



Wauwatosa, WI

Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

7725 W. North Avenue
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

8:00 AM

Wauwatosa Health Department
Conference Room and Zoom:
<https://servetosa.zoom.us/j/89971095637>,
Meeting ID: 899 7109 5637

Hybrid meeting

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am by Chris Shaw.

This was approved.

ROLL CALL

Present

Laura Stephens, Health Officer
Meg Spredemann, Health Manager
Emily Tianen, Nursing Supervisor
Carmen Pangilinan, Public Health Strategist

Present 5 Member, Chair Christine Shaw
Member Jennifer Cicero
Member Katherine Riebe
Aldersperson Liaison Aletha Champine
Ex-Officio - Public Health Officer Laura Stephens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

This was approved.

1. Approval of November 19, 2024 Minutes [25-0223](#)

MOVER: Christine Shaw

SECONDER: Jennifer Cicero

WAWATOSA HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORTS

1. Administration [25-0226](#)

Welcome to our newest Board of Health member, Katherine Riebe!

Medical advisor update - We have a new medical advisor, Kevin Robertson. He will also be a member of the Board of Health and attend meetings.

Board of Health Onboarding/Orientation Policy - We have a new document for approval, the Wauwatosa Board of Health Member Recruitment and Orientation, which will be used for on-boarding and orientation. This document outlines the Municipal Code 2.36, Board of Health membership, appointments, term of office, and Statute Ch. 251 which outlines the powers and duties of a local Board of Health.

Federal policy programs - There are numerous changes happening at a federal level. Laura is tracking these changes.

2. Public Health Nursing**25-0227**

We are getting ready to go-live with the new electronic health records system.

We had 517 referrals. We had an increase in lactation referrals and the car seat program is going well. Emily contacted the Little Village Play Cafe to offer lactation services to their patrons.

We had 2 homebound flu clients in 2024. We have to check capacity if offering more homebound flu or homebound services.

Katherine Riebe asked how are the flu cases reported. Per Emily, the cases are reported from the lab that runs the test, through the WEDSS system.

WHD had one rabies exposure, 9 child elevated blood lead cases, 17 car seat checks, 10 immunizations appointments, and 136 communicable disease investigations. Pertussis cases were higher in 2024 and have slowed down.

Chris Shaw asked where do we get our child lead cases? Per Emily, these cases are from the pediatrician. A level of 3.5 - 5 indicates an elevated lead level. It affects children under the age of 6. The State lowered the threshold to 3.5 and up.

3. Environmental Health and Preparedness**25-0232**

The Environmental Health team had 11 rabies exposures and one citation with the municipal court for no quarantine. There were 15 nuisance complaints (rodents, pests, garbage)

We currently have 4 reported human health hazards; these are reported from the Fire department and Police.

We have new facilities, Pick-n-Save coffee shop, Starbucks in Target on 124th, Midwest Sad bakery, Slick City indoor slide park, and Latte Factory in Mayfair Mall.

There were three new short term rentals recently.

Two area pools will be checked in the spring.

Radon kits - available from 10/1 to 5/1 for all zip codes. We sold 52 kits last year. Of the 49 kits that performed testing, 14 were found to have a high result. WHD refers high results to the Radon Information Center in Waukesha. Some residents are recommended to re-test and some would need remediation. The overall recommendation is one radon test every three years.

Emergency Preparedness - March presentations to staff. We participate with West Allis/Greenfield Health Department. Meg and Emily joined Froedtert; sub-group to cover the Emergency Preparedness deliverables for public health and hospitals. Ex. high consequence infectious disease, such as ebola.

Homeland Security Biowatch drill on 1/14 - Meg attending this meeting. The discussion topic was aerosolized agents.

Urgent Sheltering Taskforce - Laura and Meg joined.

Medical Response Surge program - Meg is part of this program between Froedtert and Children's Hospital of WI work together to arrange available beds in the event of an emergency. More to come.

Katherine Riebe asked about WEAVR, since signed up and hadn't heard back. Per Meg, we send yearly drills as a text message or phone message. WEAVR is used in the event of a declared public health emergency. In the WEAVR registry, there's a choice for Wauwatosa or Milwaukee. (Select Wauwatosa) During COVID, we had a strong base, it was a small request of participants. Emily mentioned she could volunteer for the fall flu clinic registration table or just in time projects.

We currently have about 500-600 people in WEAVR.

4. Community Health**25-0228**

We had 377 vending transactions, 5 community conversations on social connection, and 2 community events.

Tosa Tech Time held 5 sessions, and 42 individuals were served. The program was also expanded to Hart Park on Wednesdays.

Senior Planet hosted 9 courses, with 144 participants.

As part of our Community Health Improvement Plan, we focused on social connection and had a Senior Planet Holiday Party and a Neighborhood Connections Pilot program. (AARP Decades dinner) This is a new sub-program, with a focus on connecting neighbors. Ex. lawn help and help with shoveling snow.

The Period Pantry program held a packing party on 2/8/25 - Kristen and Mary Beth organized community volunteers and 815 packets were assembled and ready for distribution. The Library mentioned a need, so we created this program to meet the needs of the community. Products were donated by the community and items will be distributed in the library, schools, City Hall, etc.

Social Isolation and Loneliness and Livable Communities grant update - Community conversations took place regarding social isolation and loneliness. The draft report is ready and the team will meet on Thursday.

For the Livable Communities grant, Carmen has met with Two Story Creative to discuss affordable housing. We will be launching materials in May. Housing remains a large barrier in regards to dignity, safety, health, and vibrance.

5. Staff presentation: Hazard Vulnerability Assessment**25-0229**

Hazards assessment/Vulnerability Assessment - Evaluating risk vs Preparedness level. This identifies our biggest risks and is a living document. The risks include infectious diseases (#1), extreme temperatures, and inclement weather. Inclement weather can include power outages, tornado, flooding, etc. The team ranks the top 10 hazards, provides infectious disease alerts, and alerts for disease, weather, and extreme temperatures. They also provide After-action reports, ex. Flu and COVID.

NEW BUSINESS

Upcoming strategic plan updates at a later meeting. We will do a deeper discussion of public health nursing, environmental health, and community health.

There is a meeting regarding tattoo establishments in Wauwatosa. Tattoo parlors are regulated by DSPS. More to come.

1. Medical Advisor approval**25-0230**

Dr. Kevin Robertson is retired and has over 20 years of experience. We chose him over 5-7 candidates, and interviewed two candidates. He is the best fit for our department. Dr. Robertson has extensive experience in infectious disease and HIV.

The Health Department would like to approve a new Medical Advisor, Dr. Robertson.

Chris Shaw motioned to approve. Jen Cicero and Katherine Riebe second. Motion approved.

The Health Department would also like to approve Dr. Kevin Robertson to sit on the Board of Health as a member.

We feel this would be beneficial so that he would know our role in the community, our duties and focus.

Chris Shaw motioned to approve Dr. Kevin Robertson as a Board of Health member. Jen Cicero and Katherine Riebe second. Motion approved.

2. Advocacy opportunities: Letter to support an end to the State of**25-0231**

Wisconsin’s tax on menstrual products

The Health Department submitted and advocacy letter to remove the Wisconsin taxes on menstrual products. Menstrual products are a necessity, not a luxury item. Many states (MN, IL, MI, and IA) have already eliminated this tax. Our goal is to help individuals obtain products that are a necessity. Some women miss school or work due to a lack of supplies. The letter supporting the removal of this tax will be submitted to legislature.

Chris Shaw motioned to approve this letter of support. Katherine Riebe and Jen Cicero second. Motion approved.

Katherine Riebe offered to share the letter with Tosa Together. Carmen thanked her and will forward the information to Katherine.

NEXT MEETING DATE: May 20, 2025 at 8:00 AM

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 am.