

OVERSEEING THE HEALTH OF THE PUBLIC

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As local Board of Health members, you have a critical role in overseeing the health of the public. The policy direction and leadership you provide will help us achieve the state vision of healthy people in healthy communities. This newsletter from the Wisconsin Division of Public Health (DPH) is provided as a resource to you in this role. *For more information, contact your DPH Regional Office Director. Contact information available at: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/localhealth/counties/regional.htm>*

Health Officer Highlights



Dr. Henry
Anderson, MD,
WI State Health
Officer

Summer is drawing to a close and as a local policy board member, I am sure you have had a busy and challenging couple of months. Hopefully some safe and healthy summer activity too! Like you, the Wisconsin Division of Public Health continues to look at ways to assure that essential public health services are available in all parts of our state. The recent 2011-2013 Biannual Budget started in July, 2011. More information on state budget provisions related to the Department of Health Services/ Division of Public Health can be found in a short presentation at our website: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aboutdhs/budget/2011-13summary.pdf>. We are still awaiting final federal public health budget information.

We look forward to working with you to continue to improve public health practice and be accountable for public health essential services. More information on this is below. Please do not hesitate to contact your DPH regional office director if you have any questions or concerns. Supporting you in your role is critically important.

Dr. Henry Anderson, Wisconsin State Health Officer

Are you meeting National Public Health Standards?

Public health essential services (10 of them) frame the work we do. In fact, state and local health departments in Wisconsin are statutorily obligated to assure provision of the 10 Essential Services. In an effort to assure that the public can count on these services being available in every community, there has been a national effort to develop public health accreditation – similar to hospital, fire department, school accreditation. On September 14, 2011, the National Public Health Accreditation process will be launched. More information on National Accreditation can be found at <http://www.phaboard.org/>.

Wisconsin has worked hard in the past few years to begin to focus on the essential services through efforts connected to a couple of grant opportunities. Most recently we were awarded a CDC grant to improve quality and move forward on the public health standards. Many local health departments received competitive grant funds this past year to participate in this effort. While it is likely that not everyone will choose to be nationally accredited, the effort to align with national standards will be useful in improving our efficiency and effectiveness. For more information on what is happening in Wisconsin, you can go to: http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/R_counties/VoluntaryAccreditation/index.htm.

Ten Great Public Health Achievements; US 2001-2010

The Center for Disease Control praises public health advances for improving the health of the US population during the first 10 years of the 21st century. Local/Tribal health departments and the Wisconsin Division of Public Health have all focused on these prevention issues in Wisconsin. Noteworthy public health achievements in random order are:

- 1) Vaccine-Preventable Diseases
- 2) Prevention and Control of Infectious Disease
- 3) Tobacco Control
- 4) Maternal and Infant Health
- 5) Motor Vehicle Safety
- 6) Cardiovascular Disease Prevention
- 7) Occupational Safety
- 8) Cancer Prevention
- 9) Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention
- 10) Public Health Preparedness and Response

To read the entire article click here: [Ten Public Health Achievements](#)

Source: CDC MMWR May 20, 2011

2011 Public Health Nursing Achievement Award Recipients Announced

The Public Health Nursing Section of the Wisconsin Public Health Association is pleased to recognize the following local health department recipients of the 2011 PHN Achievement Awards. These staff were chosen by their peers for outstanding leadership and dedication to the profession of public health nursing:

New Public Health Nurse of the Year: *Leah Meidl*, BSN, RN, Public Health Nurse
Wood County Health Department

Excellence in Public Health Nursing: *Cindy Brylski*, BSN, RN, IBCLC, Public Health Nursing
Outagamie County Public Health Division

Winnable Battles

To keep pace with emerging public health challenges and to address the leading causes of death and disability, CDC initiated an effort to achieve measurable impact quickly in a few targeted areas. CDC's Winnable Battles are public health priorities with large-scale impact on health and with known, effective strategies to address them. The current Winnable Battles have been chosen based on the magnitude of the health problems and our ability to make significant progress in improving outcomes.

Winnable Battle Areas

- ◆ [Food Safety](#)
- ◆ [Global Immunization](#)
- ◆ [Healthcare-associated Infections](#)
- ◆ [HIV in the U.S.](#)
- ◆ [Lymphatic Filariasis in the Americas](#)
- ◆ [Motor Vehicle Injuries](#)
- ◆ [Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity](#)
- ◆ [Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS Globally](#)
- ◆ [Teen Pregnancy](#)
- ◆ [Tobacco](#)



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<http://www.cdc.gov/winnablebattles/>

Important Dates in September:

- 18th—National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness (NHAAA)
- 28th—National Women's Health & Fitness Day
- 29th—World Heart Day (One World, One Home, One Heart)

Quote of the Month: *"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." Theodore Roosevelt*

Board of Health Member resource: Do you want more information on your role as a Board of Health member? Go to the website at <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/localhealth/BOHInformation/index.htm>. On this site are a variety of resources, training materials and contacts.