



Wisconsin Counties Association
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
& Exhibit Hall **2023**

3:30-4:30 PM

Guidance for Local Health Officers

Speakers: Andy Phillips, Attorney, Attolles Law, s.c.;

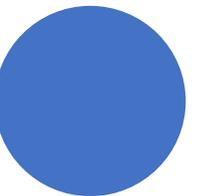
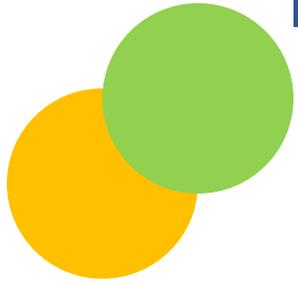
Joan Theurer, WI Public Health Forward Projector Director, WI Association of Local Health
Departments & Boards

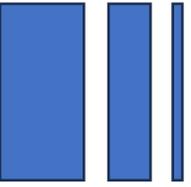
Moderator: Todd Romenesko, County Administrator, Calumet County

Guidance for Local Health Officers

Andy Phillips, Attorney, Attolles Law, S.C.

Joan Theurer, Project Director, WI Public Health Forward
WI Association of Local Health Departments and Boards





Myth or Reality

- Health care contributed to the biggest share of gains in life expectancy in the 20th century
- Local health departments exist solely to prevent and control communicable diseases and pandemics
- Social and economic factors (education, employment, income, family/social support, community safety) contribute to 40% of the health of a community and those who live there
- Local health departments contribute to the economic health and safety of counties by addressing tough issues impacting the health of individuals
- Individual rights and freedoms are set aside when setting and enforcing public health policies and laws



Our Time Together

- Why is county government charged with improving the health of people and the communities they live, work, and visit?
- How do local health departments contribute to the quality of life for everyone, every day?
- What are common challenges local health departments face, and actions elected officials, administrators can do to minimize these challenges?

- **Population** responsible for the health & well-being of everyone who lives, learns, works, and visits within a jurisdiction
- **Prevention** prevent, protect, and promote the health and safety of communities; going up stream to prevent disease, injury, death
- **Partnership** serve as ‘health strategist’ among public health system partners to address conditions that influence health in which everyone can be healthy

”Public health is what we do together as a society to ensure the conditions in which everyone can be healthy.”

Public Health 3.0 A Call to Action for Public Health to Met the Challenges of the 21st Century

A vibrant, high-angle photograph of a forest stream. The water flows over numerous moss-covered rocks, creating small cascades and rapids. The surrounding forest is dense with green foliage, and the trees are also covered in moss, suggesting a moist, temperate environment. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

The Power of Prevention – “The River Story”

What Contributed To Extending Life Expectancy 30 Years?



1900 average life span 47.3 years

1999 average life span 76.7 years

What Contributed To Extending Life Expectancy 30 Years?



- Vaccination, small-pox, polio, measles, tetanus, diphtheria
- Motor-vehicle safety
- Safer workplaces
- Control of infectious diseases
- Decline in deaths from coronary heart disease & stroke
- Safer and healthier foods
- Healthier mothers & babies
- Family planning
- Fluoridation of drinking water
- Recognition of tobacco use as a health hazard

1900 average life span 47.3 years

1999 average life span 76.7 years

Why is county government charged with improving the health of people and the communities in which they live, learn, work, and visit?



Wisconsin

1848 Wisconsin becomes a state

1876 State Board of Health formed

1883 Communicable disease reports required from township health officers

1913 State health officer position created

1929 County health departments authorized

1993 Public health statutes revised

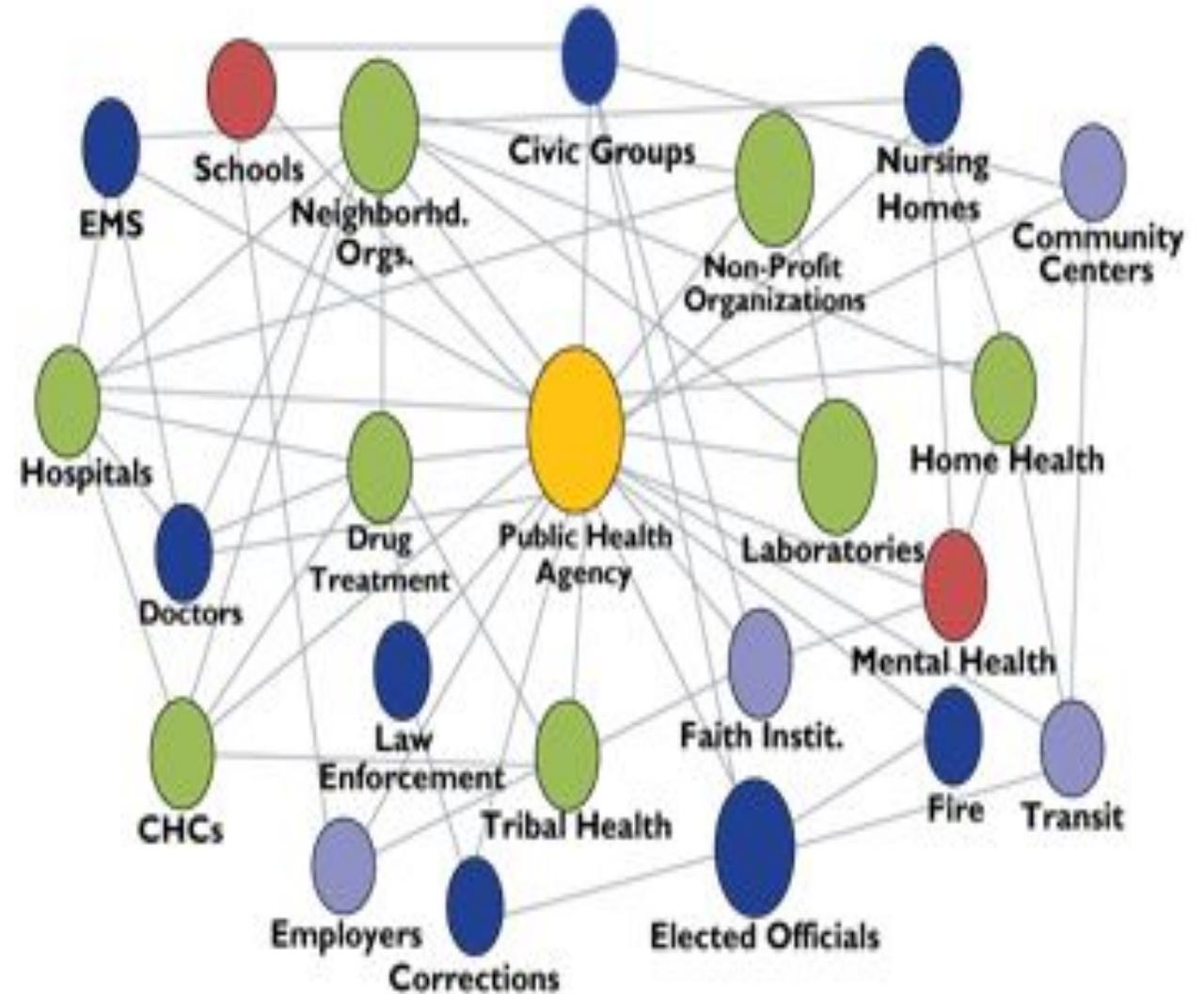
- Decentralize, 85 local health departments
- Sole responsibility for the health of a county
- Carry out statutes & administrative codes
- Advised by local boards of health
- Guided by CDC, State WI Department of Health Services
- Informed by community needs, assets, and expectations
- Serve as the "heart" of the local public health system

Public Health Statutes

- Ch. 250 Administration and Supervision
- Ch. 251 Local Health Officials (Boards of Health, Health Officer, Levels of LHDs)
- Ch. 252 Communicable Disease
- Ch. 253 Maternal & Child Health
- Ch. 254 Environmental Health
- Ch. 255 Chronic Disease

Public Health Administrative Codes

- DHS 139 Qualifications of Public Health Professionals Employed by Local Health Departments
- DHS 140 DHS Required Services of Local Health Departments
- DHS 145 Control of Communicable Diseases
- DHS 146 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases
- DHS 163 Certification for the Identification, Removal, and Reduction of Lead-Based Paint Hazards
- DHS 199 Tobacco Control Activities
- ATPC 74 Local Agents and Regulations
- SPS 221 Tattooing and Body Piercing



How do local health departments contribute to the quality of life for everyone, every day?



Think of your typical day and that of your family ...

Foundational Public Foundational Public Health Services

Minimum set of public health services to be available in every community in WI and U.S.

Services (Foundational Areas)

- Communicable Disease Control
- Chronic Diseases & Injury Prevention
- Environmental Public Health
- Maternal Child & Family Health
- Access to & Linkages with Clinical Care
- Community-Specific Services

Infrastructure (Foundational Capabilities)

- Assessment & Surveillance
- Community Partnership Development
- Equity
- Organizational Competencies
- Policy Development & Support
- Accountability & Performance Management
- Emergency Preparedness & Response
- Communications

An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood in winter. The houses are densely packed and feature a variety of colors including white, yellow, red, and blue. The roofs are covered in snow, and the surrounding landscape is also snow-covered with some bare trees. The overall scene is a typical suburban or small-town residential area.

“Healthy communities are important to a healthy economy.”

Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

“Healthy communities, those in which individuals and neighborhoods thrive and are resilient matter, as the health of the nation affects the health of the economy, and the health of the economy affects the health of the nation.”

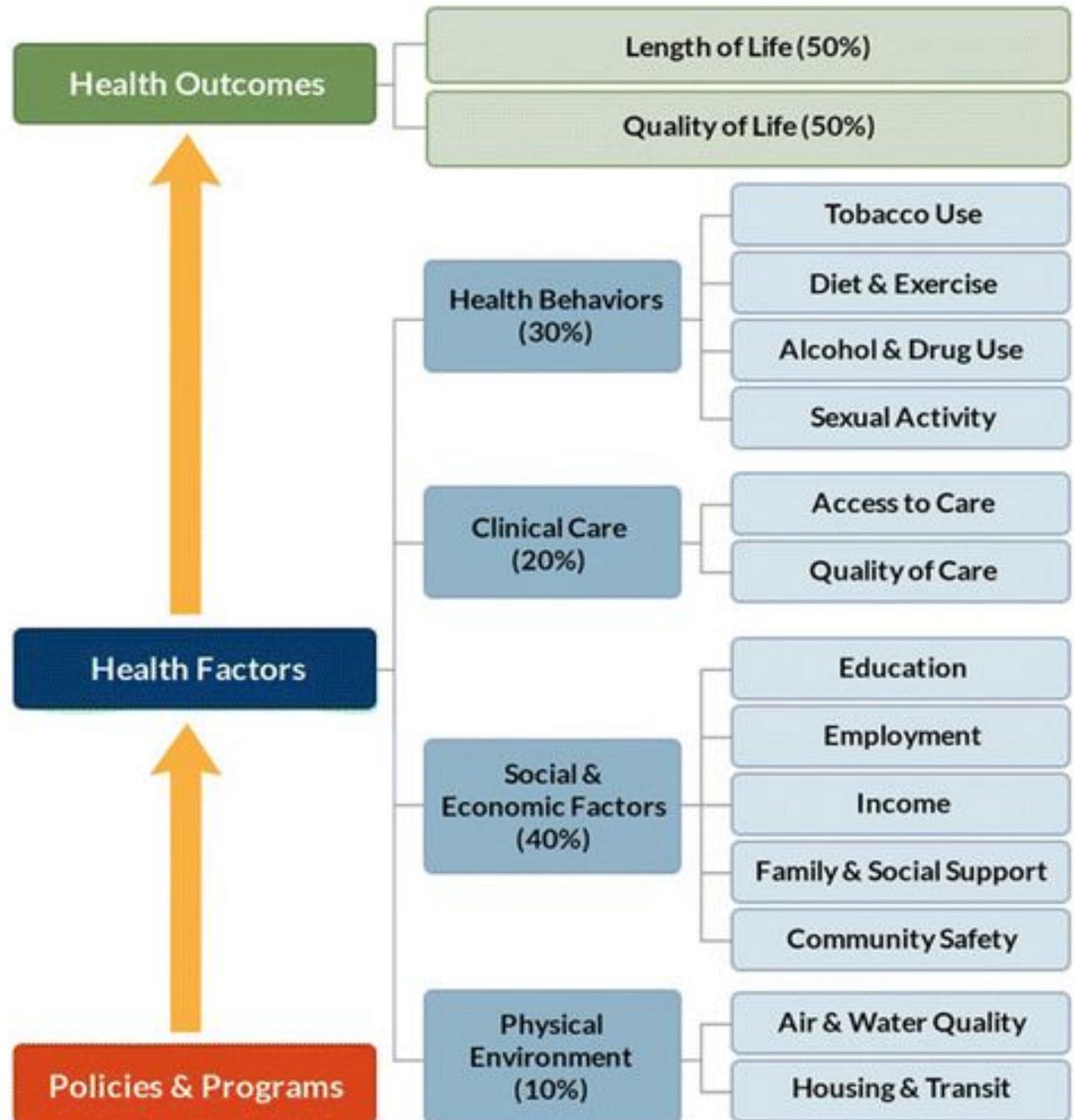
Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas



What are common challenges local health departments face, ...

... actions elected officials & administrators can do to minimize these challenges?

*“Tell me your zip code
and I will tell you how
long you will live.”*



Social Determinants of Health



... a major impact on people's health, well-being, and quality of life.

Local Health Department “Health Strategist” Role

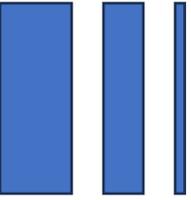
Convene partners to address conditions that influence the health of people and their communities

- Address ‘upstream’ conditions impacting health of individuals and communities
- Charged with ‘tough and complex’ issues
- Challenge to measure cost/benefit within one year budget cycles
- Heavy reliance on local tax levy, grants, fees to fund mandated services
- Impact of ‘Covid’ fog on local health departments
- Efforts to diminish ‘health officer’ authority and duties
- Balance values of ‘collective good’ with ‘individual freedoms’



The ask ...

- Meet with your Health Officer over ‘cup of coffee’ to further your understanding of public health issues and assets in your county
 - Prepare to discuss reality when myths arise in a conversation
 - Encourage and appoint residents to Boards of Health who will work towards finding common ground in supporting public health policy and regulations
 - Appreciate that many of public health impacts “go unnoticed when all is working”
 - Connect your health officer and boards of health to social, economic, and safety policy discussions, strategic and comprehensive planning efforts
 - Support a “Health in All Policies” approach when developing public policy, resolutions
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Reality

- Local health departments are charged with the health of community, focusing on conditions to improve lives of all residents in the areas of chronic diseases & injury prevention, environmental public health, maternal child & family health, communicable disease, and access to & linkages with clinical care
- Social and economic factors (education, employment, income, family/social support, community safety) contribute to 40% of the health of community and those who live there
- Local health departments serve as ‘health strategist’ addressing tough issues impacting the health of individuals and communities they live, learn, work, visit
- Local health departments balance collective good with individual freedoms in setting and enforcing public health policy
- County government benefit having health officer and public health colleagues at tables addressing social and economic issues (e.g., broadband, child protection, mental health/substance abuse, public safety)



Everyone Living Their Best Life
