

Iron County Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Time: 5:00pm

Place: Iron County Health Department, 210 5th Ave N, Hurley, WI 54534

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:05pm by Jamey Francis. Roll Call taken. Present: Dr. James Rocco, Jamey Francis, Paul Mullard, Karen Lauer. Absent: Tanner Hiller, Dr. Paul Hagemann, Zona Wick, Larry Youngs. Also Present: Melissa Geach, Melissa DeCarlo, Denise Lotzer, Dan Mueller.
2. Melissa Geach acknowledged that the meeting was properly posted.
3. Dr. Rocco made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Paul Mullard. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. Karen Lauer made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 18, 2025, seconded by Dr. James Rocco. All ayes. Motion carried.
5. No Public Comments
6. Motion by Karen Lauer to approve credit card bills (March-June), vouchers and checks from March 12, 2025-June 11, 2025 as presented, seconded by Paul Mullard. All ayes. Motion carried.
7. Opioid Settlement Workplan Updates: The AODA Prevention Coalition continues to advance opioid prevention efforts in collaboration with community partners, including the Hurley and Mercer School Districts, Iron County Tavern League, emergency services, and local businesses. Current activities focus on expanding NARCAN training and access, increasing safe medication and syringe disposal options, and enhancing substance use prevention education. We are also exploring the Vital Strategies opioid settlement grant, with a proposal for Public Health to serve as the lead agency to support staffing and strengthen coordination with Human Services and the Sheriff's Office. In addition, we are evaluating the potential use of the CredibleMind Behavioral Health 360 platform in partnership with Ashland, Bayfield, and Tamarack Health to support our CHIP goals.
8. Motion by Dr. James Rocco to approve health department summer hours of operation beginning June 23 – Labor Day Weekend open Monday-Thursday 7:30am-4:30pm and Friday 7:30am-11:30am, seconded by Karen Lauer. All ayes. Motion carried.
9. WALHDAB/Legislative Update:
 - a. [Executive Director presented at the WCA County Leadership Meeting 6-16-2025](#)
 - b. The proposed federal FY2026 budget does not include strong support for public health. In response, local and tribal health officers completed a funding landscape

survey and are recommending to the DHS Secretary's Office that a portion of the PHIG Innovation Fund be allocated to local and tribal health departments.

10. Health Officer Report

- a. Title X Program Compliance: The department received a letter confirming that the Iron County Health Department is in compliance with all Title X Program expectations following the site visit conducted on February 6, 2025.
- b. Vaccine for Children Program (VFC): The department received a letter confirming that the Iron County Health Department is in compliance with the VFC Program requirements and recommendations following the site visit conducted May 16, 2025. No compliance issues were identified.
- c. The board discussed considerations for the 2026 department budget in response to the federal budget proposal, which lacks support for public health, medical assistance, and aging services. They recommended proposing a resolution to advocate for continued funding of these critical public health programs.
- d. The department welcomed Alessandra Tibaldo, our Wisconsin Area Health Education Center (AHEC) intern, who began on June 2nd. She is supporting our environmental health program with water sampling, beach monitoring, and tourist rooming house inspections. Alessandra will be with the department through July 25th.
- e. As an agent for the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP), the department is continuing to accept food and recreational business license renewals, which are due by June 30th.
- f. Medical Response Surge Exercise (MRSE): Iron County Health Department, Human Services, the Sheriff's Office, and Emergency Management recently participated in a Medical Response Surge Exercise (MRSE) with Region 2 HERC partners. The exercise focused on practicing how to open a Family Assistance Center after a mass casualty event. It helped identify local needs, like better radio communication for ICHD and ICHS and the need for a local medical reserve corps, while also highlighting strengths and gaps in communication, staffing, and patient tracking across departments.
- g. Measles Tabletop: ICHD held a measles tabletop exercise just before the recent exposure in Ironwood, identifying strengths and gaps in coordination with partners like WUPHD, Aspirus Ironwood, and NorthLakes. Several preparedness actions were implemented to improve response efforts.
- h. Immunizations: ICHD continues to send reminder and appreciation letters with the book *Ava Antibody Explains* to parents of 2-year-olds to promote vaccine awareness. Books were also shared with local daycares, Birth to 3, and at Hurley School's

screening event. As of June 10, 2025, 75% of Iron County children turning 2 are up to date on all recommended vaccines.

- i. Communicable Disease: From January 1 to today the ICHD reported a total of 88 communicable disease incidents needing follow-up, probable and confirmed cases below.

Disease Incident	Confirmed, Probable
<i>Illnesses spread by Ticks</i>	0
<i>Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD)</i>	0
<i>Respiratory Illness Hospitalizations</i>	7
<i>Diarrheal Illnesses</i>	2
<i>Other</i>	4

11. Next meeting scheduled Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 5pm.
12. Jamey Francis adjourned the meeting at 6:13pm.