

August 2025 Board of Health Meeting Minutes



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Grand Forks Public Health

Coalition/Group Name:	Board of Health		
Date of Meeting:	August 14 th , 2025, at 4:00 PM	Location:	Hybrid Meeting Zoom and in person at Grand Forks City Hall in Council Chambers

1. Purpose of Meeting

Approve meeting minutes from April 10th, 2025 meeting, discuss old and new business, inform of next regularly scheduled meeting details.

2. Attendees

Board members present: Dr. Joel Walz, Cindy Pic, Rebecca Osowski, Dr. David Bradley

Absent members: Chris Harsell

3. Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 10th, 2025 meeting
3. Old Business
4. New Business
5. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting details
6. Adjournment

4. Meeting Notes, Decisions, Issues

Call to Order – Dr. Walz	Dr. Walz called the meeting to order at 4:02 P.M.
Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 10th, 2025– Board members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>ACTION:</u> Ms. Osowski moved to approve the April 10th meeting minutes, and Dr. Bradley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
Public Comment	<p>NONE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board members asked about the addition of this topic and whether public comment has always been included. • Tess Wall, Director at Public Health, explained that legislative changes effective 8/1 require every open meeting of a governing

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	<p>body to include a public comment section. Whether this applies to the Board of Health is still being reviewed since it is an advisory board versus a governing body. The topic was added to this meeting agenda for now to ensure the meetings are following current century codes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tess also clarified that while a designated time for public comment has not traditionally been built into the agenda, individuals are welcome to submit comments or topics for consideration. The deadline for submitting public comments is noted in each meeting agenda.
<p>Old Business</p>	<p>NONE</p>
<p>New Business – Women’s Way Program: Tiffany Boespflug</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiffany, a public health nurse, shared a presentation on what the Women’s Way program is and how it serves the community. A few key points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Women’s Way is North Dakota’s breast and cervical cancer screening program. Funded by the CDC, it helps improve access to early detection services such as mammograms and Pap tests by reducing barriers for women. ○ To qualify, women are typically between the ages of 21–64 and must meet certain income and insurance criteria. Those who are uninsured, underinsured, or have high deductibles may be eligible. Women with state insurance can also enroll and receive assistance with navigating cancer screenings. ○ Key program priorities include increasing enrollment to boost screening rates and support early detection and prevention. ○ Another priority is to expand outreach by building stronger partnerships with community organizations such as social care, homeless shelters, food pantries, etc. These efforts are tailored to meet people where they are at to help them get better access to services they may need. ○ 2025 Fiscal Year Highlights: Screening efforts were highly successful, with 472 women completing a breast and/or cervical screening through the GF coordinating unit—exceeding the screening goal by more than 140%.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Grand Forks Unit served 38% of all Women’s Way participants in North Dakota. • Ms. Osowski asked about the funding for the Women’s Way program. Tiffany explained that the program is funded by the State using pass-through dollars from the CDC. It is administered by North Dakota Health and Human Services, which then contracts with local public health units to carry out the program. • Ms. Osowski also asked whether the City of Grand Forks is required to offer the Women’s Way program. Tiffany responded that she believes the program is included in legislative code and will review local public health requirements to confirm. • Additional questions were raised about the program, including whether the data shows it is making an impact, if it serves undocumented immigrants or out-of-state residents, and whether clients can receive the HPV vaccine through Women’s Way. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The program was established in 1997 and has made a significant impact on women’s health at the national level. Tiffany will be contacting the state data program manager to obtain more information on both state and local statistics and will pass along via email. Since North Dakota and especially Grand Forks are so small on the national scale, it is difficult to get much data for the area. ○ To be eligible for the program, women must provide a North Dakota address. If a diagnosis requires treatment, a driver’s license or other proof of residency is required. ○ Women’s Way does not provide direct services; instead, it connects women to care. The HPV vaccine is not offered through the program but can be discussed with a healthcare provider. • <i>Please view the attached presentation for more details.</i>
<p>Other New Business – Remembering Polio: Shaylee Miller</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership with Polk County Public Health and community organizations, this project captured and shared the personal stories of local polio survivors, preserving their experiences as part of our public health history and sharing their generational knowledge. • Ms. Osowski inquired about the purpose and funding of this project. Approximately \$2,500 of state dollars was contributed by GFPH for this project.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>If you would like to view more stories about Polio or view the video, please visit Remembering Polio - Greater Grand Forks</i>
<p>Funding Updates: Tess Wall</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tess provided updates on Public Health funding, sharing pauses in certain programs, updates to city and county budgets, and federal impacts affecting a few grants. • Dr. Bradley inquired about the loss of the Preventive Health and Human Services grant and the previous award amount. The grant provided \$12,000 for the 2025 fiscal year (10/1/24–9/30/25) and was not awarded for the 2026 fiscal year. • <i>To view more details, please view the attached presentation below.</i>
<p>Director’s Report: Tess Wall</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report provides an overview of various Public Health initiatives and achievements over the last quarter. • <i>Review the report below for more details.</i>
<p>Other New Business</p>	<p>NONE</p>
<p>Discussion Item (Not on Agenda): Rat Infestation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Bradley asked about the rat infestation that took place on the south side of Grand Forks. • Environmental Health Supervisor Jake Anderson gave an overview of the suspected origin of the rats and outlined the steps taken to address the issue. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The infestation is thought to have started in an area of new home construction. They are believed to have migrated to a nearby residence for the winter, where they multiplied and ultimately caused the infestation. ○ Public Health was informed of the situation and, in collaboration with Animal Control at the Grand Forks Police Department, investigated the property. The homeowner voluntarily hired pest control to address the issue. Public Health sent letters to neighboring residents notifying them of the infestation and informing them that pest control treatment would be applied. The letter asked neighbors to monitor their yards and report any continued rat activity to Public Health. ○ The infestation involved Norway Rats, a species that generally requires 6–8 months to fully eliminate. • There have not been any recent reports of rats in the area.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Osowski asked whether Animal Control and GFPH could collaborate to address the rabbit issue in town. A suggestion was made to live-trap feral cats and relocate them to areas with high rabbit populations.
Next Meeting details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next regularly scheduled meeting is October 9th, 2025, at 4:00 PM.
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>ACTION:</u> Ms. Osowski motioned for adjournment with Ms. Pic seconding. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.

6. Next Meeting

Date:	Thursday, October 9 th , 2025, at 4:00 PM			Location/Time	Hybrid Meeting over Zoom or in person and Grand Forks City Hall in Council Chambers
Agenda:	TBA				

Attachments:

1. Women's Way Presentation
2. Funding Update Presentation
3. Director's Report



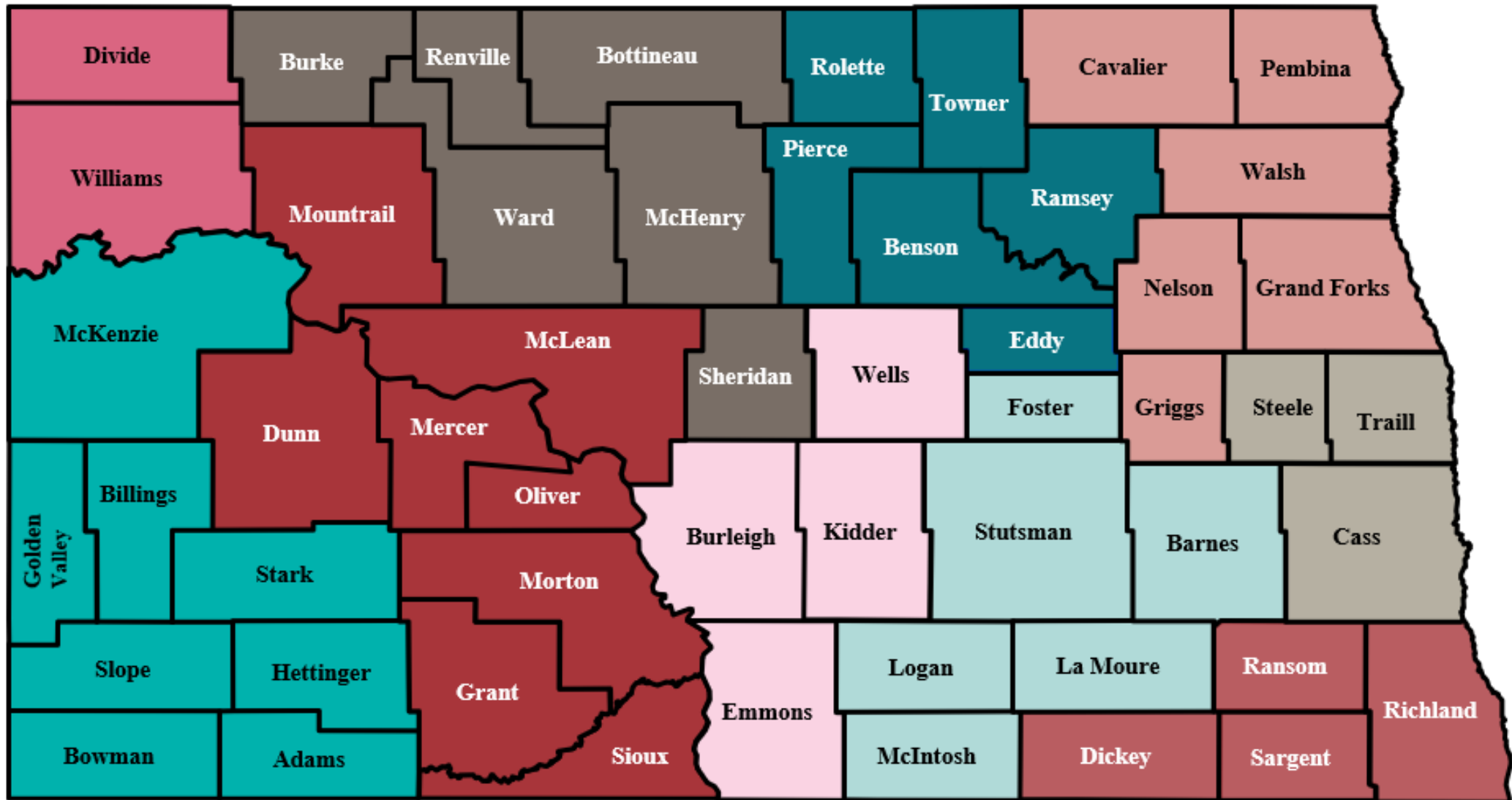
WOMEN'S WAY

A Breast & Cervical Cancer
Early Detection Program

Tiffany Boespflug, RN, *Women's Way* Coordinator
GF Board of Health
August 14, 2025



Statewide At-A-Glance



ARS

What is *Women's Way*?

- North Dakota's breast and cervical cancer screening program
- Funded with pass through dollars from CDC
- Administered by NDHHS; implemented by local public health
- Reduce cancer burden through access to screening and diagnostics



North Dakota women may be eligible for *Women's Way*.



Screening Saves Lives.

Breast cancer is the most diagnosed cancer among ND women

2022 ND Estimates:

541 new breast cancer cases

78 deaths

Cervical cancer rates have dropped significantly since the 1970s

2022 ND Estimate: 18 new cases

Why the decline?

Early detection through **screening**

Advances in treatment

Mammograms & Pap tests detect cancer **early** or even **prevent it**

Early detection = more treatment options and better outcomes

Source: North Dakota Statewide Cancer Registry





Removing Barriers to Screening

Screenings save lives — but not all women can access them.

Many women face **barriers** like:

- Lack of transportation or childcare
- No health insurance or high out-of-pocket costs
- Fear, mistrust, or lack of awareness
- Scheduling and system navigation challenges

Women's Way helps women:

- Overcome barriers to screening
- Navigate the healthcare system
- Build trust through relationships and support
- May provide a way to pay for women under- or uninsured, or assisting with obtaining insurance.



Program Priorities

- Increase enrollment and screenings
- Expand outreach
- Promote public awareness of recommended screenings through education and outreach
- Engage underserved populations
- Monitor outcomes and improve delivery



WOMEN'S WAY

A Breast & Cervical Cancer
Early Detection Program

Grand Forks Program Highlights – FY 2025 (\$171,196)

Screening Success

- **472 women** completed a breast and/or cervical cancer screening
- Surpassed the annual goal (336) by **over 140%**

Local Impact

- Grand Forks served **38%** of all WW participants statewide
- Out of **1,234** women screened across North Dakota, **Grand Forks reached 472**

Questions?



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WOMEN'S WAY
A Breast & Cervical Cancer
Early Detection Program

NORTH
Dakota
Be Legendary.

Health & Human Services

Contact:

Tiffany Boespflug, *Women's Way* Coordinator

701-787-8118

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FUNDING UPDATE

AUGUST 2025



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CDC CHANGES & IMPACTS

- **Counseling, Testing, and Referral (CTR) grant** – HIV and Hep C testing, counseling and support, secure referrals for treatment and care
 - Mission: disease prevention and access
 - GFCCC requirement per NDCC
 - Impact: 1 month pause
- **Preventative Health and Human Services (PHHS) grant** – chronic disease grant
 - Mission: disease prevention and health promotion
 - Turned competitive and awarded to less than 10 agencies across the state
- **Women’s Way program** – provides free breast & cervical screenings and patient navigation services to overcome barriers to get timely access to quality care
 - Mission – health promotion, preventing disease and access
 - Impact: no new enrollments or appointments scheduled



FEDERAL IMPACT

- **Partnership for Success (PFS) grant** – alcohol prevention in underage and young adults
 - Not in President’s Budget; passed Senate Appropriations Budget



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PARTIAL AWARDS

- Ryan White – HIV case management/patient navigation
- Immunization



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2026 BUDGETS - LOCAL FUNDING

- City General Fund
 - Overall 1.2% increase
 - 4.4% wage increase (2.5% step & 1.9% ECI)
 - 4% increase in IT fees
- County Levy
 - 3.4% expense reduction (excluding salary/fringe & wellness fee)
- Final approval in September



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Communications: Led the creation of "Remembering Polio," project, a community-based initiative to preserve public health history. Collaborated with Polk County Public Health, Heritage Foundation, Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission, Grand Forks Historical Society, and UND Special Collections.

Supported the Environmental Management Department to inform the public on the presence of West Nile.

Attended Government Social Media Convention.

Precepted for the summer intern who worked alongside the policy committee to review, revise, and update department policies.

Emergency Preparedness & Response: Attended 2025 NACCHO Preparedness Summit in San Antonio, TX.

Assisted UND leadership with questions/concerns on measles for summer camps and fall enrollment.

Participated in a walk-through and review of emergency response plans with USPS on their Bio Detection System.

Environmental Health: All Environmental Health staff attended the NDPHA Conference in May.

Hosted an after-hours preseason education session for Town Square Farmers Market coordinators and vendors.

Partnered with NDDEQ on the Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) program; conducted sampling upon request.

During Radon Awareness Month, radon kits became the #1 checked-out item at the public library, per the *Grand Forks Herald*. During Radon Awareness Month, radon kits became the #1 checked-out item at the public library, per the *Grand Forks Herald*.

All inspectors attended and passed a certification course on odor investigation in Fargo.

Nursing & Nutrition & Public Health Professionals: Partnered with Northwood Public Schools (NPS) to secure youth attendance at the Fargo Youth Action Summit. In follow up, provided a mini grant to NPS to implement PSE strategies and evidence-based curriculum.

Wrapped up Women's Way mentorship with the Fargo Cass Public Health to enhance their community outreach.

Partnered with Central High School's woodworking class to expand the Head Start Gardens.

In collaboration with Global Friends Coalition, the Immunization Program has begun accepting referrals and scheduling appointments for the I-693 process.

Completed an MMR Reminder recall.

GFPH school liaison supported Manvel Migrant School summer session with health curriculum information. The summer school session ran from June through mid-July. This year, 4 presentations were provided and topics including Dental Hygiene, Hand Washing, and Summer Safety - Bug Bites.

On the Move Jr. curriculum was implemented in rural schools.

Engaged in Quit Week education and media campaigns in June.

Collaborated with Blue Zones on the Bicycle Benefits Program.

Department-wide: Multiple programs attended the community LIVEGrand event in June.

Multiple staff members attended the ND Public Health Conference in May.

Staffing:

-Welcomed Kursten Kennedy, Administrative Specialist, Rodney Benefield, Correctional Nurse, Joelle Fettig, Summer Intern, and Julia Matthews, Harm Reduction Advocate

-Resignations included: Claire Fenske, Corrections Nurse