

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Monday, June 29, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.

**Barron County Government Center – Veterans Memorial Auditorium
335 East Monroe Avenue – Barron, Wisconsin 54812**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Public Meeting Notification
3. Approve Agenda*
4. Approve Minutes (5-26-26)*
5. Comments from the Public
6. Family Recovery Court Position From Limited Term Employee (LTE) to Permanent Position *
7. Use of Opioid Funds for Family Recover Court Coordinator Once Grant Has Expired *
8. 2025 Public Health Annual Report
9. Virtual Meeting Attendance Demo
10. Department Updates
 - a. Child Support
 - b. Health & Human Services
11. Set Next Meeting Date (July 27, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.)*
12. Future Agenda Items
13. Adjourn

** Board Action Requested*

Mission Statement

To meet essential health and safety needs and to promote an independent and enhanced quality of life for the people of Barron County.

Vision Statement

To provide high quality, effective and responsive programs through coordinated efforts of the Department and its community partners.

Please call 715-537-6105 if you are unable to attend this meeting.

If you need to attend virtually please notify Karla no later than 6/26/26 at 12:00 p.m.

cc: Bartlett, Vaughn, Eby, Bachowski, P. Anderson, Wenzel, Keeler, Kolpeck, Heil, Knutson, Ruppel, Matthys, Borgen, Muench, French, Sauve, Drury, Potts-Shufelt, Roemhild, Olsen, Broten, Hay, Wickman, Co. Clerk, Webmaster & 3 Public Postings

Any person who has a qualifying disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act and requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in an accessible format must contact the County Clerk's office at 715/537-6200 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting so that arrangements may be made to accommodate your request.

Barron County Health & Human Services Board Meeting
Government Center Auditorium Veterans Memorial Auditorium
Tuesday, May 26, 2026

PRESENT: Karolyn Bartlett, Nancy Keeler, Bob Heil, Toniann Knutson, Patti Anderson, Diane Vaughn, Mary Matthys, Betty Borgen, Mark Eby, Scott Bachowski, Dr. Lindsey Ruppel.

ABSENT: Stacey Wenzel, Lynn Kolpeck

OTHERS ATTENDING: Jessica Hodek

STAFF PRESENT: Jeff French, County Administrator; Karla Potts-Shufelt, DHHS Director, John Muench, Director, Child Support; Rachel Sauve, Financial Analyst; DHHS Program Managers – Karla Broten, Ann Hay, Mary Olsen, Patricia Wickman, Bonnie Roemhild; Pam Gannon, DHHS Administrative Assistant.

STAFF ABSENT: Michelle Drury, Lynette Metcalf

Call to Order: Karla Potts-Shufelt, DHHS Director at 9:32 am.

Public Meeting Notification: Read by Potts-Shufelt.

Motion: (Bachowski/Eby) to approve agenda for May 26, 2026 DHHS Board meeting. Carried.

Motion: (Bartlett/Anderson) to approve minutes from the March 23, 2026 Health and Human Services Board meeting. Carried.

Comments from the Public: None present.

Board and Staff introductions for new members

Election of Officers*

- a. Chair: Nomination for Chair. Anderson nominates Carolyn Bartlett- 2nd by Bob Heil. No other nominations for chair. Bartlett accepts the nomination. Anderson makes a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Bartlett. 2nd by Vaughn. Bartlett takes over meeting at this time.
- b. Vice Chair: Nomination for Vice Chair. Anderson nominates Diane Vaughn 2nd by Keeler. No other nominations for vice chair. Vaughn accepts the nomination. Keller makes a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Vaughn. 2nd by Bachowski.
- c. Executive Representative: Nomination for Executive Representative. Knutson nominates Patty Anderson. 2nd by Keeler. No other nominations Anderson accepts the nomination. Eby makes a motion to close nomination and cast a unanimous ballot for Anderson. 2nd by Heil.—

Virtual Meeting Attendance* Discussion of virtual attendance. Board had some questions so more information will be gathered and brought back at next meeting.

Economic Support Position – Add 1 FTE* Potts-Shuflet and Roemhild gave information on the need for one additional FTE position to Economic Support. Questions answered. Knutson makes a motion to hire one full time worker to participate in Great Rivers Consortium with funding by the State of Wi. 2nd by Eby. No further discussion. Motion carried.

2025 Financials

- a. Health and Human Services: Sauve gave an update of 2025 and 1st quarter 2026 financials. Question answered.
- b. Child Support: Sauve gave an update of the 2025 and 1st quarter 2026 financials.

Crisis/ Co-Responder Presentation: Hay gave presentation of the Crisis/Co-Responder program and questions answered.

Department Updates:

DHHS: Progress made on the electronic health records program.

Child Support: No additional updates.

Set next meeting date: June 29, 2026 at 9:30 am

Future Agenda Items:

Adjourn – Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Pam Gannon, Administrative Assistant
(Minutes are not official until approved by the DHHS Board.)



BARRON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



Issue Paper- June 2026

Movement of Family Recovery Court Coordinator from LTE to Permanent Position

Issue:

Our Family Recovery Court Coordinator (FRC) has been with Barron County as a Limited Term Employee (LTE) for 7 years through grant funds since the inception of FRC. She has worked full-time in this position and has been an integral part of the FRC success. The FRC could not function without a full-time FRC coordinator, because national Family Treatment Court standards require a dedicated coordinator to manage participant engagement, team communication, court operations, data reporting, and adherence to evidence-based practices.

Goal:

To move the FRC coordinator to a full-time Barron County employee position from an LTE status to ensure we continue to have a FRC in Barron County following the end of the grant cycle. We would fund this position with Opioid funding once the current grant has ended in 2027.

Background:

Barron County was awarded the OJJDP (Office of Juvenile Justice Department of Prevention) Family Recovery Court grant in 2019, with participants actively enrolling and beginning the intensive program in August 2020. Since that time the county was also awarded an FRC Enhancement grant in 2023. The initial grant has provided the necessary foundation in building a successful and sustainable treatment court, while the enhancement helped to focus on improvements and expansion into serving pregnant individuals. FRC is an evidenced based treatment program and the coordinator plays an integral role in ensuring the program is administered to fidelity. The coordinator assesses for appropriateness of referral, completes all necessary screening tools and assessments prior to enrollment, is responsible for facilitating and leading discussions with the treatment team and presents to the court during the court staffing. The coordinator also tracks participant progress, collects and reports data, and stays up to date on best practices. This position is a necessary component to the continued success of the Barron County Family Recovery Court.

The coordinator participates in ongoing training through the Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals (WATCP) and has regular attendance at state conferences and educational events to ensure Barron County remains aligned with current evidence-based treatment court practices. The coordinator collaborates with treatment court professionals across Wisconsin to share best practices, discuss emerging challenges, and identify opportunities for program improvement and has shadowed many other treatment courts during the early phases. Barron County is often commended by peers and treatment court professionals for our commitment to our community and following the best practice standards.

The coordinator (and other treatment team staff) have been part of FRC since inception, and have built many partnerships and relationships with the community. Strong relationships with treatment providers and working partnerships with judges, attorneys, law enforcement, and child welfare professionals. The coordinator has knowledge of local service gaps and

community resources, expertise in treatment court operations and participant engagement, and has contributed to the collection of historical program data and outcome tracking.

Since the starting date of Barron County FRC, it has had 32 successful graduates, 38 unsuccessful graduates, 12 in progress, and has served 114 children.

Throughout this period, the coordinator has served as a Limited Term Employee (LTE), despite performing essential ongoing duties necessary for court operations and participant success. As grant funding comes closer to ending, the need for coordination and oversight remains unchanged. The program has matured beyond a pilot project and is now an integral county service which would not be possible without the efforts of a coordinator. Grant funding was intended to establish and demonstrate the effectiveness of Family Recovery Court. After seven years of successful operation, the position has proven to be an essential component of the county's treatment court infrastructure.

Alternatives:

1. No Change/do nothing – This alternative will not ensure that Barron County continues to have a Family Recovery Court Coordinator beyond the current grant period. This would have potential impact to our FRC not existing in Barron County, as it would be unsuccessful without a coordinator and is a necessary component of the Court.
2. Move this position to a Barron County full-time employee to ensure our FRC continues to thrive and that we are being good stewards to staff who have worked tirelessly in this program without the guarantee of full-time employment. This will ensure that Barron County continues to have a Family Recovery court program in our county.

Recommendation:

The Barron County Department of Health and Human Services Committee forwards a programmatic recommendation of the addition of 1 county FTE Family Recovery Court position to the Executive Committee for consideration of including this position as a permanent FTE in the 2027 Budget. This position would be paid for through grant funding through the end of the grant period (part of 2027) and then through Opioid funding following that.

Year	Step	Salary	% Increase	Fringe	3% Increase	Total	Other Opioid Uses
2026	5	76,062	4,183.43	44,415	1,332.44	120,477	85,000
2027	6	80,246	4,012.29	45,747	1,372.42	125,993	85,000
2028	7	84,258	4,212.91	47,120	1,413.59	131,378	85,000
2029	8	88,471	4,423.55	48,533	1,456.00	137,004	85,000
2030	9	92,895	4,180.26	49,989	1,499.68	142,884	85,000
2031	10	97,075	4,368.37	51,489	1,544.67	148,564	85,000
2032	11	101,443	4,564.95	53,034	1,591.01	154,477	85,000
2033	12	106,008	4,770.37	54,625	1,638.74	160,633	85,000
2034	13	110,779	4,985.04	56,263	1,687.90	167,042	85,000
2035	14	115,764	5,209.36	57,951	1,738.54	173,715	85,000
2036	15	120,973	5,443.78	59,690	1,790.69	180,663	85,000
2037	16	126,417	5,688.75	61,480	1,844.41	187,897	85,000
2038	16	132,106	5,944.75	63,325	1,899.75	195,430	85,000
2039	16	138,050	6,212.26	65,225	1,956.74	203,275	85,000
		1,470,546.27		758,885		2,229,432	1,190,000

5 Year Total = \$657,736

5 Year Total All Uses = \$1,082,736

Co-Responder: Roughly \$85K

Mental Health for First Responders: \$5K

Balance Sheet Summary

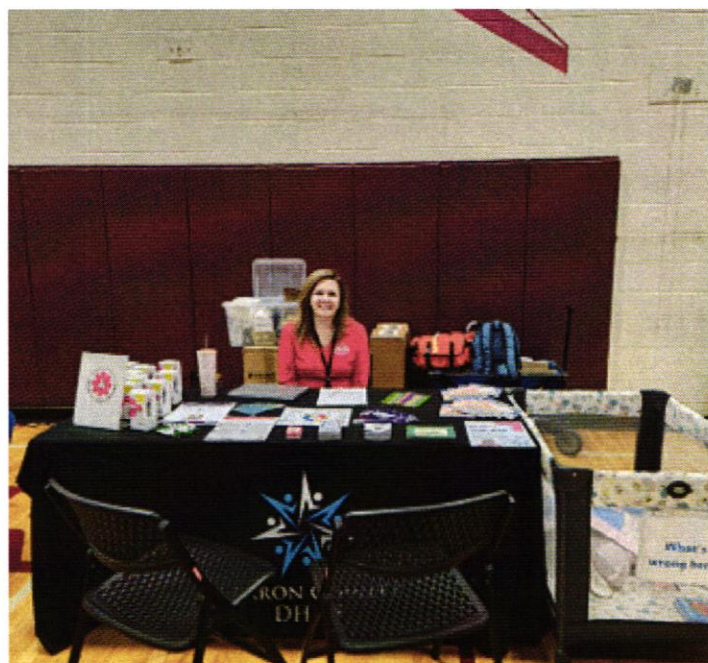
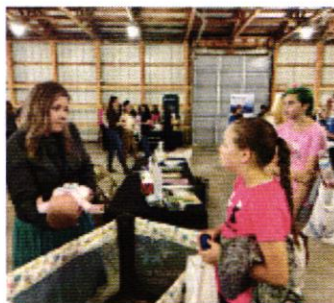
COUNTY OF BARRON

Account Year: 26 Fund Range: 212 - 212 Account Period: 04 Period End: 04/30/2026

Account	Account Description	Beginning Balance	Current Balance	YTD Balance	Ending Balance
Fund 212	OPIOID SETTLEMENT				
26-212-19-21200-000-000	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26-212-19-21201-000-000	SUNDRY VOUCHERS PAYABLE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26-212-19-24290-000-000	DUE TO STATE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26-212-19-26000-000-000	DEFERRED REVENUE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26-212-19-27120-000-000	DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCE-UNAV REV	1,432,055.51	0.00	0.00	1,432,055.51
	Total Liabilities:	\$1,432,055.51	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,432,055.51
26-212-19-34040-000-000	BUDGETED FUND BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26-212-19-35200-000-000	FUND BALANCE - COMMITTED	14,542.56	0.00	0.00	14,542.56
26-212-19-35300-000-000	FUND BALANCE - RESTRICTED	627,002.42	0.00	0.00	627,002.42
	Total Equity:	\$641,544.98	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$641,544.98
26-212-19-19410-000-000	ESTIMATED REVENUES	-167,000.00	0.00	0.00	-167,000.00
26-212-19-19420-000-000	REVENUES	0.00	0.00	4,328.19	4,328.19
26-212-19-28010-000-000	APPROPRIATIONS	167,000.00	0.00	0.00	167,000.00
26-212-19-28020-000-000	EXPENDITURES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26-212-19-28100-000-000	ENCUMBRANCES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26-212-19-34110-000-000	RESERVE FOR ENCUMBRANCES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Controls:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,328.19	\$4,328.19
	Total Equity and Controls:	\$641,544.98	\$0.00	\$4,328.19	\$645,873.17
	Total Liabilities, Equity and Controls:	\$2,073,600.49	\$0.00	\$4,328.19	\$2,077,928.68
	Total Other Sources/Uses:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Fund is in balance	0.00			

Current Fund Balance 627,002
Future Receivables 1,432,055
2,059,057

**Currently have enough to cover 5 years, not including co responder position



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



BARRON COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH
Everyone living better, longer

OUR ORGANIZATION

Guiding Values

- We work to ensure health equity
- We promote trauma-informed practices internally and externally
- We use collaborative processes to achieve our vision and mission
- We lead the community in the use of evidence-based public health practices
- We improve programming through quality improvement
- We provide an environment of professional growth and satisfaction

Our Staff and Health & Human Services Board

DHHS Director, Stacey Frolik/Karla Potts-Shufelt

Program Director/Health Officer, Karla Potts-Shufelt

Medical Advisor, Dr. Lindsey Ruppel, DO

Board of Health- Karolyn Bartlett- Chair, John Banks - Vice Chair, Carol Moen, Patti Anderson, Robert Heil, Toniann Knutson, Lynn Kolpack, Lindsey Ruppel, DO, Diane Vaughn, Stacey Wenzel, Nancy Keeler, Mary Matthys, Betty Borgen.



Staff

Nursing Staff

Emily Holub
Laura Sauve
Nicole Nelson
Patricia Wickman

Birth to Three

Joyce Pond
Robin Rivard
Stephanie Hinrichs

Environmental Health

Mackenzie Benda
Rachel Henke

Administrative Staff

Angela Vroman
Brownie Nelson
Pam Gannon

Women, Infant, & Children (WIC)

Nichole Thompson
Rhonda Seifert
Mariah Munger - Lactation Peer Educator

Public Health Specialist

Sarah Turner

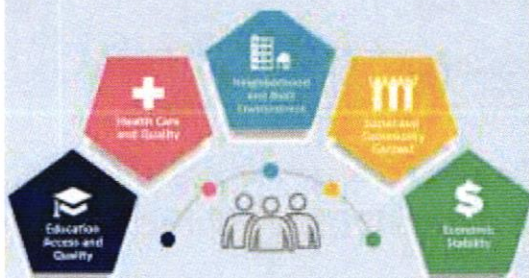


COMMUNITY HEALTH

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT (CHIP)

What we do

Every 3 years Barron County Public Health leads a county-wide community health assessment. From that a plan is created to address the top health concerns, this is called the community health improvement plan, or CHIP.



Achievements This Year

- In early 2025, we held four in-person focus groups with new parents, second-shift workers, individuals in recovery, and high school students to take a deeper dive into the community health assessment. Their feedback and ideas directly informed Barron County's Community Health Improvement Plan and helped shape local strategies moving forward.
- In the spring of 2025, CHIP workgroups reviewed the goals and strategies from previous CHIP Action Plans with the same priorities. The workgroups connected the plans through vision statements and inclusion of objectives from the State Health Improvement Plan.
- The CHIP work groups developed an action plan with measurable objectives, a lead agency or person, and evaluation measures.
- In June, the CHIP was finalized and presented to stakeholders and the community.

Mental Health

Includes:

- Mental health
- Access to mental healthcare providers
- Suicide prevention



Substance Use

Includes:

- Alcohol use and misuse
- Prescription drug use and misuse
- Illegal drug use and misuse



Access to Care

Includes:

- Access to health services
- Access to specialty care services
- Access to providers





COMMUNITY HEALTH

IMMUNIZATIONS

What we do

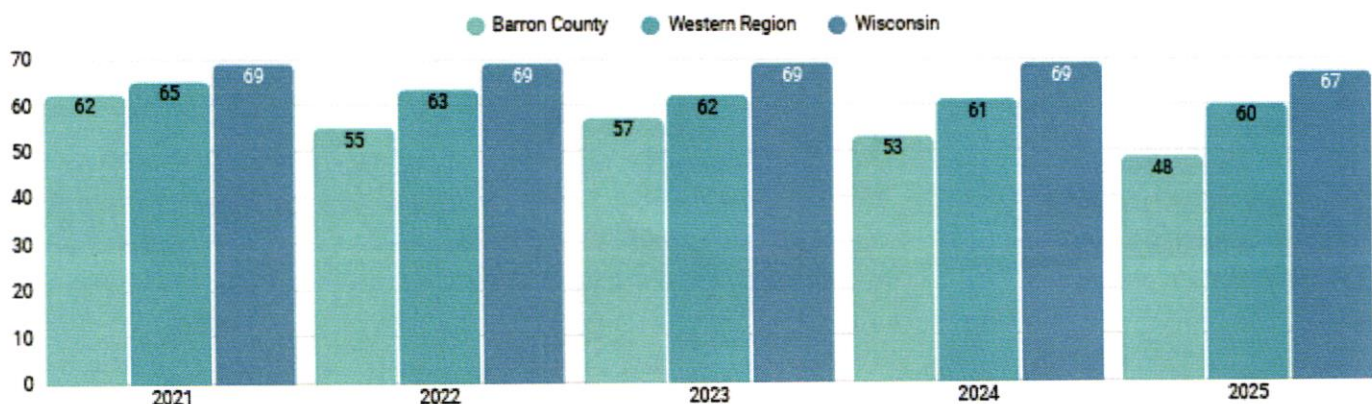
We give free immunizations to qualifying children and adults to reduce the spread of disease and protect health.

**Public Health currently stocks vaccines for: COVID-19, Diphtheria, Haemophilus influenzae type b (HIB), Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Human Papillomavirus (HPV), Influenza (Flu), Measles, Meningococcal disease, Mumps, Pertussis (Whooping Cough), Polio, Rotavirus, Rubella, Streptococcus pneumoniae, Tetanus, and Varicella (Chicken Pox).*

Achievements This Year

- 519 childhood immunizations were given.
- 95 immunizations were given to uninsured or underinsured adults.
- Offered influenza vaccine clinics at Barron County Schools to increase accessibility. 289 children were vaccinated at these clinics.
- Sent reminder letters to families with young children monthly and quarterly to increase vaccine uptake.
- Provided informational letters to schools to send out to parents related to vaccine-preventable diseases occurring at the schools.

Children up to date with vaccinations at 2 years old (4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 HIB, 3 Hepatitis B, 1 Varicella, 4 Pneumococcal)



COMMUNITY HEALTH

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

What we do

We provide family planning services, reproductive health education, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections in a safe, judgement-free environment.



Achievements This Year

- Promoted STI testing and reproductive health services at community events such as the health fair at Northwood Tech, UWEC-BC Kick off day for new students, the Centerpoint events, and scheduled monthly RHS visits at UWEC-BC.
- The condom dispenser program continues to be successful, with 6,200 condoms dispensed in local taverns and 8,150 overall through public health.
- We provided supplies to the resource closet at UWEC-BC, including condoms, lube, and information about our services.
- Five reproductive health presentations were given to students from four Barron County school districts.
- Provided care for 138 women and 44 men. 34 clients were tested for STIs at the jail.
- We continue to have a nurse practitioner come monthly to see clients for advanced care, seeing 42 clients in 2025.

BIRTH TO 3

What we do

The Birth to 3 Program is an early intervention special education program. It helps children under the age of 3 who have delays or disabilities. "Early intervention" is the term used for the services and supports for babies and young children and their families.

Achievements This Year

- 241 families were provided services in 2025.
- 148 referrals were made to the program.
- 71 children were enrolled, 49 families declined or were unable to be reached, and 28 screened out or were not eligible.
- 34 children were referred to schools for continued services at age three.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

What we do

The maternal child health (MCH) program is focused on a future where all people and families are healthy and thriving. The objective for Barron County for 2025 was Perinatal Mental Health Screening.

Achievements This Year

- Our death review team launched our first Overdose Death Review in 2025. This team examines the circumstances surrounding overdose deaths in the community to focus on areas of prevention. The Overdose Fatality, Child, and Suicide Death review teams completed all death reviews for 2025. Prevention work from these meetings included safe gun handling and storage education, 988 crisis line promotion, and Narcan education and training.
- Safe sleep education remained a priority in 2025. Staff attended 9 community events to provide outreach and education, distributed 11 Pack 'n Plays to families in need, and provided safe sleep resources, including education, books, and sleep sacks.
- 5 newborn home visits were completed to support families during the early postpartum period.
- Our 2025 MCH objective focused on perinatal mental health. We conducted a community survey and expanded screening during pregnancy and postpartum. In total, 34 prenatal and 21 postpartum mental health screenings were completed, helping identify needs early and connect families to support.

NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP AND PRENATAL CARE COORDINATION

What we do

We provide personal support for pregnant people in the pursuit of healthy pregnancy and birth outcomes. We help clients set and reach goals, connect them with community services and healthcare, and answer questions about nutrition, preparing for childbirth and parenting, child development, and much more.

Achievements This Year

- In 2025, a total of 34 clients received services through our Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) and Prenatal Care Coordination (PNCC/Healthy Beginnings+) programs.
- During the year, we received 35 referrals, resulting in 17 enrollments in NFP and 6 in PNCC.
- This was our first full year offering the NFP program, and we celebrated an important milestone with 10 babies born to enrolled families.
- We completed 207 visits, 203 of which were in person.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

What we do

We interview people diagnosed with reportable diseases to gather information about the source of their infection and provide information so they don't spread the disease to others. We also conduct contact tracing to identify others who may have been exposed to make sure they take steps to protect themselves and others.

Achievements This Year

- Public Health nurses followed up on 1,272 communicable disease reports.
- We saw an increase in sexually transmitted infections. There were 93 Chlamydia cases, up from 80 cases in 2024, and 9 Gonorrhea cases, down from 10 in 2024. We had 2 probable cases of syphilis in 2025.
- In 2025, we had no cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).
- Closely monitored the measles outbreaks. There were no Barron County cases in 2025.
- Monitored our regional situation and prepared for pertussis cases. There were 13 confirmed cases in Barron County in 2025.

TUBERCULOSIS (TB)

What we do

To prevent the spread of TB in the community, we provide TB screening, triage referrals of latent TB infection, conduct sputum collection for people with active and suspect TB disease, provide Directly Observed Therapy (DOT), and conduct contact investigations.

Achievements This Year

- Monitored 20 people who have tuberculosis
 - 18 with latent TB
 - 2 with Active TB
- Continue to partner with community groups and businesses to provide TB tests to prevent potential outbreaks and the spread of disease.
- We administered 28 TB skin test screenings to students for pre-employment purposes.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

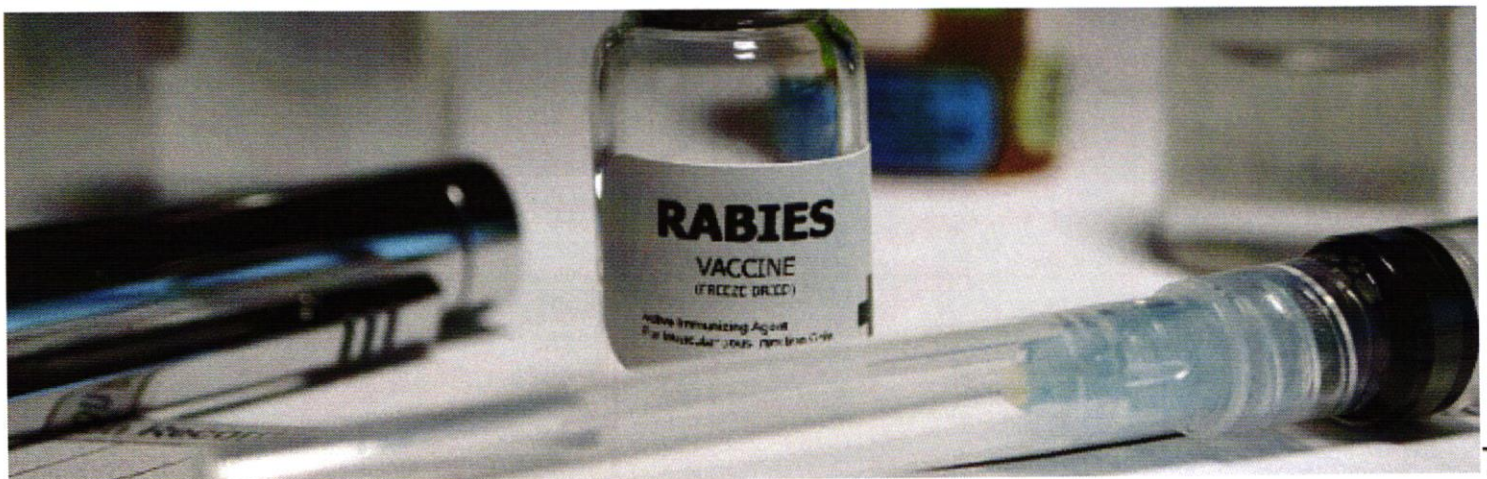
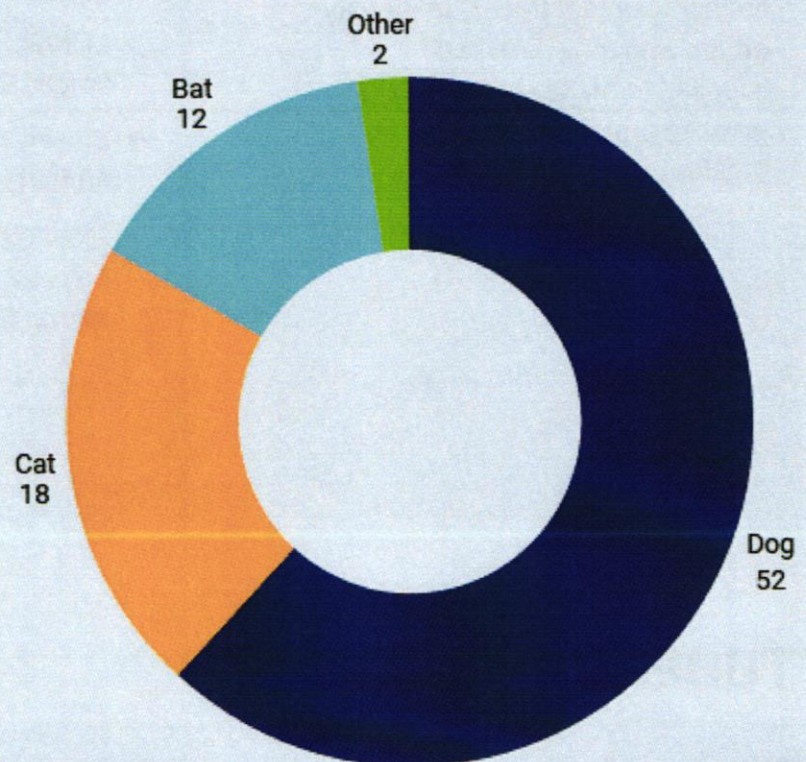
RABIES

What we do

Investigation of reported animal bites for possible exposure to rabies is conducted to ensure that serious illness or death from rabies transmission is prevented. This program is designed to coordinate an effective rabies control procedure between Barron County Public Health, local law enforcement, local veterinarians, physicians, and the general public.

Achievements This Year

- Investigated 84 animal exposures in 2025.
- Other animals included a muskrat and a raccoon.
- Education to the community regarding keeping pets vaccinated for rabies.



COMMUNITY HEALTH

WIC (Women, Infants & Children)

What we do

The WIC Program offers nutrition education, breastfeeding support, supplemental nutritious foods, and referrals to additional community services for pregnant and breastfeeding women, as well as infants and children under the age of 5.

Achievements This Year

- The 2025 caseload was 813 participants.
- In 2025, total WIC spending at stores in Barron County saw an increase. The total amount spent rose by \$21,295.69 compared to 2024, bringing the total WIC dollars spent in the county to \$784,950.54.
- The rate of breastfeeding among Barron County WIC participants is well above the state average at over 80% of moms initiating breastfeeding.
- WIC continues to enhance the benefits for enrolled families by offering an increased cash value benefit for fruits and vegetables. Children receive \$29 per month, while pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women receive between \$50 and \$55 per month.
- Beginning September 29, 2025, Wisconsin WIC updated its food packages to improve nutrition and expand choice. Updates include increased fruit and vegetable benefits (\$29–\$55/month), more options for fish, whole grains, and milk substitutions, and added flexibility for infants, allowing fresh, frozen, or canned fruits and vegetables starting at 6 months.
- WIC continues to support families by providing additional funds for fresh, locally grown produce at local farmers' markets through the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. In 2025, \$4,920 was spent at local farmers' markets and/or farm stands.



COMMUNITY HEALTH

INJURY PREVENTION

What we do

We use data and evidence-based programs to improve the health of our community by leading injury prevention efforts.

Achievements This Year

- In 2025, we continued to work with the ADRC to reduce injury and death due to falls in our aging population. Public Health nurses facilitated 2 Stepping-On classes.
- 3 in-home assessments were completed by our nurses for Stepping-On participants to help find any fall or trip hazards and make suggestions on interventions.
- 20 car seats were given out to families who did not have a car seat to safely transport their child. We continue to have a certified car seat technician on staff to provide car seat checks as well.
- 5 cases of gunlocks were distributed to the community during our Spring Wellness Event, the Barron County Fair, and at National Night Out.



COMMUNITY HEALTH

SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION & HARM REDUCTION

What we do

We work to reduce the impact of substance use and substance use disorders through prevention, harm reduction, and health promotion. We work with coalitions, agencies, communities, and policy makers on alcohol harm reduction, tobacco prevention and control, overdose prevention, and drug harm reduction.

Achievements This Year

- Gave out 288 boxes of nasal naloxone through the Narcan Direct Program.
- Completed 29 tobacco compliance checks through the WI WINS Program. The checks resulted in 2 sales to underage youth. Sixteen WI WINS activities, including media and public outreach, were completed in 2025.
- In 2025, we completed the first NOT program with 2 youth graduating. We were also able to train staff from a local school district to be able to hold classes on-site. NOT on Tobacco is a program through the American Lung Association that is intended to help youth aged 14-19 years quit tobacco and break free from nicotine dependence.
- Disposed of 885 pounds of sharps
 - 34 pounds generated from Public Health
 - 851 pounds collected from community members
- Through the Partnership for Success grant, we conducted a countywide alcohol perception survey (275 responses) to assess awareness and attitudes about youth and adult alcohol use. Results were used to develop a community logic model and action plan to address underage and binge drinking in Barron County.
- In 2025, we applied for and received funds from the Wisconsin Alcohol Policy Project to partner with the sheriff's department to conduct alcohol age compliance checks. Only one out of 8 retailers sold alcohol to underage youth, working with law enforcement.





ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

WATER QUALITY TESTING

What we do

We perform water quality tests to protect your health and our environment. This includes drinking water tests, and pool tests.

Achievements This Year

- All 164 Transient non-community wells were sampled.
- 36 Sanitary surveys (well inspections) were completed.
- 59 quarterly/monthly bacteria and nitrate samples were taken.
- 121 annual site visits completed.
- 6 Level 2 inspections were completed due to positive water samples.

LICENSED ESTABLISHMENTS

What we do

We inspect food, lodging, pool, and body art facilities to make sure they are following the laws and codes that keep us healthy. Licensed establishment field work includes routine inspections, re-inspections, complaint follow up, and foodborne and waterborne illness investigations.

Achievements This Year

- 714 permitted facilities in 2025, which included 79 new businesses.
- 595 total inspections completed.
- 385 routine inspections.
- 93 pre-inspections.
- 177 re-inspections and follow-ups.
- 3 jail inspections were completed, and 27 facility complaints were investigated.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

HUMAN HAZARDS

What we do

We investigate complaints subject to the provision of the County Human Health Hazard ordinance. Goals are to protect the health of the public from illness and disease caused by human health hazards.

Achievements This Year

- 29 cases were referred for:
 - Air quality/Odors: 4
 - Garbage: 6
 - Mold: 9
 - Excessive Animals: 1
 - Rodents/Insects: 6
 - Structural: 3
- 13 were opened for investigation. 16 did not meet criteria and were referred to other resources, educated on remediation, or actions were already underway by landlords to remediate.

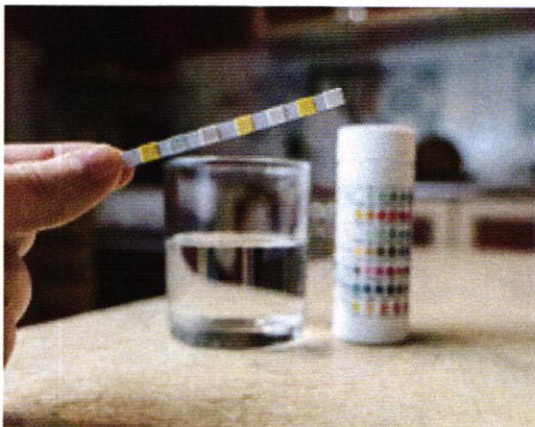
ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

What we do

We work to prevent and reduce risks to our health and the environment from hazards such as radon and lead.

Achievements This Year

- Radon and water testing kits are available for community members. 41 radon kits were sold at public health in 2025, and 114 water testing kits were distributed.
- Water kits- the Wisconsin Well Testing Access Program was expanded in 2025 to include free testing for pregnant women, children under 12, and people with weakened immune systems.
- Public Health provided follow-up to 10 families whose children had elevated lead levels in 2025.
 - Education was provided to all families, 2 agreed to home visits, and 1 lead risk assessment was completed.





COMMUNICATIONS

What we do

We coordinate communications planning, messaging, and materials for our agency. This includes creating materials, and news releases, answering media questions, managing our social media presence, and coordinating the translation of materials.

Achievements This Year

- The WIC program utilized Facebook as a platform to promote healthy nutrition, lifestyles, and breastfeeding support, and provided valuable information for young families.
- Kept the community informed about crucial health-related issues using press releases and social media messaging.
- Prioritized accessibility by ensuring that the information we disseminate is comprehensible to all community members, regardless of their literacy level. Additionally, we recognize the importance of language diversity, so we translate essential information into Spanish and Somali to ensure that everyone is informed and included.
- Provided time for translators at CenterPoint events, which connect community members to all the help/services they need under one roof, ensuring all consumers received the support they needed.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

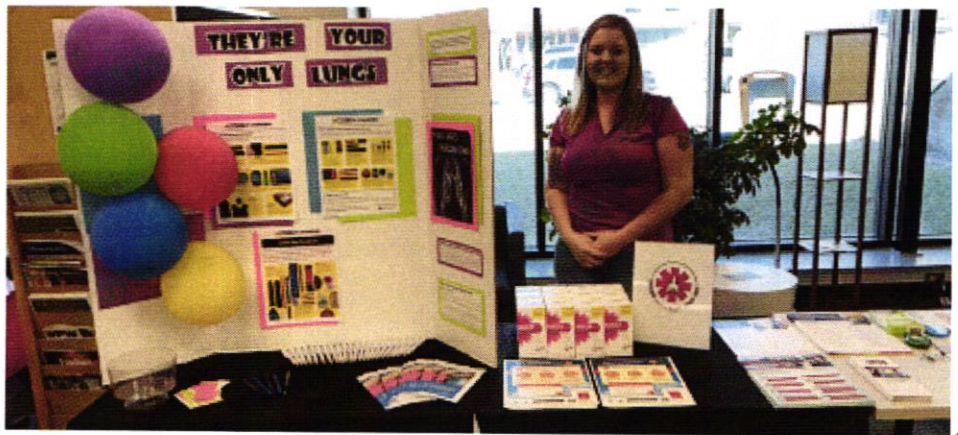
PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION

What we do

We think about community-level health, not just care of individual people. We build relationships with partners and connect people to resources and services. We want community members to have the resources they need to live their healthiest lives.

Achievements This Year

- We hosted an interactive exhibit at a community job fair for middle and high school students to spark interest in careers in public health. The exhibit highlighted how public health professionals work behind the scenes to protect community health and provided students with insight into education paths and real-world career opportunities in the field.
- Attended various health and safety fairs and student health events to educate on reproductive health and other public health services.
- Provided information on mental health, tobacco cessation, and Narcan to over 200 employees through a health fair at a large manufacturing employer in Barron County.
- Participated in National Night Out to promote safe sleep.
- Partnered with area health systems and local law enforcement to promote preparedness, injury prevention, and substance use prevention at the Barron County Fair. We gave out over 400 emergency preparedness kits to children and families, and provided education on the following topics to over 10,000 fairgoers.
 - sun health
 - car seat safety
 - safe sleep
 - firearm safety
 - tobacco/vaping cessation
 - underage substance use prevention
 - naloxone
 - emergency preparedness
 - mental health



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

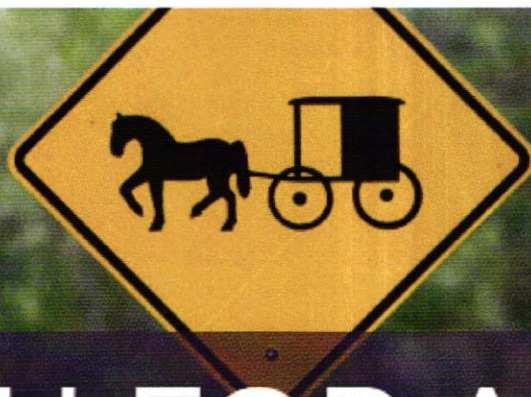
PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION

What we do

We sit at the table and collaborate with local, regional, state partners to address the needs of our communities and better serve our neighbors.

Achievements This Year

- The Western Wisconsin Public Health Readiness Consortium is a regional consortium consisting of 21 local public health agencies and 2 tribal health agencies. The purpose of the consortia is to help members develop local capacity to effectively respond to all types of health emergencies, including bioterrorism, infectious disease outbreaks, and natural disasters. This group facilitated a regional flooding exercise. The flooding exercise included 28 people from local partner organizations. During the exercise, they developed a preparedness plan outlining each partner's role in the event of a flood. Partners included local hospitals, DNR, EMS, ME, Sheriff's, and fire departments.
- Public health nursing staff participated in a measles tabletop exercise to strengthen preparedness for a potential outbreak in our community. During the exercise, staff practiced coordinating case investigations, contact tracing, and communicating with health care partners and the public. By working through realistic scenarios together, staff strengthened their confidence and ability to respond quickly and effectively to an outbreak.
- Community Connections to Prosperity is a coalition working to increase understanding of how poverty impacts our community. Public Health is an active member. In 2025, Public Health supported four multi-agency Centerpoint events, helped raise \$20,000 for school weekend food backpack programs, and assisted the coalition in applying for and receiving a \$10,000 grant to address food security.
- The Barron County Community Coalition is a network of businesses, organizations, and community members working together to create healthier and safer communities in Barron County. Public Health provides staff time to support the coalition and its initiatives, including the Narcan Direct program, the Partnership for Success grant addressing underage drinking, work related to the CHA/CHIP, and regional and statewide substance use prevention efforts.
- The Northwoods Coalition is the largest and oldest network of coalitions dedicated to substance use prevention in Wisconsin. In 2025, we received small project funding to support prevention activities and free training and technical assistance in prevention and coalition building. Our department has been at the table for more than 30 years!



HEALTH FOR ALL

PLAIN CLOTHES COMMUNITY OUTREACH

What we do

We aim to focus on understanding their unique needs and values while respecting their traditions and beliefs so that we can create positive change to promote health outcomes in their communities.

Achievements This Year

- A quarterly newsletter was sent containing information about all of the programs offered, as well as any health topics that may be at the forefront.
- Vision and hearing screenings were provided at several Mennonite schools.
- Connections were built with community midwives, and transportation was provided to quarterly birth attendant meetings held in Tomah. These are coordinated by the Center for Special Children at the La Farge Medical Clinic.

PLANNING

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

What we do

We ensure our agency is prepared to respond to and recover from emergencies. We do this through training, exercising, and planning. These emergencies are focused on public health emergencies but also prepare us to take a role in other emergencies that impact the county where a public health presence may be beneficial.

Barron County is a member of the Western Wisconsin Public Health Readiness Consortium (WWPHRC). This allows us to benefit from core expertise and preparedness in response to public health threats through standardized, consistent alignment of emergency response plans.

Achievements This Year

- Barron County Public Health staff participated in the 2025 HERC Hazard Vulnerability Analysis. This exercise brought together regional and local partners to create plans to prevent the effects of man-made and natural disasters.
- Barron County Public Health staff provided influenza vaccine to children during school and community-based immunization clinics. This functional exercise tested Barron County's Mass Clinic Plan and Point of Dispensing procedures. This exercise served seven school districts, providing a total of 289 influenza immunizations.
- Public health nurses provided vector-borne education during multiple community events, providing Off Wipes and tweezers. Events included Men's Shed, National Night Out, Library education, and the Barron County Fair.
- Promoted general preparedness education to the community through social media and outreach events.





OPERATIONS

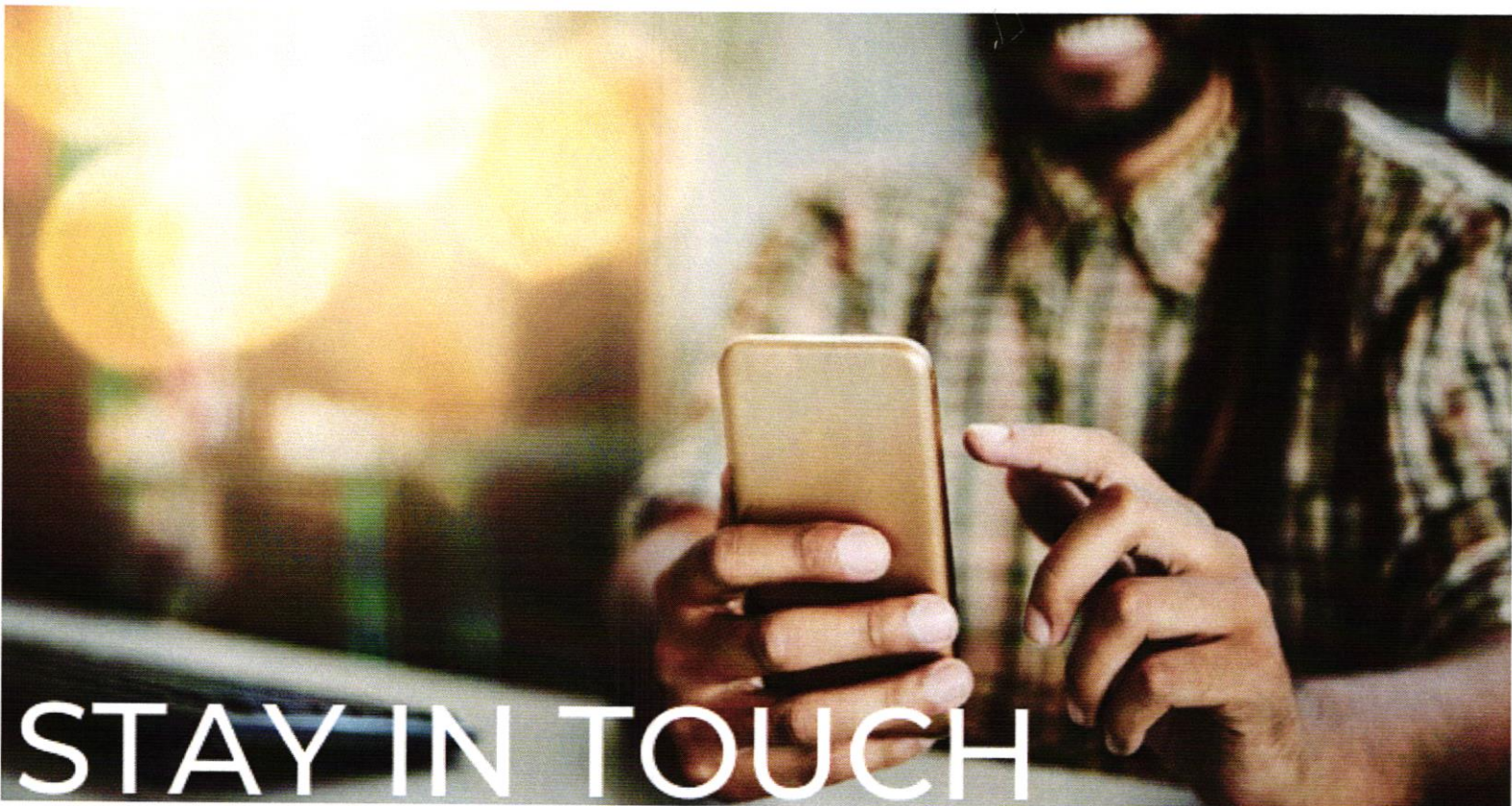
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

What we do

We work closely with colleges and universities to provide observation and project based learning for nursing, medical and other health profession students. We also prioritize quality professional development in our staff by providing support to attend various trainings and conferences.

Achievements This Year

- Hosted 23 students in 2025 to help promote public health careers. 20 nursing students, 2 education students in Birth to 3, and 2 students for a shadow day with our Speech Therapist.
- Our public health nurses were able to attend 3 conferences or off-site trainings in 2025. Some of these included the state immunization conference, reproductive health conference, and Under One Roof Conference.
- Birth to 3 staff attended the American Speech, Language and Hearing Conference for Early Intervention in Speech Pathology, OCA Toolbox training and Outcomes training.
- Environmental Health Sanitarians attended the Annual WEHA conference and the quarterly WALHDAB EH and WREN meetings. They also completed an annual training day with DNR.
- WIC dietitians completed four trainings: WIC Breastfeeding Curriculum-Infant , Breastfeeding Benefits and Barriers, Breastfeeding from a Global Perspective, and WIC Breastfeeding Curriculum Training-Mother.



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OUR VISION

Everyone living better,
longer.

OUR MISSION

Promoting, protecting, and
preserving health through
partnerships with people
and communities.

WHO WE ARE

We are your local health
department and serve people in
more than 36 cities, villages, and
towns in Barron County, Wisconsin.



BARRON COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH