

**Chippewa County
Health & Human Services Board
Regular Meeting
January 15, 2026
Chippewa County Courthouse, Room 302
7:45 AM**

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 07:45 AM

2. Roll Call

Members Present:

Kari Ives, Lee Hennick, James Ericksen, James Meinen, Dennis Bachman, John Halbleib, Marcia Kyes, Harold Steele

Members Absent:

Robert Bullwinkel, MD

Others Present:

County Administrator Andy Albarado; Human Services Staff: Bobbie Jaeger, Brandi Engel, Paul Brenner, Sarah Zielke, and Kyra Secraw; Public Health Staff: Brittnay Fortuna, Audra Knowlton, Sarah McQuillan, Maryn Bengs, and Nikki Hoernke

3. Members of the Public Wishing to Be Heard

(Comments will be limited to 5 minutes per speaker.)

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

4. Consent Agenda

(Unless separation of an item is requested, all items will be adopted under one motion.)

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (8 - 0)
Mover:	James Meinen
Seconder:	Marcia Kyes
Ayes:	Kari Ives, Lee Hennick, James Ericksen, James Meinen, Dennis Bachman, John Halbleib, Marcia Kyes, Harold Steele
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Robert Bullwinkel, MD

1. Approve the Agenda
2. Approve the Minutes - December 18, 2025
3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - February 19, 2026

5. Reports

1. Public Health Policy, Practice, and Program Success — Children's Resource Center-West - Maryn Bengs

Children's Resource Center-West (CRC) Program Coordinator Maryn Bengs stated this was the second year to offer the Essential Resource Purchase Program. The program reduces barriers, expands access, and strengthens networks of support to enhance the lives of children and youth with special health care needs in the community. The program enables organizations to purchase pre-designed kits through an application process. The choices included a Book Kit, Sensory Kit, or Communication Kit.

They received 31 applications. Bengs shared the impact of the program within Chippewa County. Moving forward, organizations will begin implementing these kits in their communities, CRC will gather feedback from final reports, and CRC will support the organizations as they continue to support our priority population.

2. Human Services Director's Program and Financial Report – Bobbie Jaeger

Human Services Director Bobbie Jaeger presented the Human Services Program and Financial Report. Jaeger highlighted several items from her report: the Bill to authorize Wisconsin to join the national social worker licensure compact, the Technical Correction Bill to support the Foodshare program, congratulations to staff with January work anniversaries, and the Dementia Care Specialist (DCS) will transition to Dunn County. The ADRC DCS will reduce to a half-time position, working 28 hours per week.

The ADRC Board will be recruiting a new member after April. Please share with anyone you know who may be interested. It is Substance Use Disorder Treatment month. The Adult Protective Services unit is beyond capacity. Jaeger added that the department is wrapping up the year-end fiscal numbers.

3. 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: Public Health won the 2025 door decoration contest, the Admin team is working on flu and COVID billing, respiratory illnesses are on the rise, pertussis and whooping cough cases in the county, Hepatitis B vaccine recommendation changes, January is Cervical Cancer Awareness month, communicable disease data update, Environmental Health monthly numbers, Environmental Health ended 2025 with 773 inspections of licensed facilities, continue to see increase growth in WIC, reviewed WIC caseload data since 2020, received the Marshfield/Security Health Plan Food Insecurity Grant award, and the next Blood Drive is February 10. Staff are working on strategic planning; they created a new vision, mission, and values, completed a SOAR analysis, and created a community survey to establish priorities for the next strategic plan. Fortuna reviewed the Healthy Communities updates, accreditation updates, and congratulations to staff with January work anniversaries.

A discussion was held on staff capacity to handle licensing of more facilities and creating a future plan if funding is reduced, notification of immunization clinics, and criteria for stakeholders who will attend the upcoming community conversation in Lake Holcombe.

4. Public Health 2026 Program Prioritization Education — Brittnay Fortuna

Public Health Director Brittnay Fortuna reviewed the 2026 Program Prioritization ranking. Fortuna gave a brief description on the importance of prioritizing programs in the event of a financial crisis or if programs are cut. For new members, there are mandated services required by state statutes and the essential prevention services. Leadership completed ranking the programs, and Fortuna encourages all members to complete the program prioritization ranking and return to Audra Knowlton by the end of the month. The results will be shared at the February meeting.

5. Public Health 2023-2026 Strategic Plan Update - Nikki Hoernke

Planning and Strategy Division Manager Nikki Hoernke reviewed the progress of the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. She reviewed the status of the goals. Department staff changes, changes in how work was structured, prioritized areas for sustainability, and staff capacity led to some goals not being met. A few goals may be carried into the next strategic plan. Hoernke reviewed the status of objectives and

successes for each team.

A new documentation software called DocTract will hold the department's policies and procedures moving forward.

6. Business Items

7. Agenda Items for Future Consideration

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 AM

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (9 - 0)
Mover:	James Ericksen
Second:	Harold Steele
Ayes:	Kari Ives, Lee Hennick, James Ericksen, James Meinen, Dennis Bachman, John Halbleib, Robert Bullwinkel, MD, Marcia Kyes, Harold Steele
Nays:	None
Absent:	