

HEALTH #20

BAYFIELD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Our Mission:

To protect and promote the health and environment of Bayfield County.

Our Vision:

Healthy people, communities, and environment for a superior Bayfield County.

BUDGET SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS:

The Health Department budget for 2022 is proposed at \$1,099,828 an increase of 5.9% over 2021. Revenues are projected at \$856,763 a 33% increase over last year. Proposed levy in 2022 is \$243,065 this represents at 38% reduction.

Public Health expects unanticipated additional expenses related to the local COVID-19 pandemic response and have budgeted for this predictable uncertainty. Additional COVID-19 related funding streams may be made available in 2022, and to the extent possible these will be used to offset expenditures.

OVERVIEW & FUNCTION:

The Health Department's role is to promote health and prevent disease and injury. Wisconsin State Statue 251 outlines the responsibility and authority of the local health department and is the primary statute the health department operates under. Acting as an agent for the State of Wisconsin, the Environmental Health program's primary role is inspection, licensing and code enforcement. This program is located under Wisconsin State Statue 254.

Bayfield County Health Department (BCHD) offers a variety of programs and services. Examples of public health programs include the Immunization, Maternal and Child Health, Prenatal Home Visiting, Childhood Lead, and

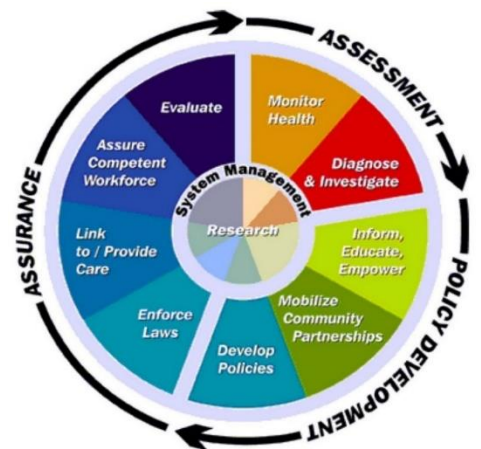


Figure 1 10 Essential Public Health Services Wheel

Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Food and Water Safety, and Alcohol and Other Drug Addiction (AODA) programs. BCHD operates a Certified Environmental Health Water Lab that runs bacteria and nitrate tests on public and private well water. We partner with UW-Oshkosh Laboratory for nitrite lab sampling and laboratory supplies, and with Northland College for environmental waste destruction and research. We contract with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to do transient non-community well testing in Washburn and Taylor Counties in addition to testing wells in Bayfield County, which has expanded the depth of our Environmental Health program and increased Environmental Health revenue.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES:

Bayfield County Health Department has several umbrella programs, including:

1. Communicable Disease Surveillance and Investigation
2. Public Health Nursing
3. Family Planning & Reproductive Health Program
4. Environmental Health
5. Emergency Preparedness Planning
6. Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program
7. Bayfield County Wellness Program
8. Alcohol & Other Drug Addiction Program

In recent years, Oral Health would have been an additional umbrella program for Bayfield County Health Department. However, with recent funding changes in the State of Wisconsin for fluoride supplement and fluoride mouthrinse programs to local health departments, the extent of this program has shifted to mostly referral for services and care.

FY2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. During 2021, BCHD sustained efforts for the long-term response to the COVID-19 global pandemic. BCHD continues to meet or attempt to meet contractual obligations for rapid contact tracing within 24 hours for new cases and 48 hours for close contacts of positive cases for COVID-19. During 2021, a majority of Public Health staff time and energy were invested in contact tracing and disease investigation for SARS-CoV-2 virus for maintaining public health and safety.
2. BCHD spearheaded a local COVID-19 vaccination response in 2021 that involved recruiting, hiring and training dozens of professionals across northern Wisconsin. BCHD held vaccination clinics weekly until the end of May, providing COVID vaccination to a large portion of Bayfield County residents, seasonal homeowners, or visitors. In the process, BCHD partnered with various other vaccinating entities and partners to improve access to and distribution of vaccine.
3. Bayfield County Health Department has maintained at least six basic public health services to the community and at least 14 additional programs and services addressing at least seven priorities in the current state health plan for designation as a level III health

department. BCHD continues to maintain a level III status, which allows for higher funding allocations for future state grants.

4. During the 2020-2021 school year, BCHD staff visited various geographic regions of Bayfield County to offer COVID and influenza vaccinations. We offered three drive-thru flu clinics across the County (Drummond, Port Wing and Washburn) to reduce the severity of influenza during the pandemic and protect community health. We also partnered with the five school districts in Bayfield County for mass clinics for COVID vaccination for either staff or students, or both. BCHD increased local partnerships with Bayfield County schools through these mass clinic events as well as improved internal capabilities for future outbreak situation.
5. BCHD conducted a Community Health Assessment (CHA) in partnership with Ashland County Public Health, Iron County Health Department and Memorial Medical Center. This CHA will lead the path towards a new Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) that determines how to prioritize health conditions that affect residents, identify community strengths and resources that can be built upon to address the unique health needs of our community, and develop goals, objectives, and strategies to address these top health issues for the next 3-5 years.
6. BCHD staff were re-assigned to help support the growing needs of the Environmental Health program and overall changing needs of the Health Department.
7. BCHD staff began to resume prevention-focused work activities and coalition work surrounding mental health and substance abuse. The pandemic affected multiple layers of community health – including mental health and addiction – and the department would like to recognize this by resuming this work as much as possible. Offering Narcan Direct trainings through a virtual format (i.e. Alchemer survey platform) has offset the need for in-person instruction and allowed staff to continue disease investigation when required.
8. Bay Area WIC Project continued to enroll clients and families into the WIC nutrition program during 2021. The WIC program, under the USDA guidelines, moved to 100% virtual appointments with clients for certification and re-certification. Most families perceived the virtual visits in a positive light, as it decreased travel time to and from appointments, minimized potential COVID-19 exposures, and shortened appointment times. Program funding is directly correlated with caseload numbers. Outreach to new eligible families will be a continued 2022 goal.
9. BCHD functions through contract as an agent of the State through the Department of Health Services (DHS) and Department of Agriculture Consumer Trade and Protection (DATCP) to provide public health inspections and licensing for a variety of establishments. Under our agent contracts with the State, we are required to conduct a minimum of one annual inspection; pre-inspections for compliance prior to issuing a permit; and any necessary follow up inspections such as complaints and re-inspections to ensure proper compliance; and a variety of consultations by phone or on site. BCHD continued to hold inspections of licensed facilities during 2021 as well as provide technical support and education to businesses related to the COVID pandemic.

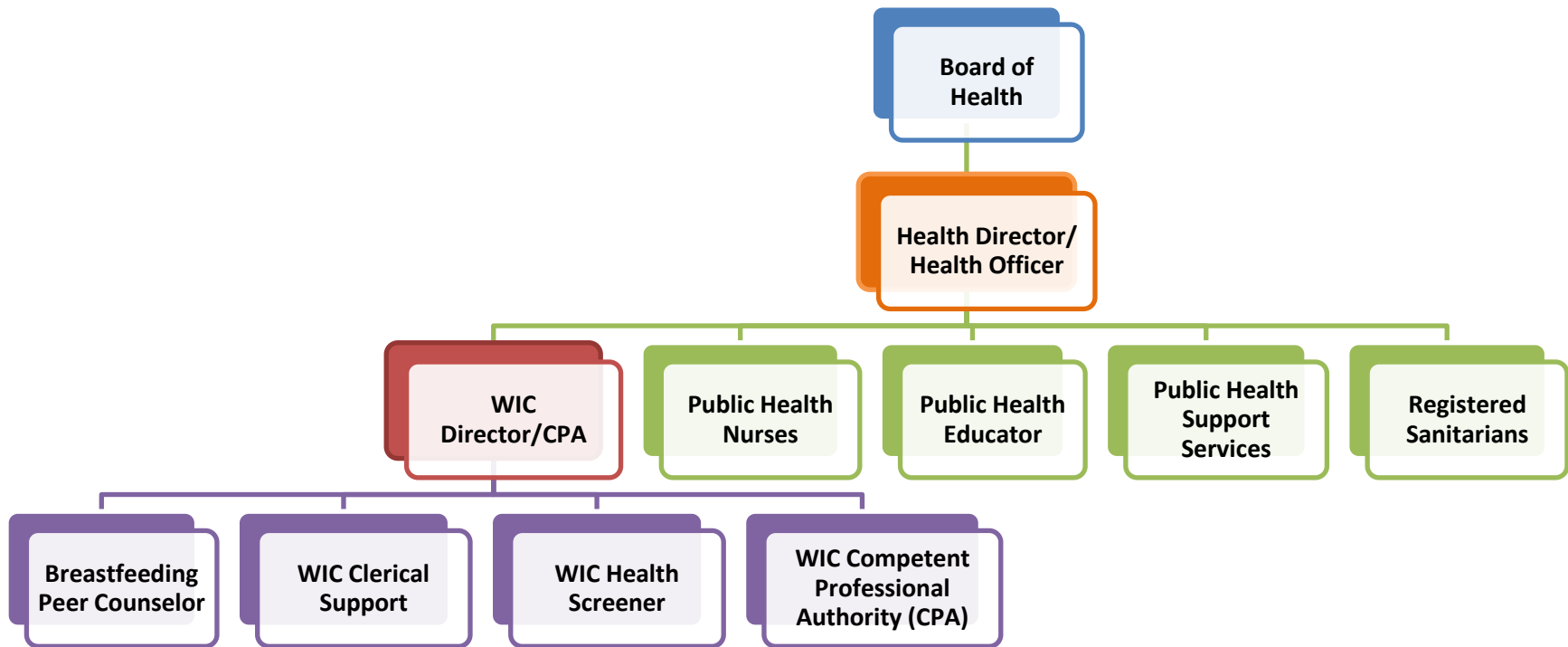
FY 2022 GOALS:

1. By January 30th, 2022, the Bayfield County Health Department will have held at least two mass clinics for seasonal influenza vaccination in Bayfield County.
2. By February 28, 2022, the Bayfield County Health Department will complete and publish a Community Health Improvement Plan for the next 3-5 years.
3. By May 30th, 2022, the Bayfield County Health Department will have held at least two mass clinics for SARS-CoV-2 vaccination in Bayfield County.
4. By May 30, 2022, the Bayfield County Health Department will continue to offer the Bayfield County Health Infrastructure Grant and continue working towards long-standing wellness opportunities for Bayfield County families and communities.
5. By June 30th, 2021, one hundred percent of licensed food/lodging establishments will be inspected either in-person or through virtual inspection.
6. By December 31st, 2022, the Bayfield County Health Department will continue updating or revising departmental policies and procedures for continual progress towards PHAB Accreditation.
7. By December 31st, 2022, the Bay Area WIC Project will increase client and family enrollment by two percent through outreach efforts, quality improvement utilizing client satisfaction surveys, and by making the WIC virtual client appointments a positive interaction where the clients feel safe, comfortable and supported.
8. By December 31st, 2022, the Bayfield County Health Department will designation as a level III health department.

Board of Health Members

Jeremy Oswald, Chairperson
Fred Strand, Vice Chair
Mary Dougherty, County Representative
Thomas Snilsberg, County Representative
David Zepczyk, County Representative
Ellen Braddock, RN, Community Member
Elaine Kopp, RN, Community Member
Terri Kramolis, RN, Community Member
Deb Dryer, MD, Medical Director

Bayfield County Health Department – Organization Chart and Chain of Command



Note: This Org. Chart is oversimplified due to space limitations.

(Rev. 8/20/21)