

2019

Bayfield County Health Department



ANNUAL REPORT

W E L C O M E L E T T E R

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Dear Bayfield County Board of Health Members, Community Partners & Interested Readers;

2019 was another successful year for Bayfield County Health Department! We continued to provide quality public health programs and services for our community while working to address gaps in coverage.

Health equity and improving rural inequalities in health continue to be imbedded themes for Bayfield County Health Department. In previous Bayfield County community health surveys and through work and discussions with our key partners, we determined that there were certain gaps in health and education services for Bayfield County residents.

Thus, we continued to work on bridging these gaps by designing and implementing new programs, including the Reproductive Health – Family Planning Program and an Adult Immunization Program. We also worked to address our Community Health Improvement Plan's #1 health focus area, Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse (AODA), by building onto existing programming and coalition work during 2019. We searched for and applied for additional grant funding to support these initiatives in order to expand our programming in this focus area and address the drug and opioid crisis in northern Wisconsin. We continue to be involved in employee and community wellness by holding flu clinics, hosting blood drives, and offering a variety wellness events. We also continued to work with our communities in Bayfield County to enhance the opportunities for health and wellness for all Bayfield County residents through the Bayfield County Health Infrastructure Grant.



This report highlights our programs and services as well as 2019 accomplishments. Strong partnerships are the heart of our programs – we achieve more together! Thank you to the Bayfield County Board of Health and Bayfield County Board of Supervisors for your continued support of our programs and services – as well as our mission and vision - during 2019. We aspire for healthy people, communities and environment for a better Bayfield County!

On behalf of the Bayfield County Health Department,

Sara Wartman

Health Director/Health Officer
Bayfield County Health Department

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.*

Purpose:

Bayfield County Health Department completes annual reports as required by Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter 251.06(3)(h). The department uses the annual report as a means to track progress of identified program outcomes and health priorities.

OVERVIEW & FUNCTION:

The Health Department's role is to promote health and prevent disease and injury. Wisconsin State Statute 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 Statute 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 programs, Food and Water Safety, and Alcohol and Other Drug Addiction (AODA) programs. BCHD operates a Certified Environmental Health Water Lab that runs bacterial 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

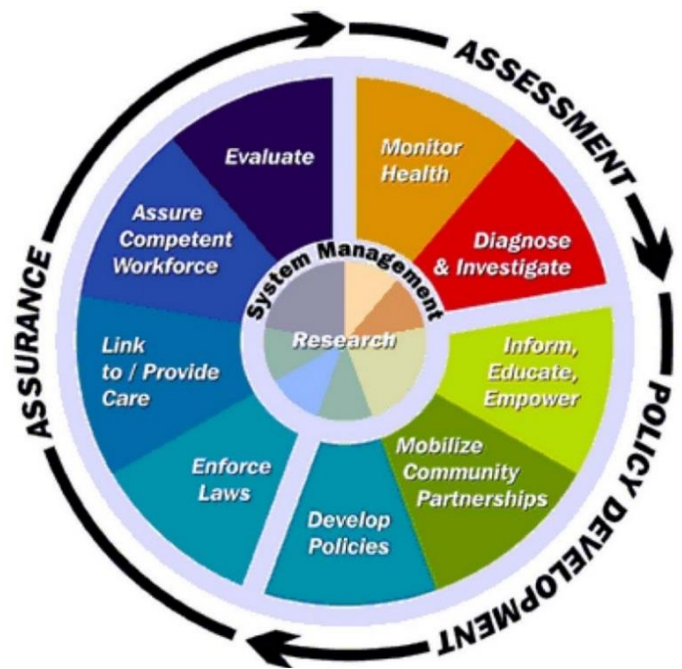


Figure 4: 10 Essential Public Health Services Wheel

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to do transient non-community well testing in Washburn County 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 programs, including:

- **Communicable Disease Surveillance and Investigation:** This public health program is statutorily required. Healthcare providers and clinics are required to report communicable diseases to the local health department in a timely manner. The Health Officer or designee investigates all communicable diseases reported to the Health Department. Follow-up is provided to those individuals who have been exposed, treatment offered in the interventions and guidance is given to prevent the spread of the illness to others. Data on all disease investigations are entered into a secure state database called Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS). Reporting to local health departments occurs electronically and we communicate with all clinical partners, the state and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through this system.
- **Public Health Nursing:** This program includes primary and secondary prevention activities. Examples include immunizations, prenatal care case management services, bloodborne pathogen education, childhood blood lead screening, school nursing support services, health promotion activities and community health education.
- **Family Planning & Reproductive Health Program:** A new program within BCHD that has been built to address gaps in reproductive health services in rural northern Wisconsin. The Family Planning/Reproductive Health program provides confidential, affordable services including education, counseling, and health services for adolescents and young adults. This includes testing for sexually-transmitted infections, pregnancy testing, contraceptive education and supplies, reproductive health screening, healthcare enrollment, medical home screening and referral services, and post-violence care services.
- **Environmental Health:** The focus of this program is licensing food/lodging establishments, investigating human health hazard complaints, and being a resource to the community when there are questions or concerns about the health effects of environmental factors. BCHD contracts with the Division of Public Health; the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection; and Wisconsin DNR. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that Lake Superior beaches be monitored; BCHD utilizes internship opportunities for monitoring local beaches. The Health Department has the authority to monitor water quality, post advisories and close public swimming beaches.
- **Emergency Preparedness Planning:** BCHD is charged with developing and exercising plans to respond to chemical, biological, radiological and naturally occurring disasters. Since



2006, BCHD has developed and maintained a Public Health Emergency Plan (PHEP) and a Mass Clinic Plan, with revisions on an annual basis. These revisions are based on after-action reports and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Capacity building, training within our department and with response partners is required. BCHD partners with Ashland County Health & Human Services Department, Red Cliff Community Health Center, Memorial Medical Center and all clinical partners for public health preparedness and response activities.

- **Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program:** The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is a federally funded program that focuses on improving birth outcomes, decreasing perinatal and infant mortality, and having optimal child growth and development. Federally, the WIC program serves about half of all infants born in the United States. The program accomplishes this through nutrition education, healthcare or community referrals, lactation support, and issuing of food vouchers for vulnerable families. The target population is pregnant women, breastfeeding women, infants and children to age five. Bayfield County is the fiscal agency for the Bay Area WIC Project, a tri-county WIC program serving Ashland, Bayfield and Iron Counties. Four staff work in the WIC Program.

YOU GOT
THIS,
MOM.

wic
WOMEN, INFANTS,
& CHILDREN

- **Bayfield County Wellness Program:** The focus of this program is to develop proven strategies to reduce the incidence of chronic diseases, promote healthy lifestyles and prevent premature death amongst Bayfield County employees and the community. Three modifiable risk factors that contribute to chronic disease and premature death are tobacco use and exposure, obesity, and physical inactivity. Bayfield County is working to address all three of these risk factors by implementing policy changes, developing employee assistance programs and a comprehensive employee wellness program. Wellness is an internally

funded program which provides a significant return on investment to the County in health insurance premium reduction and cost savings. We have been expanding these wellness programs and initiatives into the community, and in 2018 initiated a Bayfield County Health Infrastructure Grant to improve the health infrastructure for communities in our county.

- **Oral Health Program:** The focus of this program is to prevent oral diseases. Poor oral health and untreated oral diseases and conditions can significantly affect quality of life. There are many Bayfield County residents who lack access to preventive and restorative oral health services. The target population

for this public health program is children under age 19 and pregnant women. Fluoride rinses are available to children whose drinking water is not fluoridated and fluoride supplements are offered free to all families on private wells after evaluating their well water. This program is state funded.

- **Alcohol & Other Drug Addiction Program:** Northern Wisconsin has unique cultural and socioeconomic factors influencing alcohol and drug addiction issues among residents.



The previous Community Health Assessments (CHAs) and Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPs) have overwhelmingly and consistently identified alcohol and other drug addiction (AODA) issues as a health concern in Bayfield County. As such, Public Health staffing and resources have been dedicated towards addressing factors influencing negative health statistics surrounding AODA, including education surrounding Adverse Childhood Events (ACEs), trauma-informed care, mental health first aid, and building resiliency. Additionally, we have introduced new educational programming to address opioid addiction and overdose through the Narcan Direct Program.



2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. 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. This has allowed the department to resume designation as a level III health department. Level III status allows for higher funding allocations for future state grants.
2. During the 2019-2020 school year, BCHD staff visited five school districts including six schools in Bayfield County (Washburn Elementary, Washburn Middle/High School, Bayfield K-12, Drummond K-12, Iron River Elementary School, and South Shore School) for public health emergency preparedness mass clinics for seasonal influenza vaccination. BCHD increased local partnerships with Bayfield County schools through these mass exercises as well as improved internal preparedness capabilities in case of a disease outbreak situation.
3. In 2019, BCHD expanded Environmental Health Water Lab services to include the capacity to run certified nitrate water samples on a regular basis. This has allowed in-house nitrate testing in Washburn beginning in late 2019 and has had increased the timeliness of laboratory results and offered a cost-savings to the consumer and the department.
4. BCHD formed the Reproductive Health – Family Planning Program programming in 2018-2019. With much hard effort from lead staff, BCHD was able to expand services offered and make BCHD better situated to receive additional grant funding in 2020. Creation of this program was aimed at addressing gaps in healthcare coverage in our community.
5. Two staff were trained in late 2019 on the Narcan Direct Program. This program provides education to community members on opioid addiction and is intended to help prevent overdoses associated with opioid use. The program has partnered with the Bayfield County Jail, Sheriff's Office and Criminal Justice Department to reach community members who have a friend or loved one with addiction issues to provide education and training on proper use of Narcan - and ultimately to save lives.
6. Expansion of the Immunization Program occurred in Autumn 2019 to include providing

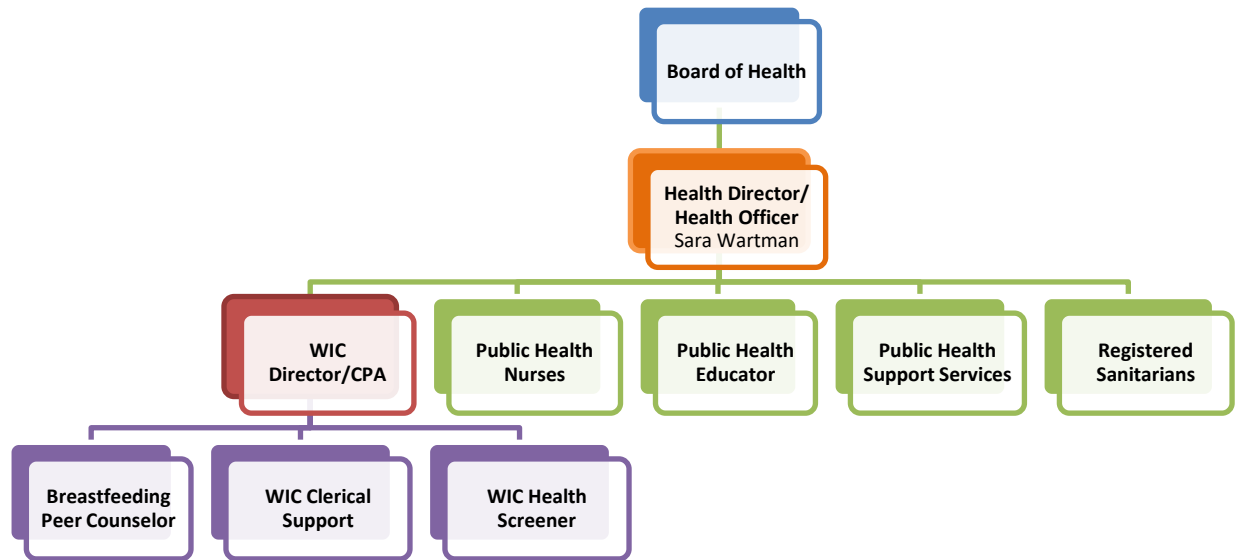
free vaccinations to adults without insurance or underinsured. BCHD partnered with Bayfield County Jail to provide free adult immunizations in the jail setting for those behind on immunizations. We also began an immunization program called GSK Direct to provide certain adult immunizations such as the shingles vaccine to those who were eligible based on income guidelines.

7. During 2019, BCHD worked to increase partnership with Bayfield County School Districts to coordinate and offer adolescent health education in the schools.
8. Bay Area WIC Project continued to work towards their goal to increase client and family enrollment into the WIC nutrition program during 2019 through outreach efforts, quality improvement utilizing client satisfaction surveys, and by making the WIC Office a positive environment where the clients feel welcome and supported.
9. Bayfield County Health Department offered several grants for Bayfield County communities in 2019. Bayfield County offered \$20,000 in grants, with a maximum request of \$5,000 and a requirement from communities for at least 50% match. This has allowed communities to complete projects to improve health and wellness opportunities while leveraging local funds. During 2019, five communities were selected for this award. Examples of projects from 2019 include restoration of the City of Bayfield Halvor Reiten Park and lake access, resurfacing of the Town of Bell (Cornucopia) and the Town of Grand View tennis and pickle ball courts, repair of the Oulu Pioneer Park hiking trail, and new installation of adult fitness equipment at the Iron River Ballpark & Recreation area.
10. 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 2019 to maintain general food safety and promote good business practices.
11. During Spring 2019, data was collected from an Environmental Health Time Study for use to guide environmental health fees and enact a new fee schedule consistent with costs associated with running the Environmental Health Program. A new fee schedule was reviewed by the Board of Health and Bayfield County Board of Supervisors.
12. Additional grant and revenue sources were investigated during 2019 to support the goals and objectives of the department and expand public health capabilities and services in the community while minimizing increases to county tax levy. Multiple grants were applied for, and several were received, for both the FY2019 and FY2020, including the Taking Action With Data – Tick Grant and grants to purchase car seats and carbon monoxide detectors.



Structure of Department

Bayfield County Health Department – Organization Chart and Chain of Command



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

Special thanks to our Board of Health members who have provided guidance on special topics during 2019, including a fair and equitable Environmental Health fee schedule, staffing, oversight of the department budget, support for the family planning program, and direction on water quality and well testing programs. A special acknowledgment also to Dr. Deborah Dryer, our Medical Advisor, for her dedication to Bayfield County Health Department and her assistance in reviewing policies, procedures, and standing medical orders that help promote and improve population health.

Board of Health Members

Jeremy Oswald, Chairperson
Thomas Gordon, Sr., Vice Chairperson
Jeffrey Silbert, County Representative
Fred Strand, County Representative
David A. Zepczyk, County Representative
Ellen Braddock, RN, Community Member
Elaine Kopp, RN, Community Member
Terri Kramolis, RN Community Member
Deb Dryer, MD, Medical Director

Contact Information

Bayfield County Health Department

117 E. Sixth Street
P.O. Box 403
Washburn, WI 54891

Phone: 715-373-6109
Fax: 715-373-6307

Website: www.bayfieldcounty.org/Health
E-mail: BayCoHD@bayfieldcounty.org



"...public health promotes and protects the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work, and play."

Figure 11: From Christian Co. HD



www.facebook.com

[@BayfieldCountyHealthDept](#) – General Health Department
[@HYHECoalition](#) – Have You Hade Enough? AODA Prevention
[@BayCoPNCC](#) – Bayfield County Prenatal Care Coordination