

**Chippewa County
Health & Human Services Board
Regular Meeting
March 19, 2026
Chippewa County Courthouse, Room 302
7:45 AM**

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Lee Hennick called the meeting to order at 07:45 AM

2. Roll Call

Members Present:

Lee Hennick, James Ericksen, James Meinen, Dennis Bachman, John Halbleib, Marcia Kyes

Members Absent:

Kari Ives, Robert Bullwinkel, MD, Harold Steele

Others Present:

County Administrator Andy Albarado, Human Services Staff: Bobbie Jaeger, Paul Brenner, Brandi Engel, Sarah Zielke, Public Health Staff: Brittney Fortuna, Audra Knowlton, Sarah McQuillan, Allie Isaacson, Bre Moldrem, Reggie Eggen, and Mai Lia Vang

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 (6 - 0)

Mover: Marcia Kyes

Second: Dennis Bachman

Ayes: Lee Hennick, James Ericksen, James Meinen, Dennis Bachman, John Halbleib, Marcia Kyes

Nayes: None

Absent: Kari Ives, Robert Bullwinkel, MD, Harold Steele

1. Approve the Agenda
2. Approve the Minutes - February 19, 2026
3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - May 21, 2026

5. Reports

1. Public Health Policy, Practice, and Program Success - Environmental Health Division - Bre Moldrem

Environmental Health Specialist Bre Moldrem stated the team was awarded the Groundwater Model in January. The Groundwater Model will be used as a scientific tool in schools and at outreach events. The groundwater model shows how water flows through soil and rock layers beneath the surface and how contamination, like a leaky landfill or agricultural runoff, can contaminate private wells of different depths. The Groundwater Model shows how contamination flows toward bodies of water, wells at different depths, and surface water points.

The Division conducts beach water testing to monitor contamination and monitor blue/green algae, in addition to partnering with Land Conservation and UW Extension to promote education. Over the last 20 years, they have seen nitrate levels slowly drop due to education and reduced fertilizer use.

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 from her report: Division of Children and Families Childcare Targeted Case Reviews will resume in March; changes to the FoodShare Quest card went into effect March 1; Community Support Program requirements changed for clinical coordinators to hold certain licensures, Human Services already meets this requirement; The SNAP error rate for Wisconsin is under six percent, and the Great Rivers Consortium have yielded three months with a zero percent error rate; Adult Protective Services funding is a concern, which is starting to have an impact across the state; Congratulations to staff celebrating work anniversaries this month; ADRC will be introducing a limited carry-out meal option at the Bloomer dining site; Child Protective Services Initial Assessment Worker Natalie Emmerich will assist with Adult Protective Services; four team members talked to a Criminal Justice class at the Chippewa Falls High School and received a donation for children being served by Chippewa County from the Chippewa Falls High School National Honor Society; Child Protective Services welcomed Melisa Berg as the new Supervisor; March is National Social Worker month; Mental Wellness & Recovery Division completed 20 guardianships already in 2026 compared to 52 for 2025. Jaeger reviewed DHS Dashboard data and Senate Bill 180 for income maintenance passed. This will help relieve a substantial financial strain on the county.

Discussion was held on the SNAP bill, which includes positions, funding, and focuses on reducing the consumption of sugary food, which may have an impact on people's choices. Human Services and Public Health continue to provide education for clients. The SNAP program is a priority in Wisconsin, and future funding may change. Public Health is looking at other funding sources to help fund the difference.

3. Human Services 2025 Annual Report - Bobbie Jaeger

Human Services Director Bobbie Jaeger presented the 2025 Annual Report. Jaeger thanked Brandi for her coordination with the divisions and for compiling the report. Jaeger highlighted the Under/Over Spent data, which is affected by out-of-home placements. Senior Fiscal Manager Paul Brenner added that Human Services sent money back to the County. The Annual Report highlights achievements and challenges for each division.

Board members expressed recognition to both departments for including pictures of the directors and their staff, very well done. Gratitude was given for the ability to shadow Human Services staff during A Day in the Life.

4. Public Health Director's Program and Financial Report – Brittney Fortuna

Public Health Director Brittney Fortuna presented the Public Health Program and Financial Report. Fortuna highlighted from her report:

Administration – the team has been updating/reviewing policies and procedures, the Wheelchair Loan Closet remains busy, and applications are being received for the Doris Vennard Scholarship.

Community Health – working on strengthening our workforce through professional development, Brooke completed her Lactation Counselor certification, staff attended the Wisconsin Association of Lactation Consultants Conference, Brooke will participate in the Public Health Residency program, staff attended a foodborne outbreak tabletop exercise, one of the nurses attended the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association Conference out of state, no measles cases in Chippewa County to date and three in the state, staff continue to provide education and provide vaccinations, and communicable

disease data.

Environmental Health – staff attended Environmental Science Day focusing on PFAS, Mai Lia was introduced as the new Environmental Health Specialist and will be conducting pool inspections, last week was Groundwater Awareness Week, and staff are busy conducting inspections. Reggie was introduced as the limited-term Environmental Health Specialist.

Nutrition – March is National Nutrition Month, with the theme Discover the Power of Nutrition. March 11 was National Nutritionist Day, and the team dressed up as superheroes to celebrate National Nutrition Month. They secured the Marshfield/Security Health Plan Food Insecurity Grant and are working with food pantries to update contact information. A map will be created containing contact information and locations. They are looking at expanding the Farm Fresh Produce program.

Planning and Strategy – the Strategic Plan is in the planning phase. Priority areas include: Access and Reach, Trust and Awareness, and Capacity and Sustainability. The Children’s Resource Center-West is busy conducting outreach. They have seen a decrease in call volume. A social work intern from UW-Eau Claire is working with the team. A win for the department will be the expansion of post-partum care to 12 months, versus the current 60 days. Through the PNCC program, they are looking at expanding the cap to cover the new time frame.

Fortuna gave a Reaccreditation update. Domains 1, 2, and 4 are completed, and work on Domains 7 and 10 is in progress. Congratulations to Pangya Thao for her eight years of service. McQuillan commented on the department's financials. She stated that Public Health is trending in the right direction.

5. Public Health 2025 Annual Report - Brittnay Fortuna

Public Health Director Brittnay Fortuna presented the 2025 Annual Report. Fortuna highlighted from the Annual Report: mission, vision, values, the Board, Divisions and their services, and milestones through the year. She reviewed accomplishments from the Foundational Public Health Services, which included chronic communicable diseases and narrative training, the Farm Fresh Produce Program and sharps disposal, water lab and licensing, Nurse Family Partnership program and Fit Families, Access to Care Report and the Children’s Resource Center-West, wastewater surveillance, overdose surveillance, Chippewa County Healthy Communities Coalition, breastfeeding support and compassion resilience workshops, maintaining a stakeholder contact list and the budget, public health advocacy training, created a Performance Management Guide, updating the Public Health Emergency Plan and attending the regional exercise, stigma reduction commercial, and outreach events. Thank you to the Planning and Strategy Division, which spearheaded the Annual Report, especially Tori.

6. Business Items

1. Human Services 2026 Program Prioritization Approval - Bobbie Jaeger

Human Services Director Bobbie Jaeger presented the Human Services 2026 Program Prioritization ranking. Results remained similar to the 2025 ranking.

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (6 - 0)
Mover:	John Halbleib
Second:	James Ericksen
Ayes:	Lee Hennick, James Ericksen, James Meinen, Dennis Bachman, John Halbleib, Marcia Kyes
Nays:	None
Absent:	Kari Ives, Robert Bullwinkel, MD, Harold Steele

7. Agenda Items for Future Consideration

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 AM.

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (6 - 0)
Mover:	James Ericksen
Second:	James Meinen
Ayes:	Lee Hennick, James Ericksen, James Meinen, Dennis Bachman, John Halbleib, Marcia Kyes
Nays:	None
Absent:	Kari Ives, Robert Bullwinkel, MD, Harold Steele