

WCHD POLICY TEAM 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Winnebago County
Health Department**

VISION: All Winnebago County residents benefit from policies that promote equitable health outcomes.

When elected officials and decision-makers work together with their local public health departments, it results in healthier communities with more people benefitting from equitable policies. The Winnebago County Health Department formed an internal Policy Team in 2017 to assess, support, and promote policies that impact our community's health.

2021 Team Members: Alana Erickson, Lynnsey Erickson, Susan Garcia Franz, Heidi Keating, Niki Lucht, Ashlee Rahmlow, Sarahjean Schluechtermann

2021 BY THE NUMBERS

8

policy issues

- e-cigarettes & vaping
- incarceration
- transportation access
- fentanyl test strips
- alcohol outlet density
- COVID-19
- health in all policies
- marijuana fine reduction

6

municipality meetings attended in which staff provided public testimony or presented public health information

4

letters and fact sheets submitted to decision makers discussing public health related policies they were voting on

2

staff surveys conducted to engage staff in policy with an average response rate of 58%

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Added 1 new team member
- Held 11 team meetings despite COVID-19
- Updated the Policy Team action plan
- Presented to Winnebago County Administration, Winnebago County Board of Health, Winnebago County Legislative Committee, and partnering departments on the developing details and strategy of the American Rescue Plan Act funding and its impact on public health
- Collaborated with First Five Fox Valley to advocate for use of ARPA funds for family & child health in Winnebago County
- Sent 3 "Public Health Policy Connection" newsletters to keep elected officials updated on public health policy issues
- Developed a new page on our website for elected officials with public health resources & information
- Partnered with the City of Neenah on sign restrictions policy to provide community-wide COVID messaging
- Provided public testimony for the WI Joint Finance Committee during their virtual state budget hearing
- Provided staff education on the importance of voting for public health
- Piloted our Health in All Policies Health Equity Lens Analysis Tool with the Falls Prevention Program
- Member of the City of Oshkosh's Legacy Community Alliance for Health team focused on Health in All Policies
- Continued involvement in WPHA Public Affairs Committee