6,078.20)	65.0%	9,346.00	5,971.59	63.9%
54151	Equipment Loan Closet	(2,997.00)	(381.95)	12.7%	2,997.00	1,312.20	43.8%
54152	Childrens Resource Center	(242,490.00)	(81,462.98)	33.6%	242,490.00	123,829.31	51.1%
54153	WIC Endowment	-	(2,547.62)	#DIV/0!	-	1,445.48	#DIV/0!
54154	Title X Reproductive Health	(6,000.00)	(7,930.40)	132.2%	6,000.00	12,614.70	210.2%
54156	FIT WIC	(41,447.00)	(16,899.18)	40.8%	41,447.00	22,918.08	55.3%
54157	Reproductive Health	(55,193.00)	(17,238.45)	31.2%	55,193.00	19,099.07	34.6%
54158	WIC BF Peer Counseling	(19,995.00)	(909.37)	4.5%	19,995.00	19,313.72	96.6%
54161	Health Clinics	(32,652.00)	(3,278.90)	10.0%	32,652.00	3,653.59	11.2%
54162	COVID Vaccine	(23,032.00)	(2,976.34)	12.9%	23,032.00	7,732.81	33.6%
54163	Overdose Fatality Review	(27,347.00)	(7,441.47)	27.2%	27,347.00	13,123.58	48.0%
54164	COVID Contact Tracing	-	(11,021.00)	#DIV/0!	-	16,000.30	#DIV/0!
54165	GYT - Get Yourself Tested	(2,195.00)	(80.13)	3.7%	2,195.00	945.22	43.1%
54166	Water Lab	(3,627.00)	(5,077.34)		3,627.00	17,013.97	
54167	NW Coalition	-	-		-	11,900.99	
54168	Farm Fresh Program	-	(15,000.00)		-	300.02	
54171	Food Safety Recreation License	(357,141.00)	(320,574.47)		357,141.00	150,494.49	
54172	Infant Immunization Grant	(16,794.00)	(5,245.35)	31.2%	16,794.00	17,363.31	103.4%
54173	Opioid Abatement	(1,694.00)	(695.43)		1,694.00	2,709.94	
54174	Forward Health Outreach	(33,744.00)	(6,766.09)	20.1%	33,744.00	19,350.22	57.3%
54176	Environmental Health	(79,337.00)	(79,842.71)	100.6%	79,337.00	40,026.67	50.5%
54178	Public Health Infrastructure	(72,867.00)	(3,785.56)		72,867.00	15,192.00	
54180	DHS Agreement	(173,446.00)	(66,276.19)	38.2%	173,446.00	77,711.38	44.8%
54182	Environmental Tracking	-	(1,508.00)		-	1,908.80	
54184	Childhood Lead Poisoning Prev.	(9,927.00)	(2,632.41)	26.5%	9,927.00	2,922.47	29.4%
54186	Charity Outreach Program	(250.00)	-	0.0%	250.00	-	0.0%
54188	WI Wayfinder	(81,987.00)	(15,697.83)		81,987.00	34,352.58	
54189	Sensory Friendly Vaccination	-	-		-	-	
54190	Public Health Donation Expendi	(1,000.00)	(418.72)	41.9%	1,000.00	-	0.0%
		\$ 3,153,381.00	\$ 2,023,558.81	64.2%	\$ 3,153,381.00	\$ 1,557,641.99	49.4%



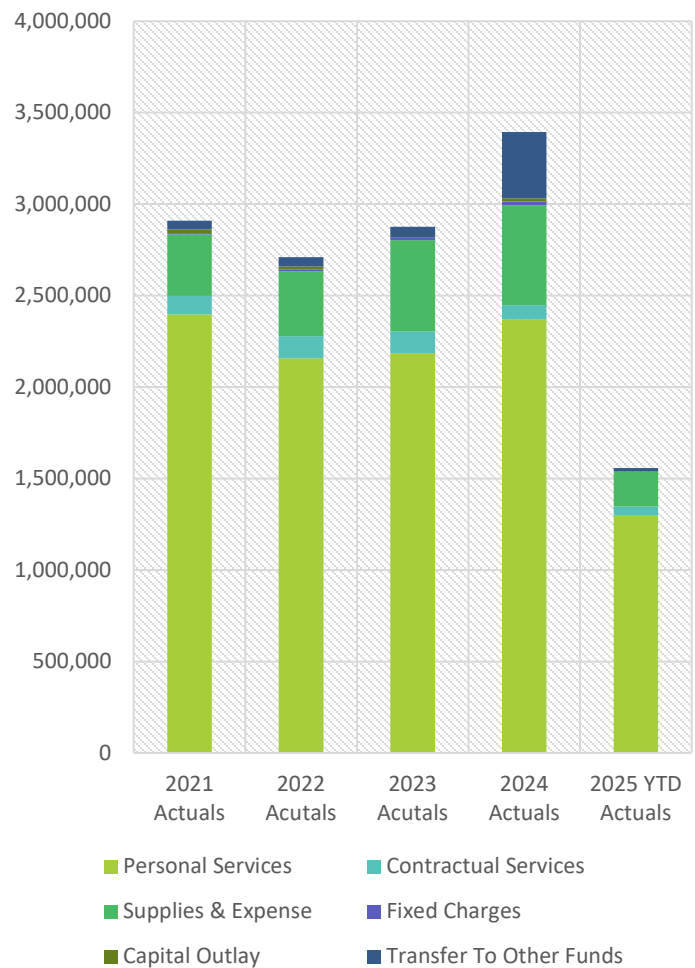
Public Health Revenue vs Expenses

Variance Year-to-Date through July 2025

Total Revenues for All Years



Total Expenses for All Years





5.6

STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION
PUBLIC HEALTH 2023-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE - NIKKI HOERNKE

Planning and Strategy Division Manager Nikki Hoernke will provide an update on the Chippewa County Department of Public Health's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. The presentation will highlight progress made on key objectives and recent accomplishments.