

PUBLIC HEALTH

CELEBRATING

100

YEARS

*of Healthy People
in Safe and Vibrant Communities*



Price County
Health & Human Services



1920—2020



100 Years in the Making...

We, at Public Health, welcome you to come along with us on our journey to celebrate our centennial of public health nursing in Price County.

When thinking about what public health is, and the importance of a healthy community, Dr. Rock Sleyster, 1924 President of the State Medical Society of Wisconsin, said it best...

“Public Health is but the sum total of our individual health. And to a large extent our individual good health depends on the health of others.”

Throughout the year, we will be publishing a monthly “Public Health Centennial Gazette” that will provide insight on the history of public health nursing during the past 100 years. We will compare our current public health programs with those over the last 100 years to show how some things changed but other remain the same, even after a century.

Our information has been obtained by internet, reading past meeting minutes and visiting the archive department at The Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center to gather facts for our Gazette. We hope you enjoy learning about our history as much as we have.

—Price County Public Health Staff

Public Health Centennial Gazette

SIX PAGES

PRICE COUNTY

JANUARY EDITION

This month, we take you back to when it all started.

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1920—2020



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Health & Human Services

Healthy People in Safe and Vibrant Communities



On July 1st, 1919, the State of Wisconsin mandated every county to employ one or more public health registered nurses within two years. It also dictated that the public health registered nurse be directed by a county health committee. Price County was dedicated and established a county health committee prior to the required July 1st, 1921 deadline. The first Price County Health Committee was held January 22nd, 1920, founding what is now known as the Public Health Unit within the Health and Human Services Department.



Minutes of Meeting of County Health Committee.

Phillips, Wisconsin.

January 22, 1920.

Members present: Mrs. W. B. Clubine, Mr. Owen, Mr. Aschenbrener, and Ida Johnson.

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Aschenbrener, acting as temporary chairman. Ida Johnson acted as Secretary.

The Committee met to organize and to become familiar with the duties of the County Nurse.

Motion made and carried that further meetings be held on call of Chairman or Secretary.

Motion made and carried that Mr. Aschenbrener be permanent chairman of the County Health Committee.

Motion made and carried that Ida Johnson be permanent Secretary of the County Health Committee.

County Nurse, Miss Kandel, reported duties of the County Nurse.

Motion to adjourn was made and carried.

Ida Johnson
Secretary.

The Wisconsin Law

THE WISCONSIN LAW Public Health Nurses. (Enacted in 1919).

Section 141ln. 1. The board of supervisors of every county shall, within two years after July 1, 1919, employ upon the certification of the state board of health, as herein provided, one or more public health registered nurses, or public health instructors, whose duties shall be as follows: To act as health supervisor for all schools not already having school inspection either by a physician or a school nurse; to assist the superintendent of the poor; to instruct tuberculosis patients and others in preventing the spread of tuberculosis; to assist in reporting existing cases of tuberculosis and other communicable diseases; to assist in investigating cases of delinquency, neglect and dependency of juveniles, including state aid to dependent children, in counties not employing a probation officer; to assist in investigating cases of non-school attendance in districts where a school attendance officer is not employed; to assist in investigating cases of infringement on child labor laws; to investigate cases of crippled children due to infantile paralysis or other causes; to act as health instructor throughout the county and to perform such other duties as may be assigned to her.

2. The qualifications of all candidates for the position of public health registered nurse or health instructor shall be determined by a committee of three examiners, one to be selected by the state board of health, one by the committee of examiners of registered nurses and one by the state superintendent of public instruction. All candidates recommended by the committee of examiners shall be certified by the state board of health to any county board upon request, and every public health registered nurse or public health instructor employed by any county after July 1, 1921, shall be selected from the certified list furnished.

3. The work of the public health registered nurse or health instructor shall be directed by a committee composed of the chairman of the county board, the county superintendent of schools, a woman appointed by the county board, the judge of the juvenile court and the deputy state health officer for that county to be known as the county health committee.

4. Such public health registered nurse or health instructor shall at the end of each month make a written report to the county health committee which shall file the same with the county clerk and send a duplicate copy of such report to the state board of health which report shall show briefly the work done during the month and such other information as the county health committee or the state board of health may from time to time require. The state board of health shall examine all reports filed by the county health registered nurse or county health instructor and make such recommendations to them as will aid in the proper administration of their work.

5. The state board of health shall prescribe model forms for instruction, test cards, blanks, record books and other useful blanks or appliances for carrying out the purposes of this act and shall notify the county clerk of each county where all of the aforesaid blanks and supplies can be purchased at the expense of the county.

Enacted in 1917.

Section 141lg. 1. Towns, villages and cities may through their proper officials employ public health nurses jointly. The salary and other expenses of such public health nurses shall be paid jointly by the towns, villages and cities so employing public health nurses in proportion to the population of each such town, village or city, as determined by the population of each such town, village or city, or in such manner as may be agreed upon by the common councils, village boards and town boards adopting this plan. (1917 c. 123.).

Wisconsin Law—Then and Now

	Then (Wis. Stats. Ch. 76e)	Now (Wis. Stats. Ch. 251)
Board	<p>Known as the “county health committee”</p> <p>Composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman of the County Board • County Superintendent of Schools • A woman appointed by the county board • The judge of juvenile court • Deputy State Health Officer for that county 	<p>Known as the “local board of health” or “local board of health and human services”</p> <p>Composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than 9 members • At least 3 non elected officials—a good faith effort shall be made to appoint a registered nurse and a physician
Health Officer Duties	<p>Every town, village and city had their own health officer.</p> <p>Duties are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “It shall be the duty of the health officer, upon the appearance of any dangerous contagious disease in the territory within the jurisdiction of the board which he is a member to immediately investigate all the circumstances attendant upon the appearance of such disease, make a full report to such board and also to the state board of health; and it shall likewise be his duty at all times promptly to take such measures for the prevention, suppression and control of any such disease as may in his judgment be needful and proper, subject to the approval of the board of which he is a member...The term dangerous contagious disease, as used herein, shall include small pox, diphtheria, scarlet fever, Asiatic cholera and such other disease as the state board of health shall designate as contagious and dangerous to the public health. Every health officer shall make a report to the secretary of such board concerning the progress of such disease and the measures used for their prevention and control...” 	<p>Price County has one health officer.</p> <p>Duties are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer the local health department in accordance with state statutes and rules. • Enforce state public health statutes and rules and any regulations that the local relevant governing body enacts. • Administer all funds received by the local health department for public health programs. • Appoint all necessary subordinate personnel, assure that they meet appropriate qualifications and have supervisory power over all subordinate personnel. • Investigate and supervise the sanitary conditions within the jurisdiction. • Have access to vital records and vital statistics from the register of deeds. • Have charge of the local health department and perform the duties prescribed by the local board of health. • Promote the spread of information as to the causes, nature and prevention of prevalent diseases, and the preservation and improvement of health.

* Note the 1920 statutes reference “he” and “his.” During this time, it wasn’t standard practice for women to be physicians and the statute dictated that “every health officer so appointed shall be, whenever practicable, a reputable physician.”

Chapter DHS 140—Required Services of Local Health Departments

In 1998 Wisconsin Administration Code Chapter Department of Health Services (DHS) 140 was created to establish specified requirements of local health departments. Recently, DHS 140 was modernized, allowing alignment with the evolving health needs of Wisconsin citizens. Required services include:

- Surveillance and investigation
- Communicable disease control
- Other disease prevention
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Health promotion
- Human health hazard control
- Policy and planning
- Leadership and organizational competencies
- Public health nursing services

The Historical Language Explained

Reference language on pages 3 and 4

Infantile Paralysis—Poliomyelitis—an infection caused by the *poliovirus*. The virus can infect a person's spinal cord, causing paralysis. Thanks to a successful vaccination program, the United States has been polio-free since 1979.

Diphtheria—an infection caused by the bacterium *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*. Diphtheria causes a thick covering in the back of the throat. It can lead to difficulty breathing, heart failure, paralysis, and even death. Starting in the 1920s, diphtheria rates dropped quickly in the United States with the widespread use of vaccines.

Smallpox—an infection caused by the *variola virus*. People who had smallpox had a fever and a distinctive, progressive skin rash. Thanks to the success of vaccination, the last natural outbreak of smallpox in the United States occurred in 1949. In 1980, the World Health Assembly declared smallpox eradicated.

Scarlet Fever—a bacterial infection caused by group A *Streptococcus* that can develop in people who have strep throat. The classic symptom of the disease is a certain type of red rash that feels rough, like sandpaper.

Asiatic Cholera—Cholera—a bacterial infection caused by *Vibrio cholerae* that can cause profuse watery diarrhea, vomiting and leg cramps. Many countries in the Southeast Asia Region face challenges with known risk factors for cholera outbreaks including poverty, lack of development, and high population density. Additionally, the region is susceptible to extreme environmental factors, such as frequent and widespread flooding, that can contaminate water sources and dislocate populations.

Meet the Staff—Then and Now

1/1920 Health Committee Members

Mr. Aschenbrender—Chairman
Ida Johnson—Secretary
Ernestine Kandel, RN—County Nurse
Mrs. W. B. Clubine—Member
Mr. Owen—Member

1/2020 Health & Human Services' Board Members

James Adolph—Member
Bruce Jilka—Chairperson
William Teeters—Member
John Vlach—Member
Dennis Wartgow—Member
Peter Dahlie—Physician Member
Sally Huml—Citizen Member
Suzanne Ocker—Registered Nurse Member
Gerald Swenson—Citizen Member

1/1920 Health Employee

Ernestine Kandel, RN—County Nurse

1/2020 Public Health Staff

Michelle Edwards, RN, BSN—Health Officer
Suzanne Daniels, RN, BSN—Public Health Nurse
Chelsea Onchuck, RN, BSN—Public Health Nurse
Tiffany Palecek, RN, BSN—Public Health Nurse
Dani Hoffman, RD, CD, CLS—Nutritionist
Megan Ziembo, RDH—Public Health Hygienist
Keri Nelson—Health and Human Services Fiscal Supervisor
Hailey Halmstad—Program Coordinator
Christy Hlavacek—Health and Human Services Assistant
Amy Casey—Health and Human Services Assistant
Stacy Abraham—Health and Human Services Assistant