

# WISCONSIN PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL

*Assure safe and healthy people by monitoring progress on the state health plan  
and on the readiness for public health emergencies.*



December 19, 2025

## **2025 Annual Report of the Public Health Council**

Prepared by the PHC Executive Committee with support from Council Coordinator Aisha Dogbey

The Public Health Council was established in Wis. Stat. §15.197(13), as enacted by 2003 Wis. Act 186 to inform and advise the Governor, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the Wisconsin State Legislature, and the people of Wisconsin. Its primary objective is to address prioritized public health concerns, reflecting the diverse needs of the state in an equitable, inclusive, and responsive manner.

The Council currently consists of 23 members, nominated by the Secretary of the Department of Health Services, and appointed for three-year terms by the Governor. This Council is supported by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services- Office of Policy and Practice Alignment (“OPPA”) staff and the Public Health Council Coordinator, who supports meeting logistics and operations, coordinates key tasks, and improves the Council’s efficiency. These tasks include the development, revision and finalization of agendas and meeting minutes, organizing reference items, and facilitation, attendance, and report out at meetings.

The year 2025 has been one focused on state public health funding, alignment with State Health Plan priorities, and facilitating an actionable Council. Significant actions taken are outlined below, highlighting efforts to address prioritized public health issues.

### **Internal Achievements**

1. The Council maintained a cadence of quarterly meetings with DHS Office of the Secretary.
2. The Council established a connection point with the Governor’s Office and quarterly meetings have been calendared for 2026.
3. The Council maintained a continuous connection with WPHA to ensure ongoing collaboration and alignment.
4. The Council successfully onboarded 5 new council members.
5. The Council held its October in-person meeting in collaboration with Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health in Black River Falls. In addition to official council business, council members toured the Ho-Chunk Health Clinic, learned about the department’s history, services provided and recent accomplishments. The Ho-Chunk Community Health team also prepared a traditional meal.

6. To further support the statutory mandate to monitor the progress in implementing the State Health Improvement Plan (“SHIP”), a SHIP Advisory Committee finalized its charter, recruited members and has begun to delve into the plan.
7. The council retained most of its membership, and completed recruitment to fill 4 soon to be vacate seats due to employment changes or differing capacity.
8. Public Health Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee (PHEPAC) developed its first strategic plan to prioritize the direction of the committee, outlining its goals and objectives for pursuing sustainability through funding, resource use, demonstrating impact, and workforce development.

**Public Health Council Actions** (Full texts of written actions are available [here](#).)

1. In response to the report that Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) mishandled funds, the Council issued a letter of support to the Governor’s plan to perform an audit of MPS operations. Later in the year, the Council received a summary and key points of the audit’s findings and plans to determine what follow up actions.
2. Council members attended various state budget public hearings held by the Joint Committee on Finance in West Allis and Hayward to emphasize the prioritization funding public health items in the state budget.
3. For the first time, Council members presented a panel at the annual WPHA Conference, outlining the power of collaboration and key partnerships.
4. The PHC distributed a statement advising that the Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) anticipate the impact of proposed Federal cuts to Medicaid and be prepared to support those losing coverage. This statement was then revised and updated to remove outdated statements and remain aligned with changing data.
5. In response to uncertainty in federal funding, the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee (PHEPAC) provided guidance to the Department of Health service via written statements and strategic meetings.
  - a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness Prioritized Outcomes: PHEPAC identified two main priorities to help guide preparedness efforts in the case that federal funding through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Grant to preparedness in Wisconsin is impacted.
  - b. Outcomes of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Logic Model: PHEP AC reviewed the identified outcomes in the previous statement and considered the minimum viable products or investments needed to achieve each outcome.
6. In alignment with the Governor Office’s work to prevent gun violence, PHC issued a statement acknowledging that gun violence has had a significant impact on the health and well-being of all Wisconsinites and supporting the potential for policy solutions.
7. DHS Office of the Secretary provided an opportunity for the council to provide input and insight into their application for the Rural Health Transformation Program.

8. In response to the delay in Foodshare benefits due to the Federal Government Shutdown, the PHC issued a statement emphasizing that food insecurity has a significant impact on Wisconsinites' health and well-being. The PHC advised the legislature to consider solutions that would protect access to Foodshare programs.

### **The Public Health Council**

Jordan Lindsay Morris-Greer, *Council Chair*

Laura Scudiere, *Chair Elect*

Paula Morgen, *Immediate Past Chair*

Robert Leischow, *Secretary*

Sandra Brekke

Inshirah Farhoud

Elizabeth Giese

Dr. Gary Gilmore

Heather Crowley

Angelique Lewis

Dr. Obiageli Nwabuzor

Shary Perez

Catoya Roberts

Richard Ferrari Traner

Douglas Gieryn

Jules Lee

Rachel Fernandez

Dr. Sara Kohlbeck

Anna Treague

Caitlin Suginaka

Robert Houle

Tara Draeger