

Challenges Facing Public Health in the Greater Milwaukee Community Global Day of Impact, November 2022

What is Public Health? It connects us all! According to the CDC Foundation – Public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of people and their communities. This work is achieved by promoting healthy lifestyles, researching disease and injury prevention, and detecting, preventing, and responding to infectious diseases. Overall, public health is concerned with protecting the health of entire populations. These populations can be as small as a local neighborhood, or as big as an entire country or region of the world.

American Public Health Association – <https://www.apha.org/What-is-Public-Health>

Public Health 3.0 – A Call to Action to Create a 21st Century Public Health Infrastructure.

- Abstract at https://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2017/17_0017.htm.
- Complete white paper at: <https://www.healthypeople.gov/sites/default/files/Public-Health-3.0-White-Paper.pdf>
- Social Determinants of Health: <https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/sdoh/index.html>

Milwaukee County has eleven health departments. Our panel has two panelists from Milwaukee County who will be representing both the urban and suburban perspectives.
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lh-depts/counties/milwaukee.htm>

Kirsten Johnson, Commissioner of Health, City of Milwaukee Health Dept., Milwaukee County

As the Commissioner of Health, Kirsten Johnson has an overall responsibility for public health assessment, policy development and quality control activities associated with the preservation of public health for the City of Milwaukee. Ms. Johnson has spent the last decade working in public health and health policy as a fellow and as a local health commissioner and led the pandemic response in Washington Ozaukee as well as in Milwaukee. In 2018-2019 Kirsten was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellow and served as the health policy advisor for Representative Ron Kind (WI-3) in the U.S. House of Representatives. Ms. Johnson first became interested in public health while serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mali, West Africa. Upon return to the United States in 2001 Kirsten received her Master of Public Health degree from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. City of Milwaukee Health Department <https://city.milwaukee.gov/Health>

Darcy DuBois, Public Health Officer, City of Oak Creek Health Department, Milwaukee County

Darcy DuBois has served as the Health Officer for the City of Oak Creek Health Department since 2017. She leads a team of public health nurses, environmental health staff, and other public health professionals to actively respond to the needs of the Oak Creek Community. Darcy has worked in public health for nearly 15 years, focusing on health equity and community health promotion. She has a variety of experience, including working as a Public Health Social worker, implementing an innovative home visiting program for fathers, and leading a suburban

local health department. She works to foster strong collaboration with community partners and to be responsive to the ever-changing needs of the community.

Darcy has a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Carroll University and a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Zilber School of Public Health. Oak Creek Health Department <https://www.oakcreekwi.gov/government/departments/health>

Washington and Ozaukee Counties have one shared Public Health Department serving both counties.

Hollie Milam, Deputy Director, Washington Ozaukee Public Health Department

As the Deputy Director for Washington Ozaukee Public Health, Hollie Milam leads the Community Health Team which includes Communicable Disease, Strategy and Maternal Child Health. Ms. Milam is an Advanced Practice Social Worker with over seventeen years of experience in public health and social work. Her areas of expertise include developing new models of care that support improved health outcomes, evaluating process and outcome measurements, emergency preparedness, health education, and community outreach. Hollie has a Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Services from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, a Master of Public Health, and Master of Social Work from Saint Louis University. Hollie resides in Cedarburg with her husband and two daughters, Corinne and Addison. Washington/Ozaukee County <https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/lh-depts/counties/washington-ozaukee.htm>

Waukesha County has one health department serving the entire county.

Frances Thomas, Public Health Strategy Supervisor, Waukesha County Public Health

Frances is currently the Public Health Strategy Supervisor for Waukesha County Public Health. She leads a newly created (April 2022) Strategy Team including an Epidemiologist, Communications Specialist, and Health Educator focusing on adopting the Public Health 3.0 framework in Waukesha County. Frances has her master's degree in public health from Armstrong State University, a bachelor's degree in health sciences from Drake University and is currently pursuing a graduate certificate in Data Science from the University of Wisconsin - Lacrosse. Prior to coming to Waukesha County Public Health, Frances served as a Public Health Specialist for Walworth County and the City of West Allis. Outside of work Frances enjoys traveling, going to concerts, and hiking with her rescue dog, Duke. Waukesha County Public Health <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lh-depts/counties/waukesha.htm>

Thank you to our four panelists for sharing your knowledge and perspectives on the importance of public health as well as how our Impact100 members and the nonprofit community can support programs to increase equity and improve health for all.