

**Chippewa County
Health & Human Services Board
Regular Meeting
May 21, 2026
Chippewa County Courthouse, Room 302
7:45 AM**

1. Call to Order

County Administrator Andy Albarado called the meeting to order at 07:45 AM

2. Roll Call

Members Present:
Kari Ives, Lee Hennick, James Ericksen, Pam Guthman, Dennis Bachman, John Halbleib, Sandy Frohling, MD, Marcia Kyes
Members Absent:
Robert Bullwinkel, MD
Others Present:
County Administrator Andy Albarado, Human Services Staff: Bobbie Jaeger, Paul Brenner; Brandi Engel, Sarah Zielke, Ashley Brott, Sara Torrence; Public Health Staff: Brittnay Fortuna, Audra Knowlton, Nikki Hoernke, Maryn Sargent, Grace VanDerhei; Members of the Public: Pandora Anderson, Nicole Crosby, and Lori Crosby.

3. Election of Chair

Supervisor Kari Ives was nominated by Supervisor Guthman. Supervisor Ives was elected as Chair.

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (8 - 0)
Mover:	John Halbleib
Second:	James Ericksen
Ayes:	Kari Ives, Lee Hennick, James Ericksen, Pam Guthman, Dennis Bachman, John Halbleib, Sandy Frohling, MD, Marcia Kyes
Nays:	None
Absent:	Robert Bullwinkel, MD

4. Election of Vice Chair

Supervisor Dennis Bachman was nominated by Supervisor Hennick. Supervisor Guthman made a motion to approve by unanimous vote. Supervisor Bachman is the Vice Chair.

Motion:	Approved
Result:	(8 - 0)
Mover:	Pam Guthman
Second:	
Ayes:	Kari Ives, Lee Hennick, James Ericksen, Pam Guthman, Dennis Bachman, John Halbleib, Sandy Frohling, MD, Marcia Kyes
Nays:	None
Absent:	Robert Bullwinkel, MD

5. 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.

6. Consent Agenda

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

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (8 - 0)
Mover:	Pam Guthman
Second:	Marcia Kyes
Ayes:	Kari Ives, Lee Hennick, James Ericksen, Pam Guthman, Dennis Bachman, John Halbleib, Sandy Frohling, MD, Marcia Kyes
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Robert Bullwinkel, MD

1. Approve the Agenda
2. Approve the Minutes - March 19, 2026
3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - June 18, 2026

7. Business Items

1. Set Regular Meeting Date and Time

The Health & Human Services Board meetings will be held on the Third Thursday of each month beginning at 8:00 am.

Motion:	Approved
Result:	(7 - 1)
Mover:	Dennis Bachman
Second:	Lee Hennick
Ayes:	Kari Ives, Lee Hennick, Pam Guthman, Dennis Bachman, John Halbleib, Sandy Frohling, MD, Marcia Kyes
Nayes:	James Ericksen
Absent:	Robert Bullwinkel, MD

2. Human Services 2027 Opioid Fund Request - Bobbie Jaeger

Human Services Director Bobbie Jaeger is seeking Opioid funding to support the Peer Support-Recovery Coach position in the Mental Wellness and Recovery Services. The Peer Support position has been successful in reducing inpatient days and decreasing substance use. She is asking for \$50,000.

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (8 - 0)
Mover:	Dennis Bachman
Second:	Pam Guthman
Ayes:	Kari Ives, Lee Hennick, James Ericksen, Pam Guthman, Dennis Bachman, John Halbleib, Sandy Frohling, MD, Marcia Kyes
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Robert Bullwinkel, MD

3. Public Health 2027 Opioid Fund Request - Harm Reduction Program - Brittnay Fortuna

Public Health Director Brittnay Fortuna stated they are building on the existing harm reduction program to increase Naloxone training in the community and Jail. They will partner with End Overdose to provide

education at Force Fields, implement recommendations from the Overdose Fatality Review team, and provide staff training. She highlighted statistics since January 2025 to show the impact on the community. She is asking for \$45,000.

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (8 - 0)
Mover:	Marcia Kyes
Second:	Pam Guthman
Ayes:	Kari Ives, Lee Hennick, James Ericksen, Pam Guthman, Dennis Bachman, John Halbleib, Sandy Frohling, MD, Marcia Kyes
Nays:	None
Absent:	Robert Bullwinkel, MD

4. Public Health 2027 Opioid Fund Request - Sharps Disposal Program - Brittnay Fortuna

Public Health Director Brittnay Fortuna is asking for \$20,000 to extend the sharps disposal program to help offset the disposal fee for community members. Community members are asking for sharps kiosks to be located in their communities. The Public Health Department charges a fee for sharps disposal at the office. Businesses bring their sharps to Public Health, and we have seen a cost barrier among community members. We partner with the Sheriff's Department, Jail, and Mental Wellness and Recovery Services to dispose of sharps.

The Fees for Service schedule will be adjusted in June to align with the disposal fee for different-sized containers received from businesses.

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (8 - 0)
Mover:	John Halbleib
Second:	Pam Guthman
Ayes:	Kari Ives, Lee Hennick, James Ericksen, Pam Guthman, Dennis Bachman, John Halbleib, Sandy Frohling, MD, Marcia Kyes
Nays:	None
Absent:	Robert Bullwinkel, MD

5. Public Health Document Governance Policy - Brittnay Fortuna

Public Health Director Brittnay Fortuna gave a brief history of the old policy and shared why the updates are necessary. She reviewed the document types, the approval authority, and the review frequency. Document destruction follows the county ordinance and WI Statutes.

A discussion was held regarding adding additional verbiage to the review timeframe. There is verbiage already in the policy. It was recommended to add an asterisk in the review frequency column to coincide with the fourth bullet under the Review and Maintenance section.

Bachman made a motion to approve the policy with the addition of asterisks under the Review Frequency column to coincide with the fourth bullet under the Review and Maintenance section.

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (8 - 0)
Mover:	Dennis Bachman
Second:	Pam Guthman
Ayes:	Kari Ives, Lee Hennick, James Ericksen, Pam Guthman, Dennis Bachman, John Halbleib, Sandy Frohling, MD, Marcia Kyes
Nays:	None
Absent:	Robert Bullwinkel, MD

8. Reports

1. Friend of Public Health Recognition - Brittney Fortuna

Supervisor Guthman made a motion to move the Friend of Public Health Recognition before the Business Items. Seconded by Supervisor Hennick.

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (8 - 0)
Mover:	Pam Guthman
Seconder:	Lee Hennick
Ayes:	Kari Ives, Lee Hennick, James Ericksen, Pam Guthman, Dennis Bachman, John Halbleib, Sandy Frohling, MD, Marcia Kyes
Nays:	None
Absent:	Robert Bullwinkel, MD

Public Health Director Brittney Fortuna and Drug-Free Communities Project Coordinator Grace Vanderhei presented the 2026 Friend of Public Health award to Nicole Crosby, a Counselor at Lake Holcombe School District. Fortuna stated Crosby was nominated for her dedication to supporting youth mental health, substance-use prevention, and student wellbeing.

2. Aging and Disability Resource Center Board Minutes - March 12, 2026

The March 12, 2026, Aging and Disability Resource Center Board minutes were attached for informational purposes.

3. Human Services Policy, Practice, and Program Success - Children, Youth, and Families - Ashley Brott

Children, Youth, and Families Manager Ashley Brott and Ongoing Worker Sarah Torrence highlighted from the presentation: Access statistics, initial assessment statistics, increase in caseload, 2025 statistics, ongoing statistics, number of current homes and types, funding resources, current child statistics, and areas the team is working on.

Torrence shared a success story of one family with domestic violence and alcohol use in the home. A protective plan was created and then terminated. The children were placed with their maternal grandmother. After the baby was born, both Mom and baby were placed in a foster home. Mom was reunified with her children after receiving services through the program. Mom is now waiting to hear if she gets accepted into a Criminal Justice Program. She still has a close relationship with the foster family, went to Guatemala on a Mission Trip, and will be off probation in a year.

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

Public Health Director Brittney Fortuna highlighted from her Director's Report:

Administration -The 2026 Doris Vennard scholarship awardee is Sia Drivas.

Community Health - Tick trends and safety measures, UW Eau Claire student interns worked on digital wellness, Hantavirus update, and communicable disease updates.

Environmental Health - Water Lab and food inspection updates. Bre attended the Healthy Water Summit.

Nutrition - Phase 2 of the 2024 New Food Rule was implemented, funding updates, Mind Over Matter program, Oral Health Grant recipient, and annual review of the ForwardHealth grant with the State, with no corrective actions.

Planning and Strategy - Men's Mental Health coaster campaign, Reaccreditation update, and Years of Service - Congratulations staff!

A recommendation was made to publish safety measures for tick prevention and types of sprays to use in the yard. If you get a deer tick embedded, it is recommended to see a doctor to get an antibiotic.

5. Public Health 2026-2028 Strategic Plan - Nikki Hoernke

Planning and Strategy Division Manager Nikki Hoernke reviewed the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan, which defines the roles, priorities, and direction over the next three years. She highlighted the planning process, which involved creating a new mission, vision, and values. The three priority areas identified are Access & Reach, Trust & Awareness, and Capacity & Sustainability. Objectives and activities were drafted and submitted to the Strategic Plan Development Team. Hoernke reviewed the goals for each area and shared how the plan will be put into action.

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

Human Services Director Bobbie Jaeger stated the first quarter of the year was busy with legislation and budget, and now they are in the implementation phase.

Jaeger highlighted from her report: Governor Evers proclaimed May to be Aging, Disability, and Independent Living Network Professionals Appreciation Month, and May 3rd-9th as Public Servant Recognition Week. May is also Older Americans Month, Mental Health Awareness Month, and they celebrated Case Manager week. Income Maintenance PAC released the draft amendment to the SNAP funding and provided an overview of the proposed use of funds. Congratulations to the staff celebrating work anniversaries, and to Ann Teuteberg, celebrating 25 years. Child Protective Services hosted a Foster Parent Appreciation event, and the state certification review for Emergency Mental Health (Crisis) and Community Support Program (CSP) was completed, in which many areas of service were rated excellent. On the Dashboard, Jaeger provided context for the GRC error rate increase. Jaeger and Brenner reviewed the Out-of-Home and IMD placement costs, which are affected by clients' acuity.

7. Health & Human Services Board Orientation - Brittnay Fortuna/Bobbie Jaeger

Human Services Director Bobbie Jaeger shared information included in the Human Services section. She welcomes members to contact her with any questions or to set up a meeting. Jaeger is looking at the continuation of a Day in the Life with the DHS staff.

It was recommended to share with the County Board of Supervisors opportunities where they can help advocate at the state level, with colleagues, or beyond.

Public Health Director Brittnay Fortuna reviewed what is included in the Public Health section. She reviewed the Public Health webpage, highlighting the About Us page, the Laws & Regulations page, along with the Data & Reports page. Fortuna welcomes members to contact her with any questions or to set up a meeting.

9. Agenda Items for Future Consideration

Discuss initiatives with Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative, True Wellness, and Blue Zones.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 am.

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (7 - 0)
Mover:	John Halbleib

Second:	Lee Hennick
Ayes:	Kari Ives, Lee Hennick, Pam Guthman, Dennis Bachman, John Halbleib, Sandy Frohling, MD, Marcia Kyes
Nays:	None
Absent:	James Ericksen, Robert Bullwinkel, MD