

# OVERSEEING THE HEALTH OF THE PUBLIC

Volume 1, Issue 2

May, 2009

As local Board of Health members, you have a critical role in overseeing the health of the public. The policy direction and leadership you provide will help us achieve the state vision of healthy people in healthy communities. This newsletter from the Wisconsin Division of Public Health (DPH) is provided as a resource to you in this role.

## New Leadership at the Division of Public Health

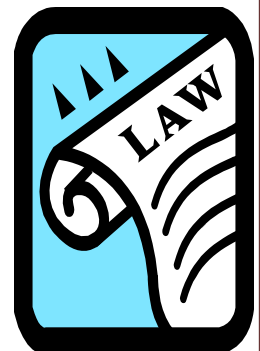


Seth Foldy, MD, MPH, was appointed the Administrator of the Wisconsin Division of Public Health on January 2, 2009. Dr. Foldy previously served as the health commissioner for the City of Milwaukee. He has also been involved at a state and national level in issues related to public health informatics and preparedness. Dr. Foldy, as your state health officer, is in a position to provide leadership in assuring healthy people in healthy communities in Wisconsin.

## Are you meeting Public Health Statute & Rule?

Every five years, local boards of health, local health officers and local health departments are reviewed by the Division of Public Health to assure that they are meeting minimal requirements as set forth in Wisconsin Statute (ch. 250 and 251) and Wisconsin Administrative Rules (DHS 139 and 140). In 2009, all local health departments will undergo a review (often referred to as the 140 Review) by the DPH Regional Offices to determine if they are a level I, II, or III health department.

Boards of Health in our state have clear responsibility in statute and rule for having leadership in their jurisdiction for public health assessment, assurance, and policy development. You will be asked during these reviews about how you are meeting these requirements. If you have questions about the 140 Review, please contact your DPH Regional Office Director.



## Healthy Wisconsin

In Wisconsin, public health system partners develop and implement a State Health Plan every 10 years. The 2010 State Health Plan is *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010: A Partnership Plan to Improve the Health of the Public*. In this plan, 11 health priorities and 5 infrastructure priorities were collaboratively developed. Many local health departments and Boards of Health have used this to frame their local priorities. A new state health plan is now being developed for the next 10 years, *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020: A Plan to Improve the Health and Safety of the Public*. More information is available at the website: <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/statehealthplan>. During the summer and early fall there will be opportunities for you to provide input on the plan, which will be published by December, 2009.

Quote of the Month: "The health of the people is really a foundation upon which all their happiness and all their powers as a state depend." Benjamin Disraeli

## Farmers Markets

Farmers markets are starting up across the state. Farmers markets are an integral part of the urban/farm linkage and have continued to rise in popularity, mostly due to the growing consumer interest in obtaining fresh products directly from the growers. Farmers markets allow consumers to have access to locally grown, farm fresh produce, enables farmers the opportunity to develop a personal relationship

with their customers, and cultivate consumer loyalty with the farmers who grows the produce. Direct marketing of farm products through farmers markets continues to be an important sales outlet for agricultural producers nationwide. Today, there are more than 4,600 farmers markets operating throughout the nation.



## State Conference

The 2009 WPHA-WALHDAB Annual Conference will be held on July 7-9 in Appleton. As a WALHDAB member, this is your conference. The theme this year is policy development and partnerships. More information is available at [www.wpha.org/2009conference.htm](http://www.wpha.org/2009conference.htm).

---

**Board of Health Member resource:** Do you want more information on your role as a Board of Health member? Go to the website at [www.dhs.wi.gov/localhealth/BOHOrientation/index.htm](http://www.dhs.wi.gov/localhealth/BOHOrientation/index.htm). On this site are a variety of resources, training materials and contacts.

---

## Did You Know:

- ◆ May is National Physical Fitness & Sport Month, National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month and Mental Health Month
- ◆ May 10-16 is National Women's Health Week
- ◆ June is Home Safety Month
- ◆ June 15-21 is National Men's Health Week
- ◆ July is Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month
- ◆ July is UV Safety Month



For more information, contact your DPH Regional Office Director. Contact information available at: <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/localhealth/counties/regional.htm>