

HEALTH #20

BAYFIELD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Our Mission:

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

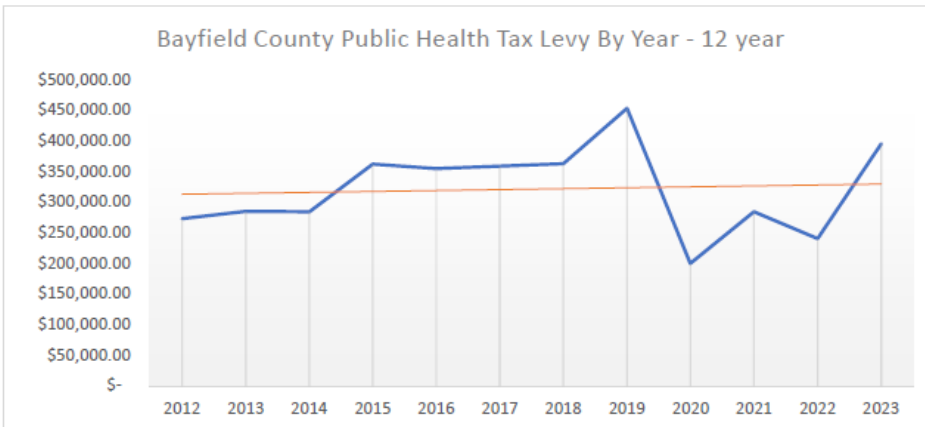
Our Vision:

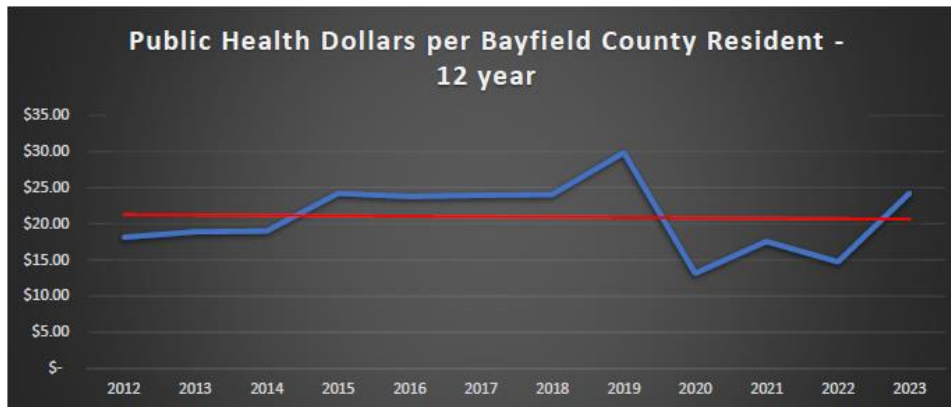
Healthy people, communities, and environment for a superior Bayfield County.

BUDGET SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS:

The Health Department budget for 2023 is proposed at \$1,300,366 (19.2% increase), with revenues of \$943,462. The county tax levy is proposed at \$356,904 a \$122,476 increase (52.2%) due to additional staffing.

Expenditures are estimated to increase due to changes in COVID federal and state funding for the health department. While the overall expenditures from tax levy are expected to increase in 2023, the amount estimated for 2023 is consistent with changes in population for Bayfield County and trends across the past decade in Public Health spending per resident. The Health Department averages from approximately \$13 per resident (2020) to \$29.89 per resident in Public Health tax levy (2019). Estimated figures for 2023 suggest that the Health Department would utilize about \$24.25 per Bayfield County resident (not figuring in services provided to visitors).

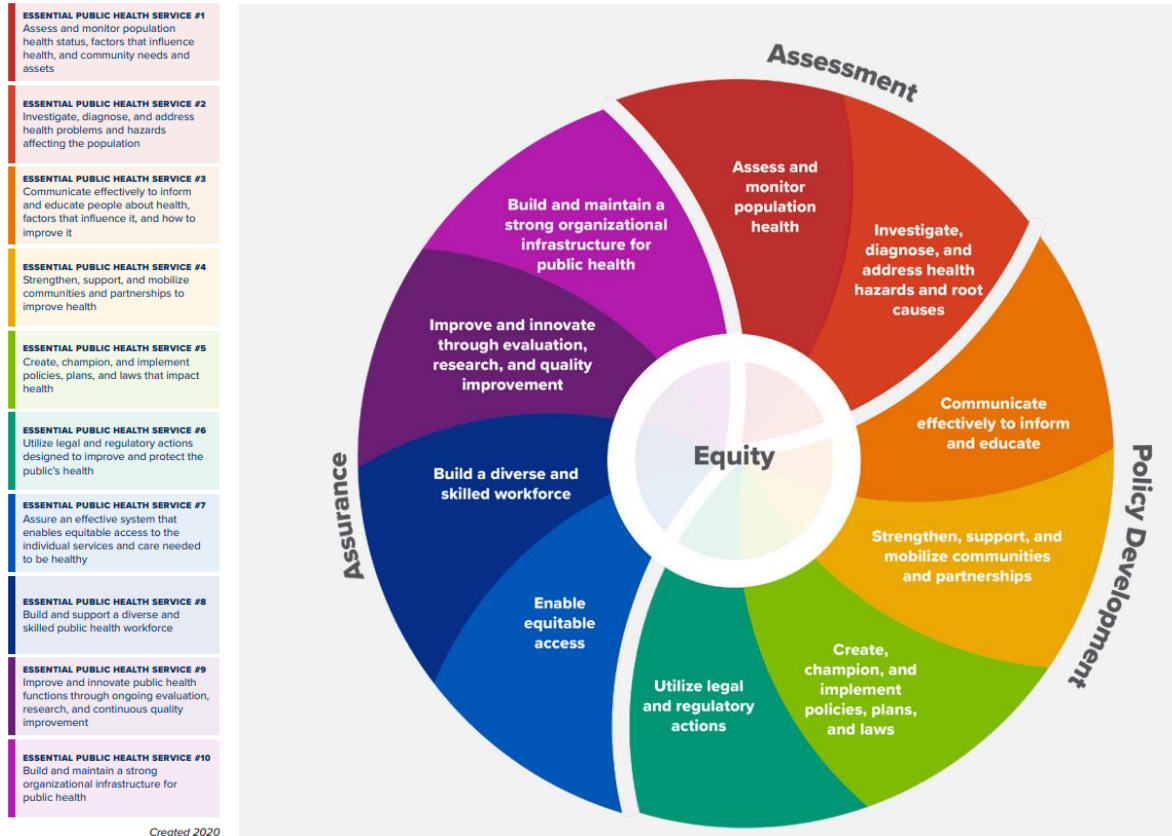




We expect a lessening in COVID-19 revenues/expenditures for 2023 and a return to normal Public Health programming, most supported by state grants. We anticipate a slight increase in revenues/expenditures for the Women, Infants & Children Program in 2023 due to a slightly growing caseload. We have planned for neutral funding – revenues/expenditures – from the Environmental Health Program with a change in contracts with the DNR but additional inspection fees from locating and licensing tourist rooming houses. The Health Department continuously looks for additional funding to help support Public and Environmental Health programs.

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 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 laboratory supplies and complex water testing, with Northland College for environmental waste destruction and research, and with the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene for specific water tests for community members above our normal offerings. We contract with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to conduct 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

FY2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. During 2022, BCHD sustained efforts for the recovery response to the COVID global pandemic. BCHD continues to meet or attempt to meet contractual obligations for contact tracing within 24 hours for new cases. Despite the ongoing pandemic and lack of public interest - as well as the desire of the department staff to resume normal Public Health programming - COVID disease investigation continues to take up a large portion of Public Health staff time.
2. BCHD continued to facilitate or arrange COVID vaccination efforts in Bayfield County – whether directly or through a state-contracted company – to help promote vaccination and booster doses for those at highest risk of adverse effects if ill with COVID. BCHD continued to partner with various other vaccinating and COVID testing entities and partners to improve access to vaccine and identify COVID illness early in the disease progression.
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 2021-2022 school year, BCHD staff visited various geographic regions of Bayfield County to offer COVID and seasonal influenza vaccinations. We offered public flu clinics across the County 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 situations.
5. BCHD built upon the Community Health Assessment (CHA) that was developed in 2021 and partnered with Ashland County Public Health, Iron County Health Department and Memorial Medical Center in 2021-2022 to finalize a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). This CHIP prioritizes health issues that affect residents and identifies community strengths and resources that can address the unique health needs of our community. Goals, objectives, and strategies were developed 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 resumed 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. The department continues to offer Narcan through the Narcan Direct program as well as lockboxes, lock bags, Deterra charcoal deactivation bags to community members to address medication diversion and

prevent accidental drug overdoses.

8. Bay Area WIC Project continued to enroll clients and families into the WIC nutrition program during 2022. The WIC program, under the USDA guidelines, must offer the option for virtual appointments for clients for certification and re-certification appointments. Most families perceived the virtual visits in a positive light, as it decreased travel time to and from appointments, simplified travel-related barriers such as transporting several children in car seats or dangerous weather as well as reduced expenses from travel, minimized potential COVID-19 exposures, and shortened appointment times. Program funding is directly correlated with caseload numbers; there's a slight upward trend in project participation as of mid-year 2022. Outreach to new eligible families will be a continued 2023 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 license; 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 conduct inspections of licensed facilities during 2022. There has been an increase in new applications for licensure in 2022 – especially short-term rental facilities. New methods are being implemented to ensure compliance with state and local licensing requirements.
10. County Administration in partnership with the Health Department applied for and received a larger grant, the Healthcare Infrastructure Capital Grant, in the amount of \$252,000 to create additional clinic and staff space, modernize the building, enhance laboratory testing capabilities, streamline Public Health services and better meet the needs of community members. This grant is anticipated to begin in late 2022 for construction and remodeling the existing facility.

FY 2023 GOALS:

1. By January 30, 2023, the Bayfield County Health Department will have held at least three mass clinics for seasonal influenza vaccination in Bayfield County.
2. By January 31, 2023, the Bayfield County Health Department will submit all required Wisconsin Department of Health Services end-of-year reports.
3. By December 31, 2023, the Bayfield County Health Department will continue to work on goals, objectives and strategies as outlined in the current tri-county Community Health Improvement Plan.
4. By December 31, 2023, the Bayfield County Health Department will have held or coordinated at least two mass or school-located clinics for SARS-CoV-2 vaccination or booster vaccination in Bayfield County.
5. By June 30, 2023, 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.
6. By June 30, 2023, one hundred percent of licensed food establishments will be inspected

by a Registered Sanitarian or specially-trained Environmental Health employee.

7. By June 30, 2023, 75 percent of all licensed or known lodging establishments – including short-term rentals – will be inspected by a Registered Sanitarian or specially-trained Environmental Health employee.
8. By December 31, 2023, the Bayfield County Health Department will continue updating or revising departmental policies and procedures for continual progress towards PHAB Accreditation.
9. By December 31, 2023, 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.
10. By December 31, 2023, the Bayfield County Health Department will maintain designation as a level III health department.
11. By December 31, 2023, the Bayfield County Health Department will be at least halfway complete on its Healthcare Infrastructure Capital Grant remodel/construction project.

Board of Health Members

Jeremy Oswald, Chairperson

Fred Strand, Vice Chair

Mary Dougherty, County Representative

Madelaine Rekemeyer, County Representative

Jeffrey Silbert, County Representative

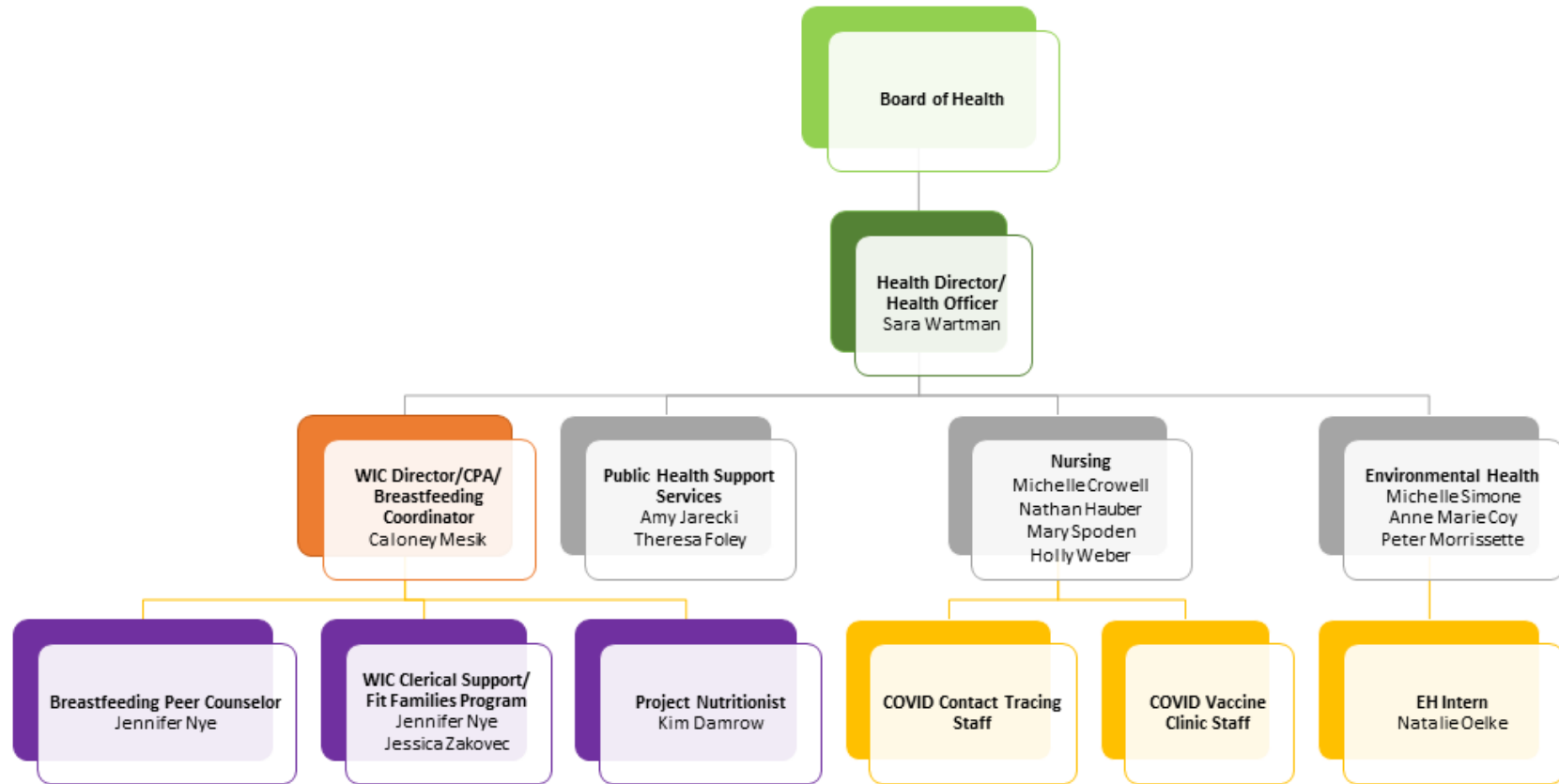
Ellen Braddock, RN, Community Member

Elaine Kopp, RN, Community Member

Terri Kramolis, RN, Community Member

Deborah Dryer - Akl, MD, Medical Director

Bayfield County Health Department – Organization Chart and Chain of Command



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

(Rev. 7/2022)