

WINNEBAGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) continued its journey toward achievement of national standards and commitment to continuous quality improvement resulting in **Public Health Accreditation** in November of 2017. This was a significant accomplishment for the WCHD staff and our community. The bar has been raised and we must continue to achieve, maintain, and advance our public health practice to improve the health of our community.

We also began to fully implement **Public Health 3.0** with its driving principles of the Public Health Leader serving as the Chief Health Strategist for the community, development of cross-sector community partnerships, achievement of Public Health Accreditation, data driven decision-making, and enhancement and modification of funding. Public Health 3.0 has the most potential to impact the health priorities and the social determinants of health that have had negative consequences on our community.

The three health priorities of **Maternal and Child Health, Mental/Behavioral Health, and Violence** are challenging, influenced by the social determinants of health, and have significant impact on both the quantity and quality of life in our community. WCHD has implemented multiple strategies to address these health priorities. Workgroups organized to work with WCHD using the Collective Impact Framework around these issues. These workgroups identified **trauma**, including the resulting impact of **adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)**, as a unifying concept impacting all three health priorities. The Violence Reduction Workgroup became the lead community advisory workgroup to address trauma adopting the SAMHSA (Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration) framework. WCHD strives to engage and provide opportunities for community residents to participate in a thoughtful and respectful manner to improve the health for all. Community partnership and collaboration are our greatest asset in addressing the burden of health inequities and resultant health disparities and poor health outcomes.

The Board of Health supported WCHD progress on the Strategic Plan and provided guidance as WCHD worked on multiple quality improvement initiatives to ensure alignment with the Strategic Plan. WCHD staff met twice a month in strategic planning groups to address the three strategic planning goals: **Focus on core public health, develop public health systems that support core public health, and advance a culture of quality**. The quality improvement initiatives undertaken this past year have helped to advance the professional and technical capabilities of the department.

Under the leadership of the Board of Health, I and the entire staff of the Winnebago County Health Department remain committed to our vision of **healthy people in a healthy community without health disparities** and continue to accept the challenges and take the opportunities to improve the health of our community.

Your Chief Health Strategist,



Sandra Martell, RN, DNP
Public Health Administrator



• DOMAIN 1 •

MONITOR HEALTH

The Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) monitors and assesses the current health status of the community to improve the health of Winnebago County residents. Assessments such as tracking the number of diseases in the community and monitoring air quality help WCHD develop strategies to prevent the spread of disease and improve community health.

In 2017, WCHD continued to monitor for vector borne diseases including Zika virus. WCHD sent several mosquito specimens to the Illinois Natural History Survey for confirmation of species type and none of these specimens were identified as mosquitoes capable of carrying Zika virus. In conjunction with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), WCHD continued to provide Zika testing to individuals who met the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) eligibility criteria. In addition, WCHD conducted surveillance with private laboratories that performed Zika testing.

WCHD monitored for radon in homes through the distribution of radon testing kits. Homes in Winnebago County are at risk for having high radon levels. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends homes with high radon levels undergo a process to reduce radon exposure (mitigation). In January 2017 as part of radon awareness month, WCHD conducted a media campaign to encourage residents to test their homes for radon. With this campaign, WCHD distributed 29 radon testing kits in 2017. WCHD applied for funding through the EPA Indoor Environments Program grant to address radon public education, testing, and mitigation in the community and help prevent the spread of disease.

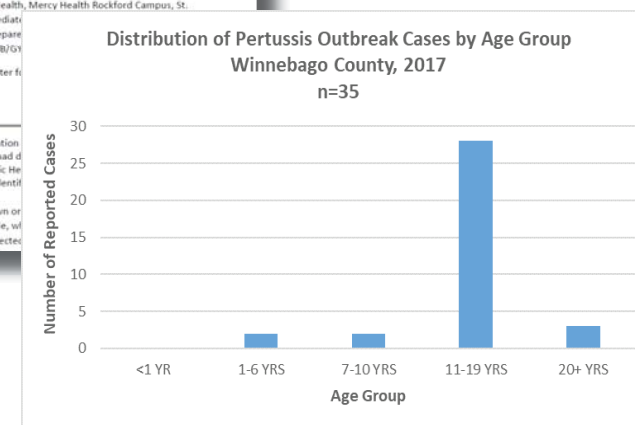
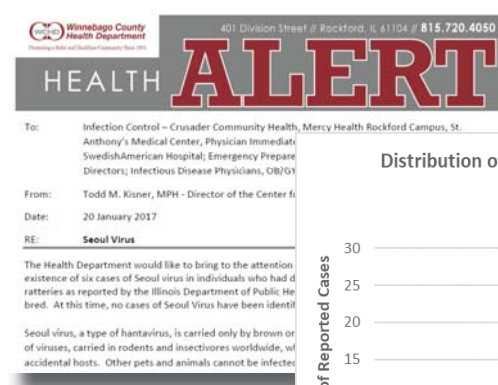


• DOMAIN 2 •

DIAGNOSE & INVESTIGATE

Identifying the source of a disease and controlling the spread is essential to reducing the risk of others becoming ill. The Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) receives reports of disease from healthcare partners, laboratories, and childcare settings. WCHD investigates the reports to determine the source of the disease and prevent it from spreading. WCHD also investigates environmental complaints for housing, well, septic, and lead hazards to ensure that homes are safe for Winnebago County residents.

In 2017, WCHD faced several unique disease investigation challenges. An outbreak of Pertussis over several months prompted WCHD to work closely with area schools to recommend exclusion for those who were ill, identify close contacts, and recommend preventative medication to close contacts. In addition, WCHD worked closely with the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to investigate the source of Seoul Virus infections, coordinate testing, and prevent possible future cases. Seoul virus is a milder type of a Hantavirus. People can become infected with this virus after coming into contact with urine, droppings, or saliva of infected rats. In response, WCHD notified healthcare providers and veterinarians to identify potential cases.



• DOMAIN 3 •

INFORM AND EDUCATE

The Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) utilizes multiple communication methods to inform residents of emerging health threats, educate the public on healthy behaviors, and empower individuals to make healthy decisions. These communications methods include conducting media campaigns, holding educational trainings, attending community events, and directly messaging partner agencies, such as healthcare facilities and schools.

In 2017, WCHD conducted a media campaign that utilized the local media outlets and social media to inform and educate the public about the dangers of radon exposure. WCHD held educational trainings on changes to the food code for food operators and owners that provide services at public events. WCHD also held educational trainings for local agencies on sexually transmitted infections (STI). WCHD attended and provided information at an employee wellness screening for Rockford Public Schools and a community presentation on Lung Cancer Prevention and Testing at the University Of Illinois College Of Medicine at Rockford. Finally, WCHD directly messaged partner agencies sending a newly designed Health Alert to communicate time sensitive information regarding a pertussis outbreak to community partners to help prevent the spread of the disease.

• DOMAIN 4 •

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Health is impacted by social and environmental factors that are complex and often result in inequalities among different populations. To address these complex factors, the Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) has established strong community partnerships.

In 2017, WCHD continued to support three Community Advisory Groups (CAG) to address its top health priorities (Maternal and Child Health, Mental/Behavioral Health, and Violence) identified in Wellness Focused Winnebago County IPLAN 2020 using the Collective Impact Framework. The CAG on Mental Health (Mental Health Advisory Committee) launched a steering committee that developed specific recommendations on actions to address funding mental health services and presented these actions to Winnebago County officials.

In 2017, WCHD participated on several community coalitions, including Transform Rockford, the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, the Rock River Homeless Coalition, and Business First. In addition, WCHD mobilized community partners from multiple sectors to address the opioid crisis through the implementation of the Drug Overdose Prevention Program (DOPP). Through the DOPP program, the community partners are working to develop an education strategy on opioid abuse and the use of naloxone to save a life. The program is also working on distribution strategies to expand the availability of naloxone in the community to trained individuals.



• DOMAIN 5 • POLICIES AND PLANS

Policies and plans provide vision, outline goals, and identify how progress will be measured. The Winnebago County Health Department's (WCHD) strategic plan set goals for 2020 and identified three health priorities:

- Maternal and Child Health
- Mental/Behavioral Health
- Violence.

Addressing these health priorities requires multiple strategies, mobilization of partners, commitment, and persistence. The Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) utilized the Collective Impact Framework to work with community partners to develop Community Advisory Group to address each of the three health priorities. In 2017, each Community Advisory Groups identified "trauma" as an underlying issue impacting their respective health priority. Trauma is an event or experience, such as homelessness or substance abuse, that has a negative effect on an individual.

WCHD is committed to continuous quality improvement which includes the assessment and revision of current plans and the development of new plans when needed. In 2017, WCHD updated the Emergency Operations Plan to reflect changes in the public health capabilities and incorporate recommendations and corrective action plans from the past year. WCHD also developed a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) which helped to identify priority functions for WCHD and ensure our ability to continue those priority functions during emergency situations.

2.12 WCHD Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
Published 10/26/2016 14:03 by Theresa James

Continuity of Operations
(COOP)
Plan
For
Winnebago County Health Department

October 26, 2016



Collective Impact Framework

• DOMAIN 6 • PUBLIC HEALTH LAWS

The Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) supports the passage of laws, ordinances, and regulations that can help protect health and prevent disease. WCHD helps to enforce existing codes and regulations to keep the public safe and healthy.

For example, WCHD's Health Promotion and Wellness Center worked with business and community organizations to increase their knowledge about the Smoke Free Illinois Act and respond to complaints received from online submissions and the Environmental Health Improvement (EHI) Center.

WCHD's EHI Center enforced public health laws by inspecting restaurants, hotels/motels, pools, wells and septic tanks to make sure that they are safe for Winnebago County residents. In 2017, WCHD's EHI Center began inspecting alcohol establishments. In addition, WCHD adopted the definitions of the FDA Food Code and implemented a scalable permit and fee process for food and beverage vendors operating at special events and temporary sites.



• DOMAIN 7 •

LINK TO/PROVIDE CARE

The Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) helps to connect individuals to the services they need to live long, healthy lives. WCHD has a variety of programs and services that help individuals who are uninsured, underinsured, or face unique health challenges.

Through the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program, WCHD helped connect women with screenings and treatment for cervical and breast cancer. The Refugee Health Program provided healthcare services and screenings for individuals resettling in northern Illinois. Through the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program, WCHD worked with pregnant women, mothers, and children to provide nutrition education, breastfeeding support, nutritious supplemental foods, and referrals to health care. The IGROW Program helped connect families to services that provide home visiting support to help families provide better opportunities for their infants and children.

In 2017, WCHD conducted site visits to new community providers participating in the Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program. Two of these community providers are school linked health centers that increased access to primary care and immunization services for South Beloit.



• DOMAIN 8 •

WORKFORCE

Throughout 2017, the Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) employed an average of 80 staff of various backgrounds and areas of expertise. WCHD is working to identifying trainings that all WCHD staff should take to ensure a standard knowledge of public health. Opportunities for education and training are important to maintain an enthusiastic, competent workforce. WCHD continued to hold quarterly All Staff meetings at which staff were trained on a variety of topics including bloodborne pathogens, ethics and fraud prevention, and collective impact.

WCHD staff participated in exercises to learn how to respond in an emergency requiring the dispensing of a medication and to test a new mental health assessment and support process. In addition, all staff were trained on Trauma 101. Trauma impacts all three of our health priorities and can be addressed through trauma informed care that supports resiliency.

Staff from the Environmental Health Improvement Center and the Health Protection Center participated in a joint training course over a few months in which staff worked through different outbreak scenarios to discuss principles of investigation, outbreak procedures, and media messaging. The joint training promoted teamwork among staff members along with an opportunity to learn new skills.

WCHD also helped educate students and young professionals about potential careers in public health. In 2017, WCHD taught middle school students about the importance of public health professionals by engaging them in a disease outbreak investigation that occurred in a rural setting based on an actual outbreak. WCHD also participated in the Medical Colloquium with the University of Illinois, College of Medicine at Rockford to teach future health professionals about their role in the local public health system.



• DOMAIN 9 •

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Quality improvement consists of systematic and continuous assessment, implementation, and evaluation of actions to improve health. In 2017, the Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) completed multiple quality improvement projects to improve protection of health information and increase efficiency and effectiveness of programs.

To improve protection of health information, WCHD ensured all staff were trained on public health and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). WCHD completed a risk assessment and developed a security plan to assure private health information is reasonably protected throughout staff turnover or a disaster. In addition, WCHD updated all HIPAA policies and procedures.

One example of a successful quality improvement project in 2017 was the Health Protection Center project that focused on improving sexually transmitted infections (STI) surveillance. The project involved identifying and implementing a State data system, as the previous paper system was inefficient and prohibitive to running data analysis reports. New STI reports were added to the State INDESS surveillance software, which allows for all notes and calls to be recorded in one system. The implementation of the system resulted in shortened time to treatment preventing the spread of disease.

The Board of Health Quality Committee provides guidance on quality improvement goals to ensure alignment with the Strategic Plan and work toward continuous quality improvement. One example of continuous quality improvement in 2017 was the Environmental Health Improvement Center project that focused on conducting customer satisfaction surveys to improve the customer experience.



Public Health
Performance Management
System

• DOMAIN 10 •

EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICES

The Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) uses evidence based practices to inform organizational decisions. This means that WCHD implements programs and strategies that have demonstrated success with measurable outcomes and rigorous evaluation. In 2017, WCHD continued to utilize the following evidences based practices: Substance Abuse Youth Prevention Education - All Stars Program, Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes Reporting System (APORS) High Risk Infant Follow-up Program, Better Birth Outcomes (BBO) Program, and HealthWorks.

Over 430 students participated in the All Stars Program in 2017 and WCHD is working to expand the program to additional schools next year. WCHD has worked to increase the number of referrals who except services from the High Risk Infant Follow-up Program to improve outcomes for infants and children. In addition, WCHD increased awareness about the BBO program.

WCHD leadership contributed to the continued sharing of information and best practices among public health professionals by attending the 2017 Annual Meeting for the American Public Health Association and presenting at the National Association of City and County Healthcare Officials Conference in April and on a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Webinar in May.



• DOMAIN 11 • MANAGEMENT

The Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) was nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) on November, 14, 2017. National accreditation is a five year designation recognizing WCHD's capacity and commitment to protect and promote the health of our community. To receive national accreditation, WCHD underwent a rigorous, multi-faceted peer-reviewed assessment process to demonstrate that it meets or exceeds the rigorous standards established by PHAB.

In preparation for the move of all public health services to one location at 555 North Court Street, the Winnebago County Health Department developed an Event Action Plan and obtained secure storage space. In addition, WCHD utilized an online knowledge management system called the Comprehensive Emergency Management Program (CEMP) to not only manage emergency operations plans, but also for its Community Health Improvement Plan and Strategic Plan workgroups. The CEMP is an online collaborative platform that ensures documents are available from any location with internet connection. Partners can also be given access to limited sections of documents on the CEMP allowing for collaboration among agencies.

To support the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Community Health Improvement Plan, WCHD created, recruited, and hired a Director of Strategic Initiatives - Cynthia Hall, MPH.



• DOMAIN 12 • GOVERNANCE

The Winnebago County Board of Health is the governing body of the Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD). In 2017, the Board of Health supported WCHD's strategic initiatives and quality improvement processes.

In 2017, the Public Health Administrator met regularly with Winnebago County officials to review public health issues that impact the health of the community. This collaboration led to the successful request for host fee funds to support demolition of properties outside of the Blight Reduction Program designated areas. On July 14, the Public Health Administrator had an initial meeting with the City of Rockford Mayor to review health priorities, the role of WCHD as the health authority for the City, and opportunities for closer collaboration and coordination with City agencies around environmental health issues. The Mayor and Public Health Administrator continue to meet monthly to review public health issues and opportunities for collaboration. Both the Chairman and the Mayor participate in the Violence Reduction Workgroup initiative focused on Trauma and its impact on violence in the community.

After participating in Public Health Legislative Days, the Public Health Administrator met with local representatives to outline funding options to be considered by the Steering Committee of the Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC) that include revisions to the 708 Legislation to include other forms of taxation and local sale tax legislation to expand Mental and Behavioral Health services. The MHAC presented the recommendation to Winnebago County officials and is working with advocacy groups, including the Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium and the Association of Community and Mental Health Authorities of Illinois to implement necessary legislator changes to support funding for mental and behavioral health.



CENTER FOR HEALTH PROTECTION

HEALTH PROMOTION & WELLNESS

Selected Diseases

AIDS	5
Bacterial Meningitis	0
Botulism- Food Borne	0
Chlamydia	1,981
Campylobacteriosis.....	28
Cryptosporidiosis.....	12
Enteric E.coli infections	10
Gonorrhea	639
Hepatitis A	1
Hepatitis C (chronic)	81
Histoplasmosis	1
HIV (newly diagnosed)	23
Legionnaires Disease	8
Lyme Disease	3
Malaria	0
Salmonella	36
Shigella	3
Syphilis	17
Tuberculosis	3
West Nile Virus	3
Zika Virus (acquired out of country)...	0

Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Diphtheria	0
Haemophilus Influenzae	9
Hepatitis B	
Acute	1
Chronic	6
Measles	0
Mumps	1
Pertussis	32
Rubella	0
Tetanus	0
Varicella	1

Services

Communicable Diseases (Investigation & Follow-up).....	3,491
Ryan White (Medical Case Management).....	386
HIV Counseling & Testing.....	787

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

Average Monthly Caseload.....	5,696
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School-based Dental Sealant Program

Dental Sealants Applied	979
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MIECHV (Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Coordinated Intake)

Number of Clients Screened.....	1,232
Number of Clients Referred.....	672

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs (ATOD) Prevention Education

Number of Individuals Trained using Evidence-based Curriculum.....	300
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Teen Pregnancy Prevention Education

Number of Individuals Participating.....	197
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Influenza Community Vaccinations

Number of Vaccinations Administered.....	1,870
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Tobacco Free Communities

Smoke Free Illinois Compliance Checks.....	277
Citations Issued for Violations	7

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DATA

Public, Private and Non-Community Water Supplies (Lab)

Public.....	1,584
Private	3,595
Non-Community.....	914

Private Water Wells

New Well Permits.....	24
Repairs Well Permits.....	17
Sealed Well Permits.....	92
Well Permit Inspections.....	87
Well Complaint Inspections.....	42
Non-Community Water Supply Inspections.....	80

Private Sewage Disposal Systems

Soil Boring Evaluations	86
New Septic System Permits	21
Repaired Septic System Permits	59
Septic System Installation Inspections.....	95
Septic Complaint Inspections	51

Well/Septic System Mortgage Evaluations

Loan Evaluations Ordered	465
Site Verifications Ordered.....	315
Loan Evaluations.....	672
Site Verification Inspections	285

Food Service Establishment/Retail Food Stores

Food Establishment Inspections/Rechecks	3,464
Plan Reviews.....	102
Temporary Food Service Events.....	940
IDPH Summer Food Program Inspections	53
Food and Food Borne Illness Complaints.....	26
Complaint Investigations	26
Non Food Borne Illness Complaint Investigations.....	200

Lead Program

Lead-Based Paint Risk Assessments	87
Recheck/Final Clearance Inspections....	117
Complaint Inspections.....	2
Contractor Compliance Inspections	135
Lead Home Visits/Case Management Visits	87
Homes Receiving Lead Mitigation/Abatement.....	58

Indoor Air Quality

CO/CO ₂ Screening	47
Radon Screening Requests	52
Radon Test Kit Requests	84
Radon Test Kits Submitted to Lab	49

Neighborhood Code Enforcement

Housing Complaints.....	870
Housing Inspections/Rechecks	3,926
Nuisance Complaints.....	692
Nuisance Inspections/Rechecks	1,950
Survey Inspections.....	280

Other Public Facility Inspections

Pool and Spa Inspections.....	129
Hotel/Motel Inspections	112
Tanning Facility Inspections.....	11
Body Art Facility Inspections	11

Vector Control

Mosquito Trap Checks/Surveys	218
Mosquito Pools Tested	82
WNV-Positive Mosquito Pools	7
Dead Bird Reports from the Community.....	133
Dead Birds Tested	35
WNV-Positive Birds.....	2
Larvicide Treatments Performed	38

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Better Birth Outcomes

Average Monthly Caseload 31

APORS (Adverse Pregnancy Reporting System) High Risk Infant Follow-up

Average Monthly Caseload 110

HealthWorks (Medical Case Management for Foster Care)

Average Monthly Caseload (Winnebago County) 36

Ongoing Cases per Month 297

Average Monthly Caseload for Region Outside of Winnebago County 208

Clinic Services

Clinician Visits 2,156

Nurse Visits 3,316

Total Visits 5472

Tuberculosis Prevention and Care

Clients Managed 376

Clinician Visits 156

Direct Observed Therapy Nurse Home Visits 427

Refugee Screening and Case Management

Number of Refugees Arriving 91

Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program

Case Load (Jan.-Dec.) 638

VITAL STATISTICS

Registered Births 4,473

Registered Deaths 3,156

Number of Birth Certificates Issued 7,474

Number of Death Certificates Issued 22,465

BUDGET

REVENUES	ACTUAL	% OF TOTAL	BUDGET-FINAL	% OF TOTAL
TAXES	\$2,587,070.71	27.8%	\$2,584,880.00	24.2%
MEDICAID/MEDICARE	\$355,591.97	3.8%	\$456,000.00	4.3%
FEES	\$1,440,733.88	15.5%	\$1,352,495.00	12.7%
FEDERAL/STATE & LOCAL GRANTS	\$4,910,239.72	52.9%	\$6,278,730.00	58.8%
TOTAL	\$9,293,636.28	100.0%	\$10,672,105.00	100.0%

EXPENDITURES	ACTUAL	% OF TOTAL	BUDGET-FINAL	% OF TOTAL
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT	\$2,593,928.64	31.0%	\$2,856,567.46	26.7%
HEALTH PROTECTION	\$1,745,439.39	20.8%	\$1,747,343.54	16.4%
HEALTH PROMOTION AND WELLNESS	\$1,598,057.18	19.1%	\$1,394,104.00	13.1%
PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES	\$1,960,690.30	23.4%	\$2,061,861.00	19.3%
PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS	\$260,311.17	3.1%	\$151,707.00	1.4%
SUPPORT	\$213,719.91	2.6%	\$2,459,765.00	23.1%
TOTAL	\$8,372,146.59	100.0%	\$10,671,348.00	100.0%

WINNEBAGO COUNTY 2017 BOARD OF HEALTH

President	Ronald Gottschalk, JD (2016-2018)
Vice President	Allen Williams, MD (2016-2018)
Secretary	Jaymie Nelson (2016-2018)
Board Members	Angie Goral, Winnebago County Board Elected Official John E. Halverson, DDS David R. Helland, DVM Luci Hoover Patricia Lewis, RN, PhD Robert McCreath Steven Lidvall, MD, MPH Timothy Durkee, MD James A. Powers, MSW

WINNEBAGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP

Sandra Martell, RN, DNP
Public Health Administrator

Cheryl Floyd, MsEd
Health Promotion and Wellness

Cynthia Hall, MPH
Strategic Initiatives

Karalyn Nimmo, MPH
Data and Quality

Melinda Idell, RN, MSN
Personnel Health Services

Patrick Madigan, BA
Finance

Sue Merchen, BA
Communication/Public Information

Theresa James, CHEC III
Emergency Preparedness

Todd Kisner, MPH
Health Protection

Todd Marshall, BS, LEHP
Environmental Health Improvement

WINNEBAGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFICE LOCATIONS

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<https://www.facebook.com/WinnebagoCountyHealth>

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