

**DATE:** September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**TO:** Dean Robert N. Golden, MD, UW-SMPH – Dr. Jon Audhya, Designated Representative  
Kirsten Johnson, Secretary-designee, DHS – Dr. Mark Werner, Designated Representative  
Steven Little, Deputy Secretary, DNR – Greg Pils, Designated Representative  
Randy Romanski, Secretary, DATCP – Gilbert (Gil) Kelley, Designated Representative  
Greg Pils, Chair  
Dr. Christopher Strang, Vice Chair  
Dr. Robert Corliss, Member  
Dr. Jon Audhya, Member  
Dr. Mark Werner, Member  
Jessica Blahnik, Member  
Gina Green-Harris, Member  
Gilbert (Gil) Kelley, Member  
Hasmik Mkrtchyan, Member  
Zana Sijan, DNR Alternate  
Rebecca Fahney, DNR Alternate  
Anna Benton, DHS Alternate  
Paula Tran, DHS Alternate  
Dr. Sheryl Bedno, DHS Alternate  
Andrea Poehling, UW-Madison Alternate

**FROM:** Dr. James Schauer, Secretary  
Director, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

**RE:** Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors Meeting  
Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
In-Person/Online Meeting  
September 18, 2024, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

**CC:** Dr. Errin Rider  
Allen Benson  
Kevin Karbowski  
Jan Klawitter  
Nancy McLean  
Steve Strebel  
Dr. Al Bateman  
Mark Conklin  
Camille Danielson  
Tip Vandall  
Jim Sterk

**WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MEETING NOTICE**

**for**

**Wednesday, September 18, 2024**

**1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**MEETING LOCATION**

**2601 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53718**

**Notice is hereby given** that the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors will convene in person and via teleconference at **1:00 pm on Wednesday, September 18, 2024.**

**Notice is further given** that matters concerning Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene issues, program responsibilities, or operations specified in the Wisconsin Statutes, which arise after publication of this notice may be added to the agenda and publicly noticed no less than two hours before the scheduled board meeting if the board Chair determines the matter is urgent.

**Notice is further given** that this meeting may be conducted partly or entirely by teleconference or videoconference.

**Notice is further given** that questions related to this notice, requests for special accommodations, or requests for a public appearance are addressed by the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Administrative Offices by phone at (608) 890-0288 or in writing to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, 2601 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53718.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:** See agenda.

Respectfully submitted,



James J. Schauer, PhD, P.E., M.B.A.

Secretary, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors  
Director, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
2601 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53718

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**AGENDA**

**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

- Item 1. ROLL CALL
- Item 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- Item 3. REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA
- Item 4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES
- Item 5. BOARD MEMBERS' MATTERS

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

- Item 6. RNC/DNC PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES  
Meshel Lange  
Dr. Alana Sterkel  
Dr. Martin Shafer
- Item 7. PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE FOR EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES DU  
JOUR  
Dr. Allen Bateman
- Item 8. FINANCIAL REPORT  
Kevin Karbowski
- Item 9. CONTRACTS REPORT  
Tip Vandall
- Item 10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT  
FDA LDT Final Rule WSLH Strategy – Dr. Errin Rider  
UW Position Cap Update – Nancy McLean  
Key Public Health Notices – Camille Danielson  
Public Relations Report – Jan Klawitter  
National Biomonitoring Network Project – Meshel Lange

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

**Item 1. ROLL CALL**

**Description of Item:**

Roll call of attendance at Board Meeting led by Board Chair

**Suggested Board Action:**

Submit roll call

**Staff Recommendation and Comments:**

Board Secretary will record the roll call

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

**Item 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Description of Item:**

The draft minutes of the June 26, 2024, board meeting are submitted for approval

**Suggested Board Action:**

Motion: Approve the draft minutes of the June 26, 2024, board meeting as submitted

**Staff Recommendation and Comments:**

Approve draft minutes

*Once approved, minutes become part of the public record and are posted on the WSLH website:*

<http://www.slh.wisc.edu/about/board/board-meetings-agendas-and-minutes/>.

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

APPROVED MINUTES

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

<1:00-4:00 pm>

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair Greg Pils (DNR)             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeffery Kindrai                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair Dr. Christopher Strang | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hasmik Mkrtchyan                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secretary Dr. James Schauer       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zana Sijan (WDNR alternate)      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Robert Corliss                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Becca Fahney (WDNR alternate)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jon Audhya (SMPH)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Paula Tran (DHS alternate)                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Mark Werner (DHS)             | <input type="checkbox"/> Anna Benton (DHS alternate)                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Blahnik                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Sheryl Bedno (DHS alternate) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gina Green-Harris                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andrea Poehling (SMPH alternate) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gil Kelley                        |  |

WSLH STAFF PRESENT:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Errin Rider | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Conklin      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allen Benson    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Camille Danielson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Karbowski | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tip Vandall       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jan Klawitter   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Sterk         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nancy McLean    |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Strebel   |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Al Bateman  |   |

GUESTS PRESENT: Not applicable

## PROCEDURAL ITEMS

### **Item 1. ROLL CALL**

WSLH Board Chair Greg Pils called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

At 1:02 pm, WSLH Executive Assistant Sara Anderson initiated and conducted the roll call of the Board members. All Board members or their designated representatives were present except for those excused. INDICATED ABOVE

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: New DNR Board Member Alternate Rebecca Fahney also attended this meeting.

### **Item 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

At 1:03 PM, WSLH Board Chair Greg Pils entertained a motion to approve the March 2024 meeting minutes as submitted. Vice Chair Dr. Christopher Strang moved for approval and Jeff Kindrai seconded. A voice vote to approve the minutes for the record was passed unanimously and accepted.

### **Item 3. REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA**

Not applicable for this meeting.

### **Item 4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

No public appearances were made amidst this meeting.

### **Item 5. BOARD MEMBERS' MATTERS**

ANY BUSINESS FROM BOARD MEMBERS?

New WSLH Board Member Hasmik Mkrtchyan introduced herself to the rest of the board, mentioning first and foremost that she is both excited and honored to be brought on as part of the board. She continued by providing a brief background on herself, sharing that her graduate work was at George Washington University and has worked in manufacturing for 12 years with experience working in a laboratory setting. She stated her passion is in the realms of lab automation in a biotech company. The current board members took turns introducing themselves and shared their roles and occupations and their time served on the board. (Andrea Poehling spoke on behalf of herself and absent board member Dr. Jon Audhya). Local Health Department Representative Jeff Kindrai announced he will be retiring from his position as Grant County Health Officer this summer, so the June 26<sup>th</sup> WSLH Board Meeting is his last. WSLH Director Jamie Schauer and WSLH Board Chair Greg Pils congratulated Mr. Kindrai on his retirement and thanked him for his long service on the WSLH Board. Mr. Kindrai was appointed

to the WSLH Board in 2009 and will contact the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB) so they can send a recommendation for his Board replacement to Governor Evers' office. Mr. Kindrai thanked everyone for a wonderful time spent on the board and noted that it has been an amazing experience witnessing the board evolution over the course of so many years. He also mentioned two issues relating to rabies testing. First, he said that some local health departments are having difficulties getting animals into veterinarian offices for observation after a biting incident. The local health officers sometimes have to get their county corporation counsels involved. He said some local health departments are working on a pilot program to allow the local health departments to do observation programs. Second, he said the cost of shipping rabies samples to the WSLH is becoming prohibitively expensive. His health department recently shipped a couple of bats for rabies testing and the cost was \$100+. Currently, the WSLH does not cover the cost of shipping for rabies samples. WSLH Communicable Disease Division (CDD) Director Dr. Al Bateman mentioned that the WSLH contracted courier could be a possibility, but funding to pay for the shipping would need to be found first as there is no current funding for this use of the courier.

#### BUSINESS ITEMS:

##### Item 6. **FY25-FY27 Strategic Plan**

WSLH Director Dr. Jamie Schauer provided a brief overview of the WSLH Strategic Plan, noting that WSLH programs are driven by Wisconsin State Statute, expectations from Wisconsin state agencies and local health departments, and federal agencies. Dr. Schauer said the initiatives of the Strategic Plan are at a high level and that the plan is intended to improve how the WSLH implements its programs and efforts to achieve the WSLH Mission. After a brief overview of the plan's initiatives – featuring data modernization, scientific advancement, clinical biomonitoring, outreach, culture/belonging, space, and advancing the public health missions of SMPH and UW-Madison – Dr. Schauer requested formal approval of the Strategic Plan by the board at the start of the fiscal year on July 1, 2024. Dr. Schauer mentioned that a longer-term facet of the utmost importance is additional space (at the Ag Drive location in particular). He additionally mentioned that the Public Health Missions of SMPH are closely connected to the new FDA regulations on laboratory developed tests (LDTs) that will have a significant impact on many of our clinical labs. In order for our labs to do diagnostic testing, there will need to be some form of evolution with these new FDA rules. Lastly, Dr. Schauer mentioned how data modernization (a highlight of the Strategic Plan) is important and a key component in how we interact with our partners. At 1:19 pm, WSLH Board Chair Greg Pils made a motion to approve the FY 25-27 Strategic Plan. This motion was seconded by Vice Chair Dr. Christopher Strang, and a voice vote to approve the WSLH Strategic Plan was passed unanimously and accepted.



## Item 7. **Financial Report**

Kevin Karbowski (CFO) presented the financial report for the first ten months of the fiscal year. Net Operating Income was a gain of \$815,462 compared to an expected (budgeted) loss of \$779,967. Revenue was \$56,092,673 compared to an expected \$52,752,712. Expenses were \$55,277,211 compared to an expected \$53,532,678. Revenue was over budget due primarily to increased clinical activity. Expenses were over budget, owing primarily to increased supplies tied to the aforementioned clinical activity.

Mr. Karbowski presented a proposed break-even budget for FY25. Mr. Karbowski also requested that the budget include a general 6% price increase to be implemented between October 1, 2024 and January 1, 2025. Mr. Karbowski noted that there would be tests that may change at a different rate, but these exceptions would be based on business needs and rare. An example would be prices that are set for a specific contract period. At 1:48 pm, WSLH Board Chair Greg Pils made a motion to approve the FY25 Budget as presented and a general 6% fee increase in FY25. The motion was seconded by Jeff Kindrai, and a voice vote to approve the FY25 Budget and the 6% fee increase was passed unanimously and accepted.

The 2025-2027 Biennial state budget was discussed next. Dr. Schauer stated that he would like the Board to support the Wisconsin Department of Administration's 2025-2027 biennial budget request to construct and develop an additional WSLH wing at the WSLH Agriculture Drive Facility. Dr. Schauer explained that the WSLH is slowly phasing out of the Henry Mall location on campus that was built in the 1953 as it is not on the UW-Madison campus master plan— with a suggested timeframe effectively evacuating Henry Mall within a 10 to 15 year timespan. DOA wants to put in a state budget request for funding to construct an additional wing on the Ag Drive Building. WSLH Director of Clinical Laboratory Services Dr. Errin Rider informed the Board that DOA is working on getting a bid for a design firm, with design and costing hopefully completed by November 2024. At 1:58 PM, Jeff Kindrai made a motion to rescind the March 2024 approval of WSLH Biennial Budget Request for a recurring increase in GPR to cover additional rent expenses and support the DOA's biennial budget request to construct and develop an additional wing at the WSLH Agriculture Drive facility. This motion is seconded by WSLH Board Chair Greg Pils, and a voice vote to approve the biennial budget was passed unanimously and accepted.

## Item 8. **Contracts Report**

WSLH Financial Manager Tip Vandall shared information regarding the summary of contracts executed since the March 2024 Board Meeting. Ms. Vandall informed the Board that the grand total estimates are around \$1 million, with 6 contracts that were entered and signed in the past 3 months. For reference, a short-term contract is 3-4 months while the other standard contracts are about 12 months. There are two annual renewal contracts as well which are estimate at \$675,000.

## Item 9. Directors Report

Director of Clinical Laboratory Services Dr. Errin Rider shared information about the new FDA rules for Laboratory Developed Tests – or LDTs for short. On May 6, 2024, the FDA published, “a final rule to amend its regulations to make explicit that in vitro diagnostic products are devices under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act – including when the manufacturer of the IVD is a laboratory.” Due to this publication, all clinical and public health laboratories must now comply with the FDA regulations and requirements for medical device manufacturing for any new laboratory-developed tests. It should be noted that in the past the FDA allowed enforcement discretion of LDTs implemented in clinical and public health laboratory settings. Dr. Rider gave a brief history surrounding FDA/LDT regulations, sharing that the Medical Device Amendments act was passed in 1976 establishing class I (low risk), class II (moderate risk), and class III (high risk) regulations for medical devices. In 2014, the FDA issued draft guidance arguing it had the authority to regulate LDTs, and by 2018-2022 the VALID Act (proposed but not passed) would have provided the FDA explicit oversight over LDTs. Dr. Rider informed the board that on May 6, 2024 the FDA offered a 4-year phase-in process for all laboratories; with year 1 requiring reporting for MDRs and Corrections/Removals, year 2 requiring registration and listing/labeling/investigational device exemption, year 3 requiring quality systems requirements, and year 4 requiring PMA applications for high-risk LDTs and De Novo submission for low to moderate risk LDTs. Dr. Rider added that it’s important to note that any tests implemented on May 6, 2024 or after must meet requirements for Years 1 through 4, including all Quality System Requirements in year 3. The Cost of submission is not just the fees. The cost of submissions to the FDA varies by class. Class III includes application fees of \$485,000 per test, with an estimated total cost of around \$4.5 million. Classes I and II includes application fees of \$21,760 per test, with an estimated total cost of \$250,000. The FDA stated that they would be reevaluating these fees. Dr. Rider shared some points of emphasis surrounding exemptions for public health under these new circumstances. For example, Emergency Use Authorization follows the current path of FDA clearance, and the FDA may authorize labs to implement EUA tests in an emergency (as was the case during Covid-19). Pathway for public health laboratories to respond immediately to Chemical and Biological emergencies as long as testing does not continue past 12 months falls under exemption 564. Unfortunately, these exemptions are only for emergency testing and do not cover Newborn Screening and other testing of public health importance. Dr. Rider stated that while guidance that the FDA released is not completely clear, the WSLH will look to CDC and APHL in order to understand better what labs can do in this interim period. Dr. Rider said that some actions to stop implementation include two bills in Congress and a lawsuit filed by the American Clinical Laboratory Association. The upcoming federal elections may or may not affect implementation of the regulations.

## **Key Public Health Notices – Camille Danielson**

WSLH Environmental Chemistry Programs Director Camille Danielson shared a series of key public health and environmental notices from the period of March 25 through June 11, 2024. Examples cited included –

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, WI Governor Tony Evers signed the 2023 Wisconsin Act 108 into law making significant changes to E-Cycle Wisconsin. One significant component of this law directs the DNR to create rules for ‘good faith progress’ towards meeting a manufacturer’s recycling target. This law also changes the formula used to set electronics manufacturers’ annual recycling targets and expands the definition of ‘peripheral.’

The EPA announced new enforceable federal standards for PFAS in drinking water that includes a new enforceable MCL of 4.0 parts per trillion individually for PFOA and PFOS and 10 ppt individually for PFNA, PFHxS, and GenX and PFBS present in a mixture.

There is a previously undetected parasite discovered in wild Wisconsin trout. *Myxobolus Cerebralis* is a microscopic parasite that damages the cartilage and nerve tissue of trout and salmon and has been known to cause whirling disease.

The Wisconsin Office of Children’s Mental Health released a fact sheet on the mental health impact of school shootings, stating that children who survive school shootings have twice as many pain disorders, are 68% more likely to have a psychiatric diagnosis, and are 144% as likely to develop a substance use disorder than those who did not experience a shooting.

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, the DNR approved stewardship funding for Friends Grants to 24 nonprofit organizations for improvements at DNR properties across the state. The State Building Commission approved funding for 29 projects using Stewardship grants.

Law enforcement agencies awarded grants from state opioid settlement funds. Specifically, twelve tribal nations, county and municipal law enforcement agencies received grants from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for projects to prevent and reduce the dangers of opioid use.

The DNR published its 2023 Fish Stocking Summary – with over 6 million fish stocked across Wisconsin waters.

Five Crisis Stabilization facilities across Wisconsin were funded by the Department of Health Services. The centers provide a dedicated location for a level of care for those who are no longer able to stay in their community safely, but don’t need to be hospitalized.

## **Public Relations Report – Jan Klawitter**

WSLH Communications Manager Jan Klawitter provided the Board with highlights of WSLH staff activities and accomplishments. Items noted were that on April 5<sup>th</sup>, WSLH Communicable Disease Division (WSLH CDD) scientists confirmed a positive measles case in a Wisconsin

resident. This initiated a large multi-county and state public health response. There was no further spread or cases to date. In late March 2024, the USDA announced that H5N1 avian influenza had been detected in cattle herds in multiple states throughout the country. In preparation for responding to this development, WSLH CDD worked with the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (WVDL) to stay aware of recent findings in cows, worked with WVDL to initiate testing of cats with neurologic symptoms who test negative for rabies, and validated a higher throughput nucleic acid instrument for testing. The WisCon occupational health onsite safety and health consultation program performed outreach in early June to Wisconsin employers who may be impacted by H5N1 avian influenza providing CDC guidance on how to protect affected workers. On February 21<sup>st</sup> the WSLH honored 27 staffers with Quality and Safety Awards. The Association of Public Health Laboratories held its annual scientific conference in Milwaukee with 30+ WSLH scientists giving presentations and/or posters at the event. On May 9<sup>th</sup>, the WSLH hosted a tour of the Ag Drive facility for conference attendees. The WSLH also worked with the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District to provide a separate wastewater surveillance focused tour. Lastly, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers proclaimed May 22, 2024 as “Wastewater Professionals Appreciation Day.” The proclamation and statewide communications were the result of joint efforts by wastewater surveillance and communications staff at the WSLH and the WI Department of Health Services to laud the efforts of wastewater professionals who submit samples for wastewater surveillance testing. A celebratory event was also held at the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District.

### **Adjourning**

At 2:55 pm, Jeff Kindrai entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn seconded by WSLH Board Chair Greg Pils. All present voted to adjourn the board meeting. WSLH Board Chair Greg Pils adjourned the meeting at 2:56 pm.

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

**Item 3. REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA**

**Description of Item:**

Board members may suggest changes in the order in which agenda items are discussed

**Suggested Board Action:**

None

**Staff Recommendation and Comments:**

Reorganize the agenda if requested by the Board

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

**Item 4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

**Description of Item:**

Under the board's *Policies and Procedures*, non-members are invited to make presentations

**Suggested Board Action:**

Follow *WSLH Policies and Procedures*:

**Staff Recommendation and Comments:**

Follow *WSLH Policies and Procedures*

*Per Policies and Procedures of the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors:*

§6.12 *Speaking privileges.* When the board is in session, no persons other than laboratory staff designated by the director shall be permitted to address the board except as hereinafter provided:

- (a) A committee report may be presented by a committee member who is not a member of the board.
- (b) A board or committee member in the course of presenting a matter to the board may request staff to assist in such a presentation.
- (c) If a board member directs a technical question for clarification of a specific issue to a person not authorized in this section, the Chair may permit such a person to respond.
- (d) The board may by majority vote or by decision of the Chair allow persons not otherwise authorized in this section to address the board if the situation warrants or the following criteria is followed:
  - (1) Written requests for public appearances on specific current agenda items shall be made to the Board Secretary no later than two working days prior to the meetings. The request shall outline the reasons for the request including the subject matter to be discussed in as much detail as is feasible prior to the meeting of the board. Those requesting an appearance may, at or prior to the board meeting, provide board members copies of any written materials to be presented or a written statement of a position.
  - (2) Individual presentations will be limited to five minutes, unless otherwise authorized by the Chair.
  - (3) To schedule an appearance before the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors, contact the Board Secretary, c/o Director, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, 465 Henry Mall, Madison, Wisconsin 53706. Telephone (608) 890-0288. The subject or subjects to be discussed must be identified.
  - (4) The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene "Guidelines for Citizen Participation in WSLH Board Meetings" are published on its website: <https://www.slh.wisc.edu/> and printed copies are available on request. (See Appendix 5) [Section §6.12 approved 5/27/03 board meeting.]

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**Appendix 5**

**Guidelines for Citizen Participation at WSLH Board Meetings**

The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene board provides opportunities for citizens to appear before the board to provide information to the board on items listed on the agenda. Such appearances shall be brief and concise. In order to accommodate this participation in the allotted time, the guidelines are as follows:

- A. Items to be brought before the board:
  - 1. The board Secretary and Chair will assign a specific time on the agenda to hear public comment when a request to speak has been received from a member of the public.
  - 2. Individuals or organizations will be limited to a total of five (5) minutes to make a presentation to the board. Following the presentation board members may ask clarifying questions.
  - 3. An organization is limited to one (1) spokesperson on an issue.
  - 4. On complex issues, individuals wishing to appear before the board are encouraged to submit written materials to the Board Secretary in advance of the meeting so the board may be better informed on the subject in question. Such information should be submitted to the board Secretary for distribution to all board members no later than seven (7) working days before the board meeting.
  - 5. No matters that are in current litigation may be brought before the board.
- B. The board encourages individuals to confine their remarks to broad general policy issues rather than the day-to-day operations of the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene.
- C. Citizens who have questions for board members should ask these questions prior to the board meeting, during any recess during the board proceedings, or after board adjournment.
- D. Written requests to appear before the WSLH Board of Directors should be submitted no later than two (2) working days prior to a scheduled board meeting.
- E. Submit written requests to:  
Secretary, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors

C/O WSLH Director  
465 Henry Mall  
Madison, WI 53706  
Telephone: (608) 890-0288  
Email: [sara.anderson@slh.wisc.edu](mailto:sara.anderson@slh.wisc.edu)

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Item 5. BOARD MEMBERS' MATTERS**

**Description of the Item:**

Board Members' Matters will present board members with the opportunity to ask questions and/or discuss issues related to the Wisconsin Laboratory of Hygiene

**Suggested Board Action:**

Receive for information

**Staff Recommendations and Comments:**

Receive for information.



**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Item 6. RNC/DNC PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES**

**Description of the Item:**

CDD Associate Director Dr. Alana Sterkel and Chemical Emergency Response Manager Meshel Lange will discuss the WSLH's preparedness and response activities related to supporting the RNC and DNC conventions.

WSLH Wastewater Surveillance Program Coordinator Dr. Martin Shafer will be providing a synopsis of the RNC-associated wastewater surveillance activities.

**Suggested Board Action:**

Review and provide input.

**Staff Recommendations and Comments:**

Receive for information.

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
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**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Item 7. PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE FOR EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES DU JOUR**

**Description of the Item:**

CDD Director Dr. Allen Bateman will be presenting on WSLH's preparedness for and response to the H5N1, MPOX, Dengue, and West Nile pathogens.

**Suggested Board Action:**

Review and provide input.

**Staff Recommendations and Comments:**

Receive for information.

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Item 8. FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Description of the Item:**

WSLH Chief Financial Officer Kevin Karbowski will provide an update on the Financial Report to the Board.

**Suggested Board Action:**

Review and provide input.

**Staff Recommendations and Comments:**

Receive for information.

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE  
Statement of Income  
For the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024**

	Fiscal Year 2024 Actual	Fiscal Year 2024 Budget	Variance Over/(Under)	Variance % of Budget
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>				
Clinical	\$19,454,996	\$16,858,491	\$2,596,505	15.4%
Newborn Screening	7,235,751	6,671,895	563,856	8.5%
Driver Improvement Surcharge	2,494,200	2,494,200	0	0.0%
Forensic Toxicology	418,806	438,807	(20,001)	
Environmental	10,096,397	9,568,054	528,343	5.5%
Proficiency	4,243,096	4,398,055	(154,959)	-3.5%
Occupational Health	2,235,815	2,014,342	221,473	11.0%
Laboratory Services	46,179,060	42,443,843	3,735,217	8.8%
Grants Indirect Reimbursement	3,900	855,000	(851,100)	-99.5%
WI DHS Employee Contracts	922,068	862,767	59,301	6.9%
WI DHS IT Employee Contracts	1,355,676	868,719	486,957	
Cytotechnology Program	0	250,000	(250,000)	
Other	(20,538)	0	(20,538)	
Earnings - Investment Income	67,392	98,000	(30,608)	-31.2%
Other Revenue	2,328,499	2,934,486	(605,987)	-20.7%
Grants	6,306,203	5,598,880	707,323	12.6%
Program Revenue	54,813,762	50,977,209	3,836,553	7.5%
State General Program Revenue (GPR)	13,115,138	12,720,000	395,138	3.1%
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>67,928,900</b>	<b>63,697,209</b>	<b>4,231,691</b>	<b>6.6%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Salaries	27,646,807	26,643,458	1,003,349	3.8%
Fringe Benefits	10,022,626	9,857,670	164,956	1.7%
Supplies & Services	23,446,399	20,848,310	2,598,089	12.5%
Building Rent	3,356,435	3,295,060	61,375	1.9%
Grants Indirect	1,012,751	943,805	68,946	7.3%
Depreciation	2,597,018	2,598,463	(1,445)	-0.1%
Bad Debt Expense	3,420	3,600	(180)	-5.0%
Interest Expense	14,060	0	14,060	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>68,099,516</b>	<b>64,190,366</b>	<b>3,909,150</b>	<b>6.1%</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>(\$170,616)</b>	<b>(\$493,157)</b>	<b>\$322,541</b>	

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE  
Comparative Income Statement  
For the 12 months ended June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023**

	Fiscal Year 2024 Actual	Fiscal Year 2023 Actual	Variance Over/(Under)	Variance % of Prior Year
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>				
Clinical	\$19,454,996	\$17,722,946	\$1,732,050	9.8%
Newborn Screening	7,235,751	5,435,828	1,799,923	33.1%
Driver Improvement Surcharge	2,494,200	1,619,200	875,000	54.0%
Forensic Toxicology	418,806	1,236,259	(817,453)	-66.1%
Environmental	10,096,397	9,627,057	469,340	4.9%
Proficiency	4,243,096	4,077,965	165,131	4.0%
Occupational Health	2,235,815	1,997,842	237,973	11.9%
Laboratory Services	46,179,060	41,717,096	4,461,965	10.7%
Grants Indirect Reimbursement	3,900	922,600	(918,700)	-99.6%
WI DHS Employee Contracts	922,068	791,383	130,685	16.5%
WI DHS IT Employee Contracts	1,355,676	427,092	928,584	217.4%
Other	(20,538)	128,464	(149,002)	-116.0%
Earnings - Investment Income	67,392	102,109	(34,717)	-34.0%
Other Revenue	2,328,499	2,371,648	(43,150)	-1.8%
Grants	6,306,203	6,308,489	(2,286)	0.0%
Program Revenue	54,813,762	50,397,233	4,416,529	8.8%
State General Program Revenue (GPR)	13,115,138	12,247,800	867,338	7.1%
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>67,928,900</b>	<b>62,645,033</b>	<b>5,283,867</b>	<b>8.4%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Salaries	27,646,807	25,015,032	2,631,775	10.5%
Fringe Benefits	10,022,626	9,169,121	853,505	9.3%
Supplies & Services	23,446,399	22,008,449	1,437,950	6.5%
Building Rent	3,356,435	3,238,303	118,133	3.6%
Grants Indirect	1,012,751	911,655	101,096	11.1%
Depreciation	2,597,018	2,435,811	161,207	6.6%
Bad Debt Expense	3,420	553	2,867	
Interest Expense	14,060	28,349	(14,289)	-50.4%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>68,099,516</b>	<b>62,807,273</b>	<b>5,292,243</b>	<b>8.4%</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>(\$170,616)</b>	<b>(\$162,240)</b>	<b>(\$8,376)</b>	<b>5.16%</b>

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**September 18, 2024**  
**1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE**  
**Comparative Balance Sheet**  
**As of June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023**

**ASSETS**

	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$2,562,967	\$1,466,313
Net accounts receivables (Note 2)	8,285,897	8,240,004
Other receivables	0	922,600
Inventories	12,641	23,827
Prepaid expenses	0	0
Total current assets	10,861,505	10,652,743
<b>EQUIPMENT AND BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS</b>		
Equipment	41,749,445	38,621,264
Building improvements	2,357,769	6,878,228
	44,107,213	45,499,492
Less accumulated depreciation	(30,880,128)	(32,803,570)
Total net fixed assets	13,227,085	12,695,922
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$24,088,590</b>	<b>\$23,348,665</b>

**LIABILITIES AND EQUITY**

**CURRENT LIABILITIES**

Accounts payable	621,024	\$659,602
Obligations under capital leases	59,524	0
WI DHS neonatal surcharge payable	883,507	235,743
Proficiency testing deferred revenue	1,155,474	1,349,482
Newborn screening deferred revenue	1,366,827	1,345,932
Compensated absences (Note 4)	1,093,845	1,093,215
Total current liabilities	5,180,201	4,683,973

**LONG TERM DEBT**

Obligations under capital leases	280,953	0
Compensated Absences (Note 3)	1,960,371	1,827,012
Total long term debt	2,241,324	1,827,012
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$7,421,525</b>	<b>\$6,510,985</b>

**EQUITY**

Net Operating Income (Loss)	(170,616)	(162,239)
Retained earnings	15,551,005	11,365,404
Contributed capital	1,286,676	5,634,516
Total retained earnings	16,667,065	16,837,681
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>16,667,065</b>	<b>16,837,681</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$24,088,590</b>	<b>\$23,348,666</b>

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE  
Statement of Cash Flow  
For the 12 months ended June 30, 2024 and the 12 months ended June 30, 2023**

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Prior Year</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net income	(\$170,616)	(\$162,239)
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	2,597,018	2,435,811
Changes in working capital components:		
Decrease/(Increase) in net accounts receivables	(45,894)	(1,955,933)
Decrease/(Increase) in other receivables	922,600	(67,600)
Decrease/(Increase) in inventories	11,186	44,160
Decrease/(Increase) in prepaid expenses	0	258,864
(Decrease)/Increase in salaries payable	0	0
(Decrease)/Increase in accounts payable	(38,578)	(446,729)
(Decrease)Increase in accrued expenses	0	0
(Decrease)Increase in deferred revenue	0	0
(Decrease)/Increase in neonatal surcharge payable	647,765	(263,753)
(Decrease)Increase in proficiency testing deferred revenue	(194,008)	394,899
(Decrease)/Increase in newborn screen deferred revenue	20,895	(996,340)
(Decrease)/Increase in obligation on capital lease	340,477	0
(Decrease)/Increase in compensated absences	133,989	46,451
Net cash provided (used) in operating activities	4,224,835	(712,408)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of equipment and physical plant improvements	(3,064,493)	(2,718,703)
Net cash provided (used) in investing activities	(3,064,493)	(2,718,703)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Principal payment on Capital Lease	(63,687)	-
Net cash provided (used) in financing activities	(63,687)	-
Net increase (decrease) in cash	1,096,654	(3,431,110)
<b>Cash:</b>		
Beginning	1,466,313	4,897,423
Ending	\$2,562,967	\$1,466,313

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**For the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024**

**Note 1 - Nature of Business and Significant Accounting Policies**

Nature of Business:

- The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) is a governmental institution which provides medical, industrial and environmental laboratory testing and related services to individuals, private and public agencies, including the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Health Services (DHS). Approximately 80% of the WSLH operating revenues are program revenues, including contracts, grants, and fee-for-service billing. The remainder are general purpose revenues (GPR), which are Wisconsin state general fund dollars.

Budgetary Data:

- Fiscal Year 2023-2024 operating budget amounts were approved by the WSLH Board on July 18, 2023.

Basis of Presentation:

- The financial statements have been prepared on a modified accrual basis.

Basis of Accounting:

- Revenues are recognized at the completion of the revenue generating processes. Fee-for-service revenues are generally recognized in the period services are completed.
- Revenues from GPR, OWI, Grants, and expense reimbursement contracts for salaries, fringe benefits, capital, and supplies are recognized as expended.
- Expenses are recognized and accrued when the liability is incurred.

Estimates and assumptions:



**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

- The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying footnotes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Assets

- Accounts receivable are reported at net realizable value. Net realizable value is equal to the gross amount of receivables less an estimated allowance for uncollectible amounts.
- Inventory is stated at cost (first in, first-out method).
- Equipment and building improvements are carried at cost. Expenditures for assets in excess of \$5,000 are capitalized. Depreciation is computed by the straight-line method.

Liabilities

- A liability for unearned revenue is recognized for the proficiency testing program and for the newborn screening program.

**Note 2 – Net Accounts Receivable**

- Accounts receivable and allowance for uncollectible account balances as of June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2024 are as follows:

	<u>June 30, 2024</u>	<u>June 30, 2023</u>
Accounts Receivable Total	\$8,368,734	\$8,326,345
Allowance for bad debt	<u>(82,837)</u>	<u>(86,341)</u>
Net Receivables	\$8,285,897	\$8,240,004

**Note 3 – Compensated Absences**

- GASB Statement No. 16, "Accounting for Compensated Absences," establishes standards of accounting and reporting for compensated absences by state and local governmental entities for which employees will be paid such as vacation, sick leave, and sabbatical leave. Using the criteria in Statement 16, a liability for compensated absences that is attributable to services already rendered and that is not contingent on a specific event that is outside the control of the State and its employees has been accrued. The table below details the liability by benefit category:

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

	Total	Vacation	Personal Holiday	Legal Holiday	Sabbatical
Current	\$1,093,845	\$938,578	\$29,334	\$25,897	\$100,036
Long Term	1,960,371				1,960,371
	<b>\$3,054,216</b>	<b>\$938,578</b>	<b>\$29,334</b>	<b>\$25,897</b>	<b>\$2,060,407</b>

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Item 9. CONTRACTS REPORT**

**Description of the Item:**

WSLH Revenue Manager Tip Vandall will provide a brief update on Contracts to the Board.

**Suggested Board Action:**

Review and provide input.

**Staff Recommendations and Comments:**

Receive for information.

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Item 10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. James Schauer, Director, WSLH

- **FDA LDT Final Rule WSLH Strategy Update**
  - Dr. Errin Rider, WSLH Associate Director of Clinical Laboratory Services
  
- **UW Position Cap Update**
  - Nancy McLean, Human Resources Director
  
- **Key Public Health Notices**
  - Camille Danielson, Environmental Chemistry Director
  
- **Public Relations Report**
  - Jan Klawitter, WSLH Communications Manager
  
- **National Biomonitoring Network Project**
  - Meshel Lange, Chemical Emergency Response Manager

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

## **Key Public Health and Environmental Notices 6/11/24 to 8/30/2024**

### **1. DHS Statement on Potential Data Disclosure by Partner Organization**

DHS June 21, 2024

Potential Disclosure May Have Affected Certain Medicaid Members

Today, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) announced that one of its partners, Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW), had a security incident that may have exposed the protected health information of 19,150 Wisconsin Medicaid members as part of a data security incident.

The incident was discovered after suspicious activity was found on a DRW email account. DHS and DRW continue to investigate and address any complications from this data security incident. On June 21, 2024, DRW is mailing notifications to Wisconsin Medicaid members whose information may have been accessed. These members are being offered free credit monitoring for one year and given access to a dedicated call center to answer questions. Members who receive a notification letter or have questions about this incident can call 888-733-3814 from 8:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. CDT Monday through Friday. The call center will begin taking calls at 8 a.m. on Monday, June 24.

### **2. DNR Publishes Annual Drinking Water Report**

DNR July 9, 2024

The DNR's 2023 Annual Drinking Water Report is now available.

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently published its 2023 Annual Drinking Water Report, showing that more than 99% of the public water systems in Wisconsin met all water quality standards for contaminants.

The 2023 report summarizes compliance with the drinking water requirements and highlights statewide efforts to help public water systems provide a safe and sustainable supply of drinking water. This impressive scorecard is possible because of the joint efforts between public water system owners and operators, the DNR, and many partners. Additional funding also helped significantly; Wisconsin's share of federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding was more than \$155 million in 2023 to ensure safe drinking water, and Gov. Tony Evers invested \$10 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to expand on the state's Well Compensation Grant Program.

Most of the extra funding went toward lead service line replacement and addressing emerging contaminants like manganese and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). By the end of 2023, more than 1,860 Wisconsin public water systems obtained PFAS monitoring test results according to the DNR's established drinking water standard for two PFAS chemicals.

"We encountered new challenges in 2023 but also had some amazing accomplishments," said Steve Elmore, DNR Drinking Water and Groundwater Program director. "We had a drought in parts of the state that impacted water quantity, but we provided information and guidance to help those affected areas. We also had a very successful expansion of the state's Well Compensation Grant Program, thanks to Gov. Evers' investment of \$10 million in ARPA funding, that awarded hundreds of grants to replace, reconstruct or treat contaminated wells at private homes and non-community water systems. We also helped replace more than 1,100 private lead service lines in 17 Wisconsin communities with our Private Lead Service Line Replacement Program."

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**September 18, 2024**  
**1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

You can learn more about these accomplishments by reviewing the 2023 Annual Drinking Water Report on the DNR’s website or by calling 608-266-1054 to request a printed copy. The report webpage also includes the popular interactive map displaying communities awarded funding for projects through the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program and the Private Lead Service Line Replacement Program. More information about the work the DNR is doing to provide safe drinking water is available on the DNR’s Drinking Water webpage.

**3. DHS Launches Maternal and Child Health Needs Survey to Gather Community Feedback**

DHS July 10, 2024

Wisconsinites are invited to help shape future family health programs

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) invites state residents to share information about family health in their communities to help influence the priorities and focus of maternal and child health programs in the state. The Maternal and Child Health, Title V Needs Assessment Survey is part of a comprehensive, statewide assessment the DHS Maternal and Child Health Program conducts every five years as part of federal Title V funding.

The confidential survey covers a range of topics, including prenatal care, access to health care services, maternal mental health, child and infant health, birth outcomes, and community resources, and will be open into September 2024. DHS will use information shared to identify current community strengths, partnerships, and areas where people need more support to improve the health of mothers and children in Wisconsin. The goal is to hear from people from all backgrounds and parts of our state, as well as those most impacted by future family health improvement efforts and experiences.

**4. Wisconsin DNR Announces New Regional Secretary's Directors**

DNR July 11, 2024

**MADISON, Wis.** – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today announced three new regional Secretary's Directors, effective July 14. Connie Antonuk will be the new Secretary's Director for the Northeast region, Jill Schoen for the West Central region, and Shelly Allness for the South Central region.

The DNR's Secretary's Directors serve within their respective regions, acting as the department's eyes, ears and voice throughout the state, ensuring prompt attention to local issues and improved responsiveness to opportunities.

**5. DNR Warns That Heavy Rain And Flooding Can Contaminate Private Wells**

DNR July 12, 2024

**MADISON, Wis.** – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages private well owners to consider testing their drinking water after significant rainfall and flooding. Heavy rains, such as those that swept through much of northern Wisconsin the past week, can impact drinking water quality.

Flood waters and runoff contain bacteria and other contaminants that can affect private water supplies and cause the spread of waterborne illness. Wells located in pits, basements and low-lying areas are especially susceptible to contamination. Well owners who experience flooding or observe changes to

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

the taste, color or sediment levels in their water following heavy rainfall should assume their well is contaminated and take the following steps:

- Stop drinking the water and find an alternate source of safe water.
- Disinfect your well. This procedure is best done by a licensed well driller or pump installer with the expertise and equipment.
- Before resuming water consumption, sample the well after pumping and disinfection to ensure its safety.

Even without obvious signs of flooding, a well can become contaminated. The DNR's [Recommendations for Private Wells Inundated by Flooding webpage](#) provides information on how to test and disinfect a private well after a flood event.

Private well owners are encouraged to test their wells annually for bacteria and nitrates to ensure the water is safe to drink. The DNR's [Wells webpage](#) provides more information on bacteriological contamination of drinking water wells and lists of licensed well drillers, pump installers and labs certified to analyze water samples. For individuals who receive their drinking water from a public water supply, these systems are designed and operated to keep contaminants out. If you have concerns about the safety of your community's drinking water, contact your public water supplier.

**6. Wisconsin State Office of Children's Mental Health Highlights the Mental Health Needs of Children with Disabilities in New Fact Sheet**

DHS July 16, 2024

July is Disability Pride Month, a time to honor the history and achievements of the disability community, but also a time to examine their experiences and struggles. Children with disabilities – whether physical, intellectual, or developmental – have higher rates of mental health conditions than children without disabilities. The mental health conditions have a significant, lasting, and negative impact on their lives. These children with the most needs also tend to be the most underserved by our care system.

One in five kids has a special health care need, whether autism, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, learning disabilities, speech or language impairments, or intellectual and developmental disabilities. Children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) require more care than other children, but data show they are five times more likely to forego care than children without special health care needs, due to difficulties finding the right care. Further complicating the care of these children, more than half of CYSHCN also have a mental health condition.

The fact sheet includes a number of recommendations for how parents, medical providers, policymakers, schools and communities can help connect CYSHCN to services and improve outcomes for these children and their families. “For years I’ve heard from parents who are incredibly stressed and at the point of exhaustion by the obstacles facing their child with special health needs. Often their child has multiple conditions and they can’t find the right kind of help for their child's mental health concerns,” says OCMH Director Linda Hall.

[Insights](#) from parents who participate in OCMH’s Collective Impact Council attest to the complexities of raising a child with disabilities as well as the interplay between their disability and their mental health. The amount of bullying, harassment, exclusion, and isolation these children experience leads to increased rates of anxiety and depression that parents have to deal with 24/7.

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

As students with disabilities get older, there are continuing challenges and new barriers that need to be addressed at school and after they have exited high school. Students with disabilities should have mental health care plans embedded into their transition planning.

**7. DNR Investigating Manure Spill In**

DNR July 18, 2024

Outagamie, Brown Counties

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is assisting with the investigation of a manure spill that occurred in eastern Outagamie County and western Brown County, which resulted in a fish kill in Dutchman Creek.

On Tuesday, July 16, the DNR was notified via the DNR Spills Hotline that manure was observed in Dutchman Creek. Immediately after the notification, DNR staff observed dead fish in Dutchman Creek. Manure-impacted water was observed at road crossings at Bain Road, Country Road U, Cyprus Drive, Packerland Drive, Circle Drive and Hansen Road. DNR and County Land Conservation staff have been on-site each day since the notification. A definitive source has not been identified. There is no known threat to drinking water wells. However, it is recommended that people and pets avoid the surface waters of Dutchman Creek.

**8. Emerald Ash Borer Now Confirmed In All 72 Wisconsin Counties**

DNR July 26, 2024

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) confirms the detection of emerald ash borer (EAB) in Burnett County, which means the pest has now been confirmed in all 72 of Wisconsin's counties.

DNR staff responded to a report of EAB at a private residence in the town of Meenon on June 13. Two trees on the property showed characteristic symptoms of EAB infestation, including tree decline and visible woodpecker damage to the outer bark, known as "flecking." DNR staff members collected samples from the symptomatic trees and sent them to the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for identification. In July, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service confirmed that the insect specimens taken from the trees were emerald ash borer.

The state's first confirmed sighting of EAB took place in Ozaukee County in July 2008. Although the ash tree-killing beetle is less established in northwest Wisconsin than in other parts of the state, this year's detections indicate that the pest is expanding its foothold in the region. EAB is usually transported to new areas by hitching a ride on firewood. EAB larvae bore into ash trees and carve winding, S-shaped galleries beneath the trees' bark, typically starting in the upper canopy and progressing down the tree. The galleries restrict the movement of water and nutrients to affected areas of the tree, leading to branch dieback, canopy thinning and tree death.

EAB is expected to eventually kill more than 99% of Wisconsin's white, black and green ash (and their ornamental varieties). Landowners concerned about EAB should contact a forestry professional or ISA-certified arborist and consult the state's EAB Information Resource webpage to learn about management options. In the parts of northern Wisconsin where EAB populations remain low, there is still an opportunity to reduce the insects' impact.



**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**September 18, 2024**  
**1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) monitors the presence of EAB in Wisconsin. DATCP will continue to track the spread of EAB at the township and municipal level to inform management efforts to slow the spread. Visit the Wisconsin EAB Online Detections map to see where EAB has been found in Wisconsin or to report new detections. The Burnett County detection will not result in any federal regulatory changes. EAB was federally deregulated on Jan. 14, 2021, and Wisconsin rescinded its state quarantine on July 1, 2023. For more information, visit the DNR’s Emerald Ash Borer webpage or download the Emerald Ash Borer fact sheet.

**9. UpliftWI Going Strong After Launch One Year Ago**

DHS August 1, 2024

Peer support warmline for mental health and substance use receives over 16,000 calls in first year

In its first year, UpliftWI, Wisconsin's phone service staffed by people who offer hope and knowledge gained from their experiences living with mental health and substance use concerns, answered 16,508 calls for support. UpliftWI is operated by Mental Health America of Wisconsin under a grant from the Department of Health Services (DHS). "UpliftWI's inaugural year has shown it's a critical resource for people experiencing mental health and substance use challenges," said DHS Secretary-designee Kirsten Johnson. "Calling UpliftWI is like talking with a friend. The operators understand the stress of these difficult situations and can help navigate those situations based on their lived experiences."

UpliftWI is known as a warmline, a non-emergency program designed to diffuse difficult situations before they become a crisis through conversations and connections between people with similar life experiences. Staff are available daily from noon to midnight by calling 534-202-5438. They have access to interpreters to support calls from people who do not speak English.

**10. DNR Announces New Outreach Grant Program For Lead Service Line Replacement**

DNR August 5, 2024

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today announced a new grant program that will provide municipal community public water systems with the funds to conduct community outreach efforts in support of ongoing or upcoming lead service line replacement projects. The Lead Service Line Replacement Community Outreach Grant will begin accepting applications Aug. 29, 2024.

A municipal community public water system is a public water system that serves 15 or more service connections or regularly serves a community of at least 25 residents, for at least six months of the year, and is owned by a city, town, village, county, sanitary district, other government entity or government-owned institution for congregate care or correction.

It is critical for municipalities to replace lead service lines in their entirety – both the lines on private property and the lines on public property. Lead exposure is dangerous to people of any age but poses a particular risk to children and developing fetuses. When people ingest lead through drinking water, it accumulates in their bodies over time, resulting in damage to the brain, nervous system, red blood cells and kidneys. Lead service line replacement is one of the best ways to minimize the risk for lead exposure through drinking water.

“This new grant program will provide much needed outreach funding to support lead service line replacement,” said Steve Elmore, DNR Drinking Water and Groundwater Program Director. “This is an

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**September 18, 2024**  
**1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

ideal time for municipal systems to foster trust and cooperation with their customers while, at the same time, safeguarding the quality of their drinking water.”

Wisconsin has a long history of commitment to lead service line replacement. In the year 2000, Madison was the first major city in the nation to launch a lead service line replacement program. Now, Wisconsin is one of four states leading the renewed effort for replacement by participating in the Lead Service Line Replacement Accelerators program.

As municipal community public water systems work toward replacing Wisconsin’s remaining lead service lines, community outreach will be essential. This new grant program, funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, will provide communities with the funding to coordinate this crucial outreach. The DNR recommends that interested applicants review the Lead Service Line Replacement Community Outreach Grant Announcement for detailed information on eligibility and how to prepare an application. Learn more about the Lead Service Line Replacement Community Outreach Grant on the program’s webpage

**11. First Confirmed West Nile Virus Activity in Wisconsin**

DHS August 5, 2024

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) announces the first West Nile virus (WNV) infections in Wisconsin this year in a healthy blood donor from Washington County, whose blood screened positive for WNV, and in a dead bird from Chippewa County that tested positive for the virus. The positive blood donor is not considered a human case because they never developed any symptoms of WNV, which is required to be a probable or confirmed case. The infections confirm that there are mosquitoes infected with WNV in the state that can transmit the virus to other people and animals.

"The first activity of West Nile virus this year in Wisconsin is a reminder that we still need to take precautions to prevent mosquito bites even as summer winds down, as the risk of West Nile virus continues until the first frost. While West Nile virus and other viruses spread by mosquitoes pose a risk to all Wisconsinites, people who have weakened immune systems are at higher risk for significant illness," said State Health Officer Paula Tran. WNV is spread to humans, birds, and other animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes acquire WNV by feeding on infected birds. The virus is not spread directly from person to person, animal to animal, or animal to person

**12. Natural Resources Board Approves 2024-2034 Elk Management Plan**

DNR Aug. 14, 2024

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board (NRB) today approved the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) 2024-2034 Elk Management Plan and the associated administrative rule package.

The plan is intended to guide elk management at a statewide level to ensure a healthy, robust and sustainable elk population that provides ecological, social, economic and cultural benefits while minimizing elk-human conflicts in Wisconsin. The DNR and the Wisconsin Elk Advisory Committee, consisting of the DNR, Tribal Nations representatives, external agencies and stakeholders, developed the 2024-2034 Elk Management Plan to align elk management strategies with the current state of Wisconsin’s elk population, the interests of different user groups and the cultural significance elk provide.

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

The DNR collected and considered a wide variety of input throughout the development process. The outreach and feedback mechanisms included consultation with Wisconsin's Tribal Nations, the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, members of the Elk Advisory Committee, private landowners and various stakeholder groups, recommendations from the NRB, public surveys, open houses and public comment periods.

Key updates to elk management in Wisconsin include:

- Managing the statewide elk population using an adaptive management approach
- Renaming the management zones to include regional distinctions (Northern and Central)
- Creating one continuous elk hunting season
- Expanding the boundaries of the elk management zones
- Establishing elk hunting units within and adjacent to elk management zones

Wisconsin's elk herds reside in northern (Ashland, Bayfield, Sawyer, Rusk and Price counties) and central Wisconsin (Jackson County). The state's elk population is projected to reach over 500 animals after this year's calving season. To view the Elk Management Plan 2024-2034 or learn more about elk in Wisconsin, visit the DNR's Elk Management webpage.

### **13. Live Vape Free Helps Young Adults Reduce or Quit Vaping**

DHS August 15, 2024

Expanded program offers nicotine replacement therapy

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) announced today the Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line has expanded its text-based Live Vape Free program to include young adults ages 18-26. The program supports young Wisconsinites on the path to ending their use of nicotine and vape products and will provide people over age 18 with two weeks of free nicotine replacement therapy if medically eligible.

According to the 2022 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, nearly one in five Wisconsinites ages 18-24 vape. They account for 34% of current adult e-cigarette users in our state. "Young adults are the first generation to have been exposed to widespread commercial electronic vaping devices, and we see the impact of that exposure in the number of youth who use vape products today," said State Health Officer Paula Tran. "By expanding the Live Vape Free program, we can help this age group achieve what they deserve: A life free of nicotine addiction that can harm their physical, mental, and financial health."

### **14. Notification Of 2024 Municipal Flood Control Grant Awards**

DNR August 16, 2024

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)'s Bureau of Community Financial Assistance issued seven Municipal Flood Control grants, totaling \$2,043,150 on July 1, 2024. The [award list](#) is now available on the DNR website. Congratulations to all the grantees!

All projects are awarded for two years with a 50% cost-share match with a maximum amount of 20% of available funding. This grant is only available every other year on even numbered calendar years. The next anticipated round of applications will be due March 15, 2026, depending on funding availability.

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**September 18, 2024**  
**1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

Sign up for advance email notice with [Municipal Flood Control Grant Updates](#). For more information on the Municipal Flood Control Grant Program, [visit the DNR website](#).

**15. DNR Announces New Online Tool For Analyzing Water Quality On Lakes And Streams**

DNR Aug. 20, 2024

The Water Explorer tool has a variety of insightful graphics, maps and automated reports.

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today announced the release of the Wisconsin Water Explorer, a web-based tool that can help Wisconsin residents address concerns about the quality of water in their local lakes or rivers.

Answering water quality questions requires sophisticated computer software and extensive datasets. The Wisconsin Water Explorer tool makes scientific data analysis accessible to the public by automating the process of finding and analyzing data. The tool provides insights into current conditions and trends through graphs, maps and automated reports.

The Wisconsin Water Explorer tool also consolidates several water quality tools into one platform. For example, Citizen Lake Monitoring Network volunteers can now access and share automated annual reports summarizing data from their respective lakes.

Paul Skawinski, statewide educator for the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network, appreciates the Wisconsin Water Explorer tool's ease of use. "Both volunteers and staff use Wisconsin Water Explorer to quickly generate and download PDF reports and graphs to understand how a lake's water quality has changed over time. It's very easy to print these files or share them with other interested people around the lake," Skawinski said. The Wisconsin Water Explorer includes an updated version of the Wisconsin Lake Modeling Suite to help non-technicians analyze whether a lake adheres to water quality standards, identify likely sources of pollution and determine the necessary level of improvement for restoration.

The new tool is available on the Wisconsin Water Explorer webpage. Those interested in participating in water quality monitoring in their area are encouraged to join the DNR's Citizen Lake Monitoring Network or Water Action Volunteers or to reach out to their local water quality biologist. For additional information regarding water quality activities at the DNR, visit the Water Quality Bureau's Surface Water webpage.

**16. DHS Announces Seal-A-Smile to Return for 25th Year**

DHS August 27, 2024

Successful program improves oral health by providing preventive dental services in schools statewide

As the 2024-2025 school year gets underway, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is marking the 25th year of its successful Wisconsin Seal-A-Smile program, which brings preventive dental services to children of all ages statewide. Led by DHS, in collaboration with the Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin and Delta Dental of Wisconsin Foundation, the program provided care to more than 86,300 students during the 2023-2024 school year totaling an estimated \$17,554,000 in dental services.

"Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease experienced during childhood," said Dr. Russell Dunkel, Wisconsin State Dental Director and DHS Chief Dental Officer. "Cavities not only cause pain and discomfort, which makes eating or concentrating in class difficult, but can impact a child's overall health.

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

By bringing preventive dental services to students at schools we are not only improving access to preventive dental care and teaching good oral hygiene habits, but we are reducing the time students spend away from the classroom and preventing life-long health concerns."

**17. DHS Reports First Deaths in State This Year Due to West Nile Virus**

DHS August 29, 2024

Wisconsinites encouraged to protect themselves from mosquito bites to avoid illness

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has confirmed two Wisconsinites have died and another was hospitalized because of West Nile virus (WNV) illness. The first three human cases of WNV in our state this year have been reported in residents of Outagamie, Fond du Lac, and Brown counties. In addition, WNV has also been detected this year in mosquitoes, animals, and healthy blood donors whose blood screened positive for WNV.

"DHS is saddened to hear about the deaths of Wisconsin residents from West Nile Virus," said Traci DeSalvo, DHS Bureau of Communicable Diseases Director. "Although people with weakened immune systems tend to be at greatest risk, severe West Nile virus can occur in people of all ages. It is important for all Wisconsinites to take steps to prevent mosquito bites when outdoors."

**18. Groundwater Coordinating Council Releases 2024 Report To The Legislature**

DNR September 3, 2024

The Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council today shared key recommendations for protecting and preserving vital groundwater resources in its 2024 annual report to the Wisconsin State Legislature. Recommendations focused on public health and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) remain a priority, while one focused on finding solutions for water-stressed areas joins the list this year.

The key recommendations in the report address some of the most prevalent and pressing issues in Wisconsin, including:

- **Setting new and revised health-based groundwater standards to protect public health and the environment from PFAS, nitrate and other contaminants.** DNR halted rulemaking to establish groundwater standards for four per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in December 2023 after determining that state law requires legislative action to adopt the standards as proposed. There are currently 46 unaddressed NR140 groundwater standards. The Groundwater Coordinating Council recommends allowing the Department of Natural Resources and Department of Health Services to finish rule-making that protects groundwater. Without these standards, agencies remain unable to fully protect the public health of Wisconsin residents.
- **Implementing agricultural practices that protect groundwater from nitrate, pesticides and other agricultural contaminants.** Areas of the state with a higher intensity of agriculture generally have higher nitrate levels in wells and a higher frequency of pesticide detections. Women and children are especially at risk when exposed to these contaminants. While also acknowledging the crucial need for Wisconsin agriculture, the Groundwater Coordinating Council recommends continuous program implementation, funding, data assessment tools and education to reduce the risk of high nitrate, pesticides and other contaminants in groundwater.

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**September 18, 2024**  
**1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

- **Addressing public health and environmental concerns regarding PFAS, nitrate and other groundwater contaminants.** Exposure to PFAS can have detrimental health effects, like developmental delays, and cause certain types of cancer. PFAS has been detected in Wisconsin's municipal and private drinking water sources. In April 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency released its Maximum Contaminant Levels in Drinking Water for PFAS, spotlighting the significant impact of PFAS on public health. The Groundwater Coordinating Council recommends implementing PFAS enforcement standards, identifying PFAS sources and supporting statewide PFAS initiatives.
- **Finding solutions for water-stressed areas affecting communities, economic activity and water resources.** Wisconsin's water supply is not evenly distributed across the state. Some areas have aquifers with low water availability, while in other parts, groundwater withdrawals and variable climate may result in environmental harm, such as residential wells or streams going dry. The Groundwater Coordinating Council recommends statewide collaboration, identifying water conservation and efficiency measures and developing a regional framework to manage water withdrawals in some areas of the state to address the newest addition to its priority recommendations.

The full report and Groundwater Coordinating Council recommendations can be found on the Groundwater Coordinating Council website.

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**Report to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board  
Representative Public or Environmental Health Incidents of Educational Interest  
June 14 – September 4, 2024**

Approx. Date	Agent or Event Name	Description	Current Status
<b>OUTBREAKS and INCIDENTS</b>			
<b>RECENT EVENTS and FINDINGS</b>			
June 4 & 13, 2024	Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Re-certifications	Forensic Toxicology DRE Liaison Kimberle Glowacki presented at the re-certifications (continuing education) for Wisconsin Drug Recognition Experts.	Complete
June 6, 2024	<i>Environmental Science: Water Research &amp; Technology</i> journal article	WSLH Wastewater Surveillance team members Dr. Dagmara S. Antkiewicz, Dr. Kayley H. Janssen, Dr. Adélaïde Roguet, Hannah E. Pilch, Rebecca B. Fahney, Paige A. Mullen, Griffin N. Knuth, Devin G. Everett, Evelyn M. Doolittle, Kaitlyn King, Carter Wood, Angellica Stanley, Dr. Jocelyn D. C. Hemming and Dr. Martin M. Shafer were co-authors on  <b>Wastewater-based protocols for SARS-CoV-2: insights into virus concentration, extraction, and quantitation methods from two years of public health surveillance</b>  <i>Environmental Science: Water Research &amp; Technology</i> , 2024,10, 1766-1784, <a href="https://doi.org/10.1039/D3EW00958K">https://doi.org/10.1039/D3EW00958K</a>	Complete
June 19, 2024	<i>Environmental Research Letters</i> journal article	Dr. David Gay, Katie Blaydes, Dr. Jamie Schauer and Dr. Martin Shafer are co-authors on –  <b>Widespread impacts to precipitation of the East Palestine Ohio train accident</b>  <i>Environmental Research Letters</i> , <a href="https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ad52ac">https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ad52ac</a>	Complete

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

		<p>The article details the National Atmospheric Deposition Program’s (NADP) observations of a chemical signal in precipitation from the accident.</p> <p>The paper received major media attention in the U.S. and internationally (163 news stories from 120 outlets so far) –</p> <p><a href="https://iop.altmetric.com/details/164659168/news">https://iop.altmetric.com/details/164659168/news</a></p>	
June 21 & 24, 2024	National Safety Council – Alcohol Drugs and Impairment Division (NSC-ADID) Consensus Meetings	WSLH Director of Forensic Toxicology Kayla Neuman was approved as a new member of the NSC-ADID in 2024. She attended the Consensus Meeting to discuss updating the recommendations for drugs in the Tier I and Tier II categories for DUID. These recommendations are provided to toxicology laboratories that perform drug testing for OWI/DUID cases.	Complete
June 24-26, 2024	Wisconsin Coroners and Medical Examiners Biennial Meeting, Appleton, WI	WSLH Forensic Toxicologists Courtney Peterson and Lindsey Vosters attended and presented to the Coroners and Medical Examiners for the state of Wisconsin. They gave a presentation on the testing processes and procedures and answered questions for the C/ME group. They are working to enhance the WSLH’s relationship with this important group.	Complete
July 2024	APHL <i>Lab Matters</i> article about WSLH interns	<p>In 2023, the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene embarked on a new program hosting 17 undergraduate summer interns as part of the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) Public Health Laboratory Internship Program. This summer we have 18 interns – and one of last year’s interns was hired for a full-time job at the WSLH.</p> <p>APHL wrote about the WSLH’s experiences with the program in the latest issue of <i>Lab Matters</i> magazine - <a href="https://viewer.joomag.com/lab-matters-summer-2024/0899662001717778973/p6?short&amp;">https://viewer.joomag.com/lab-matters-summer-2024/0899662001717778973/p6?short&amp;</a></p>	Complete
July 3, 2024	WISC-TV story about wastewater surveillance	The WSLH was mentioned in the WISC-TV Channel 3000 story “Wastewater surveillance helps monitor COVID-19 increases”. The story used b-roll footage of the WSLH wastewater surveillance lab and team that	Complete



**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

		<p>was taken during an Oct. 2023 story WISC did about our wastewater surveillance program.</p> <p><a href="https://www.channel3000.com/news/wastewater-surveillance-helps-monitor-covid-19-increases/article_1af94fc0-397f-11ef-ab06-6370ebe8e196.html">https://www.channel3000.com/news/wastewater-surveillance-helps-monitor-covid-19-increases/article_1af94fc0-397f-11ef-ab06-6370ebe8e196.html</a></p>	
July 17, 2024	WSLH Quality & Safety Awards	<p>Thirty-six WSLH staffers received Quality and Safety (QAS) Awards at the semiannual ceremony. Winners met one or more of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criteria 1: Good in-house quality/safety program – For broad implementation of quality/safety throughout the workplace.</li> <li>• Criteria 2: Active role in quality/safety – For being a strong advocate of quality and safety.</li> <li>• Criteria 3: Improvement – For demonstrating significant improvement over previous conditions.</li> <li>• Criteria 4: Product or process development and implementation – For special effort given to a specific aspect of quality/safety in the workplace.</li> </ul>	Complete
July 23-27, 2024	Forensic Toxicology Onsite Accreditation Assessment	<p>Forensic Toxicology had its initial onsite ANAB/ISO 17025, ABFT Accreditation Assessment. QA/QC Coordinator Kristin Drewieck took the inspection team through the Quality Management System documents and organized all witnessing events for a successful inspection. Forensic Toxicology has 60 days to fix the two findings before being awarded the new accreditation.</p>	Ongoing
July 24-25, 2024	Cross-Sector Wastewater Surveillance Workshop, Madison WI	<p>The Wisconsin Wastewater Surveillance Program (WSLH, DHS and UW-Milwaukee) in collaboration with the Water Environment Federation (WEF) organized and ran a two-day conference on the UW-Madison campus that was well attended (&gt;80 participants) and well received. It included a tour of the WSLH and covered three major topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case studies of effective wastewater surveillance data use</li> <li>• Wastewater data communication and partner engagement</li> </ul>	Complete

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ethical &amp; equity considerations for wastewater surveillance</li> </ul>	
July 29, 2024	UWSMPH story about researchers' contributions PHMDC's respiratory virus dashboard	<p>Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene wastewater surveillance data is just one contribution from University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health researchers to Public Health Madison-Dane County's award-winning interactive respiratory illness dashboard</p> <p><a href="https://www.med.wisc.edu/news/data-alerts-community-when-sickness-lurks/">https://www.med.wisc.edu/news/data-alerts-community-when-sickness-lurks/</a></p>	Complete
August 2024	ASM-APHL Laboratory Testing of HPAI H5N1 FAQ	<p>WSLH Communicable Disease Division Director Dr. Allen Bateman was the senior author of –</p> <p><b><i>Laboratory Testing of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A(H5N1) for Clinical Laboratories</i></b></p> <p>The publication was developed jointly by the American Society of Microbiology (ASM) and the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL).</p> <p><a href="https://asm.org/guideline/laboratory-testing-of-highly-pathogenic-avian-infl">https://asm.org/guideline/laboratory-testing-of-highly-pathogenic-avian-infl</a></p>	Complete
August 1, 2024	Rock County Overdose Fatality Review	WSLH Forensic Toxicologists Lindsey Vosters and Courtney Peterson attended the Rock County Overdose Fatality Review Meeting. They attend as toxicology liaisons to the Coroners and Medical Examiners for the State.	Complete
August 1, 2024	Grant: Antimicrobial Resistance Laboratory Network Regional Laboratory	WSLH Communicable Disease Division again successfully competed for a 5-year Regional Laboratory grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to perform testing to identify and control the spread of antimicrobial resistant organisms in 6 Midwest states.	Complete
August 1, 2024	Grant: Bioinformatics Regional Resource	WSLH Communicable Disease Division again successfully competed for a 5-year Bioinformatics Regional Resource (BRR) grant from the CDC to support 6 Midwest states in bioinformatics analyses of infectious diseases.	Complete
August 1, 2024	Grant: Bioinformatics Training Lead	WSLH Communicable Disease Division successfully competed for a 5-year Bioinformatics Training Lead	Complete

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

		grant from the CDC to train personnel in public health laboratories of 6 Midwest states. This is a new grant.	
August 1, 2024	<i>Environmental Research</i> journal article	Noel Stanton, Brandon Shelton and Meshel Lange are co-authors with UWSMPH and DHS collaborators on –  <b>Determinants of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) exposure among Wisconsin residents</b>  <i>Environmental Research</i> , <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2024.119131">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2024.119131</a>	Complete
August 8, 2024	CDC Biomonitoring grant	The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently selected six recipients to receive new cooperative agreement funding to support state-based public health laboratory biomonitoring programs. Arizona, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, and Wisconsin will receive a total of about \$5 million each year for three years beginning September 1, 2024. Funding will allow better assessment of exposure to environmental chemicals of concern across the U.S. Improved exposure assessment enables states to identify at-risk population groups and assess the effectiveness of interventions to reduce harmful exposures.  The Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Chemical Emergency Response (CER) Unit and UW-Madison Survey of the Health of Wisconsin (SHOW) will assess rural populations with an increased risk of exposures to pesticides and metals via groundwater.  CER staff have already begun method development for a new pesticides assay. They will be using an existing accredited CER urine metals assay as well.	Ongoing
August 12-13, 2024	Wastewater Disease Surveillance Summit in Atlanta, GA	WSLH Senior Scientist Dr. Martin Shafer, APHL Fellow Ashlie McCunn and WSLH Microbiologist Griffin Knuth attended the 2024 Wastewater Disease Surveillance Summit.  Shafer chaired and moderated a technical session entitled: “Not Everything Everywhere All at Once: In Pursuit of Laboratory Efficiencies.”	Complete

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

		<p>McCunn presented a poster: "Development and validation of a digital PCR assay for monitoring measles, mumps, and rubella in wastewater"</p> <p>Knuth gave a presentation: "Wastewater Surveillance of Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms."</p>	
Aug 15-19, 2024	International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Impaired Driving and Traffic Safety Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.	<p>WSLH Forensic Toxicologists Kim Glowacki (DRE Liaison) and Lindsey Vosters attended the IACP IDTS annual meeting in Washington, D.C.</p> <p>They met and networked with law enforcement officers from around the country, especially Drug Recognition Experts, and learned about impaired driving investigations and toxicology.</p>	Complete
August 18-22, 2024	Forensic Toxicology Symposium at American Chemical Society Fall Meeting, Denver, Co	<p>UW Assistant Professor Heather Barkholtz, who has a joint appointment with the UW-Madison School of Pharmacy and the WSLH Forensic Toxicology section, co-hosted a symposium along with Dr. Emanuele Alves of Virginia Commonwealth University titled "Advances in Forensic Toxicology" at the American Chemical Society (ACS) fall meeting.</p> <p>The symposium was sponsored, in part, by the WSLH. They hosted speakers from around the country and offered the first session focused on forensic toxicology to occur within the ACS. It was well attended and they were asked to consider hosting another symposium next year.</p>	Complete