

## Meeting Minutes

### Southwest Suburban Health Department

*Ald. Pam Akers, Richard Dettman, Trustee Jane Edgar, Linda Grulke, Barbara Janusiak, Jessica Katzenmeyer, Mary Kitten, Holly Schmidtke and Ald. Ray Turner*

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Thursday, January 22, 2026

6:00 PM

West Allis Office- 7120 W National Ave

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#### REGULAR MEETING

##### A. CALL TO ORDER

Alderson Turner called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

**This matter was Approved.**

##### B. ROLL CALL

*Others Present: Bob Leischow, Melissa Feldmeyer, Ashley Palen, Kevin Smith*

**Present** 9 - Linda Grulke, Barbara Janusiak, Jessica Katzenmeyer, Holly Schmidtke, Ray Turner, Ald. Pam Akers, Richard Dettman, Mary Kitten, Jane Edgar

##### C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[26-0033](#)

Minutes (draft) of the meeting of November 20, 2025

**Attachments:** [Minutes \(draft\) BOH 11.20.25](#)

Motion to approve by Ms. Grulke, seconded by Ms Kitten, minutes approved.

**This matter was Approved.**

##### D. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

[26-0027](#)

Environmental Health Presentation

*Lead Environmentalist, Kevin Smith, provided a food borne illness presentation highlighting the process the environmental team uses to investigate food borne illness complaints for the restaurants the department licenses.*

**This matter was Discussed.**

[26-0028](#)

2025 Communicable Diseases Annual Report

*Ms. Palen provided the complete 2025 year communicable disease report highlighting the most prevalent diseases we saw in our communities with further demographic breakdowns and a 5-year review covering 2021-2025.*

**This matter was Discussed.**

[26-0029](#)

Legislative Update

*Mr. Leischow highlighted recent public health related state assembly and senate bills/ resolutions including:*

*-Assembly Bill 607: Primary focus on homelessness/housing and lead funding. This includes the Lead Safe Homes Program that can reimburse lead abatement costs for homeowners.*

-Senate Bill 842/Assembly Bill 845: Centers on violence prevention grant funding to local and tribal health departments.

-Senate Bill 410: References funding of the fall prevention program "Stepping On". The Senior Center has participated in this program in the past and the health department plans to bring it to long term care facilities as well.

-Joint Resolution 10: Addresses the freedom to gather and worship during states of emergency on a local, state, or federal level:

\* This effort was started in 2020 in response to the COVID restrictions put on all group gatherings to minimize communicable disease spread.

\*If passed this resolution would allow churches and places of worship to remain open and provide services in person during similar future events.

\*Because this is a change to the state constitution, it would be on a future ballot- likely November 2026.

**This matter was Discussed.**

[26-0030](#)

#### Senior Center Report

Ms Palen shared highlights of recent and future Senior Center activities:

-Participating in West Allis BID's "Winter Week" running January 18th-24th. Tuesday evening the center hosted 70 participants in "Blankets and Bingo" and held a gallery night fundraiser featuring artwork for sale by members of the Senior Center's art class.

-January 30th the Senior Center Winter Formal will take place at the WAWM Recreation Center. The Health Department and Senior Center will have staff on site to help with the event.

-Member usage has been steady, with an increase in January, which is common for the center.

**This matter was Discussed.**

[26-0031](#)

#### Health Department Update

Mr. Leischow provided updates on the overall department:

-2025 Annual Report data collection is underway, the draft will be shared at the March BOH meeting.

-A nurse resigned from the Greenfield clinic, will be posting the position soon.

-2026 contracts and service agreements have been signed and finalized. These include lead, communicable disease and prevention.

-We'll also be using our public health infrastructure grant we have through 2027 as we begin strategic planning and CHA/CHIP plans.

-We've received the maternal child health grant again from DHS, which has shifted focus to adolescent mental health.

*-The department has been moved to the next round of funding for a Medical College of Wisconsin grant addressing suicide prevention. Will hear more about this in the coming months.*

*-Staff are submitting nominations for this year's Friend of Public Health award. These have been awarded in the past years to an individual and a group/organization for their support of public health over the past year. This luncheon will be held in spring and board members are invited to attend.*

*-Planning continues for the 7220 W National building. The department is currently evaluating the feasibility of fitting both the Health Department and Senior Center into the building.*

*\*Staff is being invited to attend a self-guided walkthrough on Monday January 26th from 12:00pm-1:45pm.*

*\*At 2pm the Senior Center Commission on Aging will tour the building.*

*\*Tuesday the 27th West Allis Common Council will tour the 7220 building in addition to the Health Department and Senior Center buildings to better understand the logistics, programs and layouts of both current buildings.*

*\*Erin Hirn, West Allis City Administrator, held a question and answer session for Senior Center members a few weeks ago that was well received by attendees.*

*\*If BOH members would like to attend a pre-scheduled walk through, or schedule a walk through at another time, please reach out.*

**This matter was Discussed.**

[26-0032](#)

National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) Update

*-Ms. Kitten gave an update on NALBOH activities including an upcoming trip to Washington DC in February with NACCHO to meet with representatives to discuss public health policy and funding.*

*-NALBOH will be starting 4 new committees: education, communication, marketing and governance. If BOH members are interested in participating in one of these committees, reach out to her.*

*-NALBOH will be hosting a symposium on governance. It will be virtual, recorded and shared afterwards.*

**This matter was Discussed.**

## **E. NEXT MEETING**

Thursday March, 26, 2026 at 6:00pm (at Greenfield location- 7325 W Forest Home Ave)

## **F. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn by Ms. Kitten, seconded by Ms. Grulke, meeting adjourned at 7:18pm.**