

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
Board of Directors Meeting
December 21, 2021
Madison, Wisconsin**

DATE: December 14, 2021

TO: Dean Robert N. Golden, MD, UW-SMPH – Dr. Richard Moss, Designated Representative
Karen Timberlake, Secretary-designee, DHS – Dr. Jon Meiman, Designated Representative
Preston Cole, Secretary, DNR – Greg Pils, Designated Representative
Randy Romanski, Secretary, DATCP –Gilbert (Gil) Kelley, Designated Representative
James Morrison, Chair
Greg Pils, Vice-Chair
Jessica Blahnik, Member
Dr. Robert Corliss, Member
Gina Green-Harris, Member
Dr. German Gonzalez, Member
Gilbert (Gil) Kelley, Member
Jeffery Kindrai, Member
Dr. Jon Meiman, Member
Dr. Richard Moss, Member
Zana Sijan, DNR Alternate
Steve Geis, DNR Alternate
Paula Tran, DHS Alternate
Anna Benton, DHS Alternate

FROM: Dr. James Schauer, Secretary
Director, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

RE: Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors Meeting
Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
Online Meeting
December 21, 2021, 1:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.

CC: Dr. Allen Bateman
Dr. Kelsey Florek
Dr. Robert Steiner
Andrew Stammer
Noel Stanton
Meshel Lange
Allen Benson
Cynda DeMontigny
Kristine Hansbery
Kevin Karbowski
Jan Klawitter
Dr. Errin Rider
James Sterk Jr.
Steve Strebel
David Webb

**WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, December 21, 2021

1:00p.m. – 4:00p.m.

MEETING LOCATION:

Conference Line: 1(877) 336-1828

Access Code: 4271573

Notice is hereby given that the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors will convene at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 via teleconference.

Notice is further given that matters concerning Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene issues, program responsibilities or operations specified in the Wisconsin Statutes, which arise after publication of this notice may be added to the agenda and publicly noticed no less than two hours before the scheduled board meeting if the board Chair determines that the matter is urgent.

Notice is further given that this meeting may be conducted partly or entirely by teleconference or videoconference.

Notice is further given that questions related to this notice, requests for special accommodations, or requests for a public appearance are addressed by the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Administrative Offices by phone at (608) 890-0288 or in writing to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, 465 Henry Mall, Madison, Wisconsin, 53706.

ORDER OF BUSINESS: See agenda.

Respectfully submitted,



James J. Schauer, PhD, P.E., M.B.A.
Secretary, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors
Director, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

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1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
ONLINE MEETING

AGENDA

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PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 1. ROLL CALL

Description of Item:

Roll call of attendance at Board Meeting led by Board Chair.

Suggested Board Action:

Submit roll call.

Staff Recommendation and Comments:

Roll call will be recorded by Board Secretary.

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PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Description of Item:

The draft minutes of the September 21, 2021 board meeting are submitted for approval.

Suggested Board Action:

Motion: Approve the draft minutes of the September 21, 2021 board meeting as submitted.

Staff Recommendation and Comments:

Approve draft minutes.

Once approved, minutes become part of the public record and are posted on the WSLH website: <http://www.slh.wisc.edu/about/board/board-meetings-agendas-and-minutes/>.

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APPROVED MINUTES
September 21, 2021
1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
2601 Agriculture Drive
Madison, WI 53718

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair James Morrison, Vice-Chair Greg Pils, Secretary Dr. James Schauer, Dr. German Gonzalez, Dr. Richard Moss, Greg Pils, Gil Kelley, Jeffery Kindrai, Jessica Blahnik, Gina Green-Harris

WSLH STAFF PRESENT: Kevin Karbowski, Allen Benson, Cynda DeMontigny, David Webb, Noel Stanton, Jan Klawitter, Dr. Errin Rider, James Sterk, Amy Miles, Dr. Heather Barkholtz, Dr. Kaitlin Sundling, Dr. Kelsey Florek, Noel Stanton, Kris Hansbery, Dr. Martin Shafer and Nathaniel Javid

DNR STAFF PRESENT: Zana Sijan, Steve Geis

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Ryan Westergaard, Paula Tran

Chair James Morrison made a motion to call the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. Dr. Richard Moss seconded the motion. The meeting commenced at 1:00 P.M.

Item 1. ROLL CALL

Chair James Morrison initiated the roll call of the Board. Nathaniel Javid conducted the roll call of the Board members. All Board Member seats or their designated representatives were present except Dr. Bob Corliss. There were no attendees on the public telephone line.

Item 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the minutes of the June 22, 2021 Board Meeting as submitted. **Greg Pils** entertained a motion to approve the minutes. **Dr. Richard Moss** seconded the motion. The voice vote approving the minutes was unanimous.

Item 3. REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA

There was no request to reorganize the agenda.

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Item 4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

None

Item 5. BOARD MEMBERS' MATTERS

Mr. Jim Morrison informed the Board that he has accepted a position as EHS Director for Bates College, a small college in the state of Maine, and where Mr. Morrison is presently located. Mr. Morrison is happy to stay on as long as the Governor's Office is on board and until a transitional strategy is devised. Mr. Morrison thanked everyone he has worked with on the board over the years.

Mr. Nathaniel Javid informed the Board that he has taken on a new position on campus at the UW Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, starting with them on Monday, October 4, 2021. He thanked everyone and said it had been an honor working with the board for the past 9 years. Mr. Morrison acknowledged that Mr. Javid had been central to keeping board meetings organized and thanked him for his long-term service to the board. Multiple Board Members individually thanked Mr. Javid.

Mr. Chuck Warzecha informed the Board that he will be retiring from State service. Mr. Warzecha briefly introduced Paula Tran, State Health Officer and Administrator for the Division of Public Health, as his replacement. He thanked the Board and was thanked by Mr. Morrison for his service to the State as well as the Board.

Dr. Schauer thanked Mr. Morrison, Mr. Warzecha and Mr. Javid for all of their contributions.

Dr. Schauer advised that a new hire would be coming on to assume Mr. Javid's role, and that they are excited to work with Ms. Tran. Dr. Schauer noted that Mr. Morrison will remain Chair, as his location is not of concern, and WSLH would work in conjunction with the Governor's office to find a replacement in March. Mr. Warzecha's replacement will be decided by the Secretary of DHS.

Dr. Schauer again thanked the departing members on behalf of the WSLH.

Item 6. INTRODUCTION OF New WSLH Board Member JESSICA BLAHNIK

Coroners and Medical Examiners Representative, Marathon County ME Jessica Blahnik, introduced herself to the board and was welcomed by various parties.

Item 7. LABORATORY IMPROVEMENT DIVISION PRESENTATION

- **Kristine Hansbery, Director of LID, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene**

- **Ann Hennings, Proficiency Testing Coordinator/Safety Officer, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene**

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Dr. Schauer provided an introduction for Kristine Hansbery who presented on Lab Improvement Division (LID)/WSLH Proficiency Testing (PT) Program.

Ms. Hansbery provided a brief history of LID's public health mission: As a public health lab, we have an advantage in our relationships with CDC and APHL. WSLH is a leader and are looked to by other agencies to provide proficiency testing programs that are needed and aren't available; we do this work for the US and globally. We are very agile in creating programs, as we did with the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) PT program.

Early in the pandemic, we saw a lot of requests for a SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) PT program. The FDA gave blanket approval to a lot of kits and different methodologies that came out and were fast-tracked into laboratories, because we needed something for testing. They didn't go through the rigors they normally would have before they hit the market, which made it even more important that a proficiency program be created. When accuracies in results were questioned, we needed to respond.

Ann Hennings was introduced by Ms. Hansbery.

Ms. Hennings presented a timelines of the discovery and emergence of COVID-19 and its impact both globally and in Wisconsin from December 2019 through present.

In the first week of March 2020, LID was approached by WSLH Communicable Disease Division (CDD) Director Dr. Allen Bateman in regard to a need for proficiency testing for COVID-19 because the public health labs were starting their testing, lots of manufacturers were in the process of developing tests and they started getting calls from laboratories requesting positive samples to validate these methods.

A manufacturer of COVID-19 assays contacted Ms. Hennings about a product they had developed and wanted to recommend once it had achieved FDA approval. Shortly thereafter, Ms. Hennings had sent inquiries to their four common molecular/PCR material manufacturers to see what stage they were at. She provided specifications and requested pricing quotes. A survey was sent to current customers on March 17 to gauge interest in a new program and received 215 responses back.

April 1, Ms. Hennings submitted her program proposal to LID/WSLH PT management for approval. At that time she had received quotes from 3 of the 4 vendors, but there still lots of decisions to be made. Samples were varied, from liquid to swab, and at that time they were targeting certain portions of the gene that mirrored the very first CDC assay. One vendor was very close to a whole virus/whole genome product. LID collaborated with CDD to determine that optimal sample point. An outreach flyer was sent out to customers on April 8th to announce the program plans for 2020. By April 23rd, the first purchase orders were sent to the sample vendor to purchase the sample material needed for future events that occurred in June and October.

In just a couple of months a program was created where normally, when there is time, it can take a year to two years, while determining whether a program is of interest and if it will have enough participants. WSLH was on par with two of their competitors in the PT world as far as program release.

Enrollment numbers of the program: In 2020 it was a 3-sample program which morphed into a 5-sample program and over 90 participants. Ms. Hennings stated she has never had a program

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take off so rapidly, which made it difficult to predict how many samples to order. We offered one event of SARS serology for antibody testing, which has remained steady throughout, although it may start to decrease slightly, as there is less antibody testing performed.

In 2021, we expanded to offer two SARS molecular programs in different formats, with a 5-sample set and 3-sample set, and the numbers for samples requested doubled.

The FDA website has been Ms. Hennings guide and resource, with the molecular methods that are approved for emergency use authorization along with the antigen. There are over 250 methods to check for SARS. Labs involved with and reporting to the proficiency program for 2020 and 2021 utilize over 40 different methods. Laboratory professionals from types of laboratories we don't necessarily have a lot of contact with - commercial, environmental, toxicology, veterinary - helped shoulder the burden, so the testing could be done.

We offer a swab sample type for the SARS Molecular Programs which is derived from the whole genome sequence (the whole virus): The PT material is dried onto that swab and the sample elution buffer is the viral transport media, which is the dry swab that the labs are using for patient testing. We wanted the dry swab action as there are labs that don't use any liquid; they process those swabs directly and cannot use a liquid program. Additionally, everyone has run into supply issues along the way.

As far as performance, everything has gone very well. WSLH PT grades by consensus and it has always been greater than 95% consensus for all SARS molecular samples so far. The only method that had any issue was a Hologic Aptima, and troubleshooting was performed by WSLH PT, along with the sample vendor and Hologic themselves trying to do some validation. Together, they determined that a liquid sample would work best for that particular method and that will be offered over the next year.

The SARS-CoV-2 antigen program, found in pharmacies and take-home tests, is a swab sample type and targets the nucleo-protein. The liquid elution method is not provided with this type, as the rapid-antigen kits contain all the reagent necessary and there are no problems to date.

The SARS serology program is a liquid sample type. In addition to ITG and the total antibody, IGM reporting will occur over the next year.

The molecular program started in 2020 as a 3-sample program shipped twice a year. In 2021, it was joined by the 5-sample program which is shipped three times a year. In 2022, these options will be offered along with the molecular liquid program for Aptima users and other large analyzers.

SARS is not regulated by Medicare/Medicaid but laboratories like the program options for the ability to test more staff. New York State requires their laboratories to have a 5-sample program. It's in place should it become regulated in the future.

Next year, there will be the ability to detect SARS, influenza, and RSV. Popular methods may detect 1, 2 or all 3, using one set of swabs. There are allocation issues and the price for the cartridges are high, so combining it into one will be a cost-savings for the laboratories.

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Ms. Hennings offered her thanks to all PT staff for supporting the addition of the new SARS programs, including the collaborative efforts of CDD.

Ms. Hansbery summarized the presentation overview of Rapid Response, some of the obstacles that LID faced, and how the programs were developed. Ms. Hennings did a great job of getting this one on the ground and running, rapidly. This one had to be done quickly and more SARS testing has been done than ever before.

Mr. Warzecha stated that the early months of the response was so important, particularly the ability to trust the program, while at the same time there was the undermining of scientific trust going on and that we also had to be skeptical of what was coming out from certain vendors. He thanked them for the science response WSLH was able to provide from Wisconsin and the work that was done.

Mr. Morrison echoed Mr. Warzecha's comments and thanked Ms. Hennings and Ms. Hansbery.

Item 8. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Dr. Schauer provided an introduction of the DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) initiative, Space, Human Biomonitoring activities.

**■ Erinn Rider, Associate Director, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
and Director, Clinical Laboratory Services**

Dr. Rider is leading the DEI initiative. She summarized the DEI initiative, stating that, as an organization that serves the people of Wisconsin, WSLH has a responsibility to move forward on the DEI effort, to look within the laboratory and organization and insuring that WSLH is providing a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion for staff, as well as reflecting that outward to WSLH's partners and customers.

This is the first year of the initiative and the hope is to secure funding, providing resources to hire an outside DEI consultant for their expertise and professional experience. With a consultant, WSLH can examine needs assessment, and data analysis, such as staff and customer surveys, demographic data analysis, current practices assessment and training for our staff in needed areas. Goals are for WSLH leadership to participate in DEI development opportunities as well as obtaining partner and stakeholder input.

In years two and three, implementation and accountability as well as further development are the goals. This would include developing a DEI taskforce to hold us accountable, in practice and culture, and to create and implement changes when change is needed. WSLH would continue to participate in training and educational opportunities. Dr. Rider has reached out to campus resources as well and is trying to further identify resources for starting, developing and continuing the initiative.

Partner/Stakeholder input request: Board Members were invited to a future DEI Retreat along with the participation of leadership members of WSLH, envisioned as a 2 to 4 hour-long meeting of brainstorming and advice for WSLH. Board members could anticipate WSLH reaching out to them in the future regarding the DEI Retreat.

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Dr. Schauer advised that the retreat wasn't limited to the Board Members, so if they wanted to include members from their organization who may be better representatives regarding these interests, or complement them, WSLH is open to their participation. WSLH is interested in best practices, aspects in developing a future workforce, networking with groups around the state, and how WSLH can be more inclusive regarding those the organization serves.

**■ David Webb, Assistant Director, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
and Director, Environmental Health Division**

Timeline for space and facilities –

Short-term Needs: Mr. Webb advised the needs for expansion and capacity are along the lines of PFAS (imminent needs), Newborn Screening (NBS) (short-term) and the Soils Lab. Mr. Webb advised we are trying to make best use of Stovall, which is not fully occupied - nor is it fully usable, based upon the age and the condition of the infrastructure.

Mid-Term – The interest is in building a wing onto Agriculture Drive location, requiring conversations on extramural funding, possibly at the federal level as there is strong interest in supporting public health laboratories. Walton Commons is a leased building so we will need to consider what that means for our IT Division.

Long-Term – Eventually exiting the 70-year-old Stovall Building and relocating is a project that will not happen immediately but needs to be looked at and planned out.

Hill Farms, a DOA building, is where the Soils Lab from Marshfield is going to be housed in a few months. Noel Stanton along with many others, has done a lot of work on that. DOA has been a great partner for getting into that building and this location may be helpful to us in terms of functionality, down the road.

Dr. Rider and Mr. Webb are in the process of working with colleagues at SMPH and campus and an external firm for an engineering study on Stovall to determine whether the building can tolerate a renewal or overhaul on the 3rd floor. If it can, it will be determined what kind and how much work can be done, along with the financial considerations. It would have to be determined what amount would justify 7-10 more years, but it will not be a large amount of money going into an old building with issues.

Dr. Moss responded that there is benefit to co-locating state lab R&D with other members of the university medical community and that going west and southeast of the campus may be something to consider. This was advised with no plan or promise to it, but as an informative premise to keep in mind.

Dr. Schauer discussed continuing participation with the campus master plan and pursuing the potential federal dollars.

**■ Noel Stanton Dr. Heather Barkholtz and Dr. Martin Shafer – Clinical
Biomonitoring – looking for chemicals, drugs, toxins and contaminants
in humans**

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Noel Stanton, Chemical Emergency Response Section

Testing typically blood based and urine with occasional alternate matrices. The matrix is very dependent on which substance is being sought.

This is a potential growth area for WSLH with our robust analytical and staff capabilities. We are very well-equipped by comparison with other bodies. We have strong partnerships with APHL and CDC, Center for Environmental Health, and DHS/DPH. We have extensive background in dealing with biological matrices from both an analytical and a process perspective.

There are two typical approaches: limited, well-defined cohort vs population-based surveillance is more complex, expensive, and difficult to implement. We're looking to seek out that work where we can.

The support is most typically grant and contract funding. Frequently where this is done well, there is legislative support for it as well as fee-for-service work.

Recently completed an investigation into PFAS exposure in Wisconsin. At this point, there are very few robust PFAS exposure data generated in Wisconsin. This was a broadly cooperative enterprise with UW SHOW program for specimens and DPH who will be a major partner interpreting the data. Hopefully this will represent a rough measurement of the Wisconsin population.

It is important to note that this is presently an investigative test, but our process was robust.

At this point, we captured 38 compounds. 605 serum specimens were tested from Wisconsin residents. We observed an average of 9 PFAS compounds in concentrations high enough to quantify.

30 of the 38 compounds we measured were observed in one or more samples. The most detected compound was PFOA. 4 compounds were observed in only a single sample. Only one sample was found with no detectable PFAS.

What we're seeing in Wisconsin is roughly similar to other studies, but Mr. Stanton is unable to comment on the biological half-lives. Dr. Martin Schafer noted a broad range has been found.

Dr. Heather Barkholtz - WSLH Forensic Toxicology and UW School of Pharmacy

Dr. Barkholtz joined UW-Madison in April.

Three distinct waves of opioid crises. Prescription based replaced by heroin replaced by fentanyl and now fentanyl analogs. This creates difficulties for analysis because the structure changes just enough to elicit new responses biologically and evade detection. This amounts to a legal grey area.

Increased incidence of polysubstance use depending on the main drug of choice make it more difficult to discuss exactly which substances a person was under the influence of when driving.

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Many opioid users are seeking medical attention due to very dangerous reactions to fentanyl usage. Opioid overdose incidence are not uniform across the state's populations.

The limitations of hospital-based detection can cause issues especially with the fentanyl analogs because the substance may not be detected in commonly used techniques.

Proposing a bio surveillance project using already existing urine samples from emergency patients who had a billing code implying an opioid event. We could work with de-identified specimens and subject them to additional testing to identify more information about what exactly was in the specimen related to polysubstance usage and how that impacted the event that brought the patient to seek treatment.

This could produce information of use to clinicians, first responders, and analytical toxicologists to help them make better-informed decisions about the population involved with opioid, polysubstance and emerging substances use. We are seeking Wisconsin partners for this project both in Northern Wisconsin and Milwaukee.

Dr Gonzalez asked a question regarding a table on a slide. The table comes from APHL's Bio surveillance task force document.

Dr Martin Shafer – Trace Element Research Group (Trace Element Clean Lab)

Activities:

- Measuring concentrations to assess exposure level or intensity using a variety of clinical matrices.

- The use of stabilized ratios of selected elements to help us understand the source of that element.

With magnetic sector inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer, the lab can identify dozens of elements in a couple of minutes. This is a routine and long-standing capability of the Clean Lab. Coupled with an HPLC we can speciate elements where the toxic effect depends on the form of the element, as with arsenic and platinum.

Dr. Shafer mentioned the many partnerships across the country - some driven by cancer concerns.

Isotope ratio measurement is important to provide information on sourcing and environmental processing. We have an advanced instrument for about 8 years to perform this measurement at a very specific level. Partnering with DHS on lead exposures in Milwaukee and Racine to understand the source of the exposure to the child and have a paper in process for that. A project is also ongoing in Suriname.

We've done a lot of work with dried blood spots using them to quantify 23 or so elements using the tools mentioned above to produce much higher quality analysis than was available previously. A large proposal is out to UL (Underwriters Laboratory) to expand the work to organic and inorganic contaminants demonstrating the utility for dried blood spots in wider applications.

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Project ongoing with Harvard's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center piloting the use of nasal strips to assess exposure to environmental contaminants and atmospheric aerosols. Completing the pilot before the pandemic, we developed all the analytic and supporting protocols, we were able to get our proposal funded by NIHS and that proposal will be starting up in fall of this year.

Item 9. FINANCIAL REPORT

■ Kevin Karbowski, Chief Financial Officer, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

Mr. Karbowski highlighted the variance between our actual status vs our budget. Our DHS revenue is 67% over based largely on COVID work. 32% negative in revenue on DNR revenue based on COVID causing much less activity than expected. 14.3% variance on UW System revenue due to less testing being done for UW Student Health Services during the period when the students were not in town. 27% reduced Occupational Health due to fewer samples for our OSHA activity. 50.1% variance in APHL revenue due to such a concentration of work on COVID that APHL had less non-COVID work for us to do.

Total support and revenue – 51M expected. Actual revenue was about 57M actual revenue number leaving us about 10% over on revenue for the last fiscal year.

On the expense side, we were 22% above expectations for supplies and services largely due to additional needs for COVID-related supplies, but offset by a reduced need for non-COVID supplies, resulting in a positive \$189,000 operating income.

Mr. Karbowski mentioned the previous discussion of requests for price increase. Given the uncertainty and the desire to break even on the budget, the request will not be made at this time.

Working capital (cash and accounts receivable) went down 1.5M, as the result of a lot of equipment purchases. Operating contingency (60 days of quick assets on hand) went up \$440,000, due to increased activity.

Item 10. CONTRACTS REPORT

■ Kevin Karbowski, Chief Financial Officer, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

Contracts signed since the last Board Meeting. The total amount of contracts signed over the last three months is \$1.6M in additional work with the WI Department of Health Services.

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Item 11. HR UPDATE

- **Cynda DeMontigny, HR Director, WSLH - June 12- Sept 10 –**

Recruitments –

DPD – 3
EHD – 5
OSHA - 0
Admin -2
CDD – 3
LID - 0

Staff turnaround –

Hires

DPD – 3
EHD – 6
LID – 0
CDD – 5
Admin – 2
OHD – 0

Resignations

DPD - 3
EHD - 5
LID - 0
CDD - 1
Admin - 0
OHD - 1

Retirements

DPD – 1
EHD - 2

Item 12. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **Dr. Jamie Schauer, Director, WSLH**

Dr. Kelsey Florek – Variant Dashboard

Displaying a publicly accessible Variant dashboard for COVID and details some of the functionality. It's open source allowing other labs to possibly use it and allowing us to use it as a base for future development. Data is automated and does not need human intervention.

At peak, we had 700-800 views daily with 400-500 people interacting.
Presently up to 150 views a day with many actually interacting with the data and plots.

Ms. Jan Klawitter mentioned the use of the dashboard by media sources around the state – noted WBAY daily referencing back to our dashboard.

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Dave Webb – Water Boil Notice

1 boil water notice – Door County

Jan Klawitter – Recent events

Amy Miles has accepted the APHL’s Co-Chair Bio surveillance task force

Cytogenetics and Molecular Genetics labs partnering with UW Center for Human Genomics and Precision Medicine – opening UW Undiagnosed Genetic Disease Clinic. Our labs will function as “specimen traffic controller.” We will be performing up front nucleic acid extraction and banking and coordinate distribution of specimens to secondary labs.

Publications

As part of a CDC-led study looking at the effectiveness in real-world conditions of the mRNA vaccines, we developed a quantitative RT-PCR test method that could measure viral loads for SAR-CoV-2 in a person’s body – NEJM June publication

Erin Mani – part of an APHL webinar on PFAS discussing our development of PFAS testing.

Martin Schafer- Central States Water Magazine published articles on wastewater monitoring for COVID

More publications in the Board Agenda

Mr. Chuck Warzecha – closing remarks and recognition of presenters and Dr. Schauer.

Mr. Jim Morrison made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Jeff Kindrai voted to adjourn and Mr. Chuck Warzecha seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.



Respectfully submitted by:

James J. Schauer, PhD, P.E., M.B.A.
Secretary, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
Board of Directors

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PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 3. REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA

Description of the Item:

Board members may suggest changes in the order in which agenda items are discussed.

Suggested Board Action:

None.

Staff Recommendation and Comments:

Reorganize the agenda if requested by the Board.

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Item 4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Description of the Item:

Under the board's *Policies and Procedures* nonmembers are invited to make presentations.

Suggested Board Action:

Follow WSLH *Policies and Procedures*.

Staff Recommendation and Comments:

Follow WSLH *Policies and Procedures*.

Per Policies and Procedures of the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors:

§6.12 *Speaking privileges.* When the board is in session, no persons other than laboratory staff designated by the director shall be permitted to address the board except as hereinafter provided:

- (a) A committee report may be presented by a committee member who is not a member of the board.
- (b) A board or committee member in the course of presenting a matter to the board may request staff to assist in such a presentation.
- (c) If a board member directs a technical question for clarification of a specific issue to a person not authorized in this section, the Chair may permit such a person to respond.
- (d) The board may by majority vote or by decision of the Chair allow persons not otherwise authorized in this section to address the board if the situation warrants or the following criteria is followed:
 - (1) Written requests for public appearances on specific current agenda items shall be made to the board Secretary no later than two working days prior to the meetings. The request shall outline the reasons for the request including the subject matter to be discussed in as much detail as is feasible prior to the meeting of the board. Those requesting an appearance may, at or prior to the board meeting, provide board members copies of any written materials to be presented or a written statement of a position.
 - (2) Individual presentations will be limited to five minutes, unless otherwise authorized by the Chair.
 - (3) To schedule an appearance before the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors, contact the board Secretary, c/o Director, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, 465 Henry Mall, Madison, Wisconsin 53706. Telephone (608) 890-0288. The subject or subjects to be discussed must be identified.
 - (4) The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene "Guidelines for Citizen Participation in WSLH Board Meetings" are published on its website: <http://www.slh.wisc.edu/index.shtml> and printed copies are available on request. (See Appendix 5) [Section §6.12 approved 5/27/03 board meeting.]

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
Board of Directors Meeting
December 21, 2021**

Appendix 5

Guidelines for Citizen Participation at WSLH Board Meetings

The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene board provides opportunities for citizens to appear before the board to provide information to the board on items listed on the agenda. Such appearances shall be brief and concise. In order to accommodate this participation in the allotted time, the guidelines are as follows:

- A. Items to be brought before the board:
 - 1. The board Secretary and Chair will assign a specific time on the agenda to hear public comment when a request to speak has been received from a member of the public.
 - 2. Individuals or organizations will be limited to a total of five (5) minutes to make a presentation to the board. Following the presentation board members may ask clarifying questions.
 - 3. An organization is limited to one (1) spokesperson on an issue.
 - 4. On complex issues, individuals wishing to appear before the board are encouraged to submit written materials to the board Secretary in advance of the meeting so the board may be better informed on the subject in question. Such information should be submitted to the board Secretary for distribution to all board members no later than seven (7) working days before the board meeting.
 - 5. No matters that are in current litigation may be brought before the board.
- B. The board encourages individuals to confine their remarks to broad general policy issues rather than the day-to-day operations of the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene.
- C. Citizens who have questions for board members should ask these questions prior to the board meeting, during any recess during the board proceedings, or after board adjournment.
- D. Written requests to appear before the WSLH Board of Directors should be submitted no later than two (2) working days prior to a scheduled board meeting.
- E. Submit written requests to:
Secretary, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors
C/O WSLH Director
465 Henry Mall
Madison, WI 53706
Telephone: (608) 890-0288
Email: susan.buechner@slh.wisc.edu

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
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BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 5. BOARD MEMBERS' MATTERS

Description of the Item:

Board Members' Matters will present board members with the opportunity to ask questions and/or discuss issues related to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene.

Suggested Board Action:

Receive for information.

Staff Recommendations and Comments:

Receive for information.

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
Board of Directors Meeting
December 21, 2021

BUSINESS ITEMS

**Item 6. INTRODUCTION OF New WSLH Board Member DR. JON MEIMAN and
alternate PAULA TRAN**

Description of the Item:

Dr. Jon Meiman and alternate Paula Tran, WSLH Department of Health Services Designated Representatives succeeding Chuck Warzecha, will introduce themselves to the Board.

Suggested Board Action:

Receive for information.

Staff Recommendations and Comments:

Receive for information.

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
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December 21, 2021

BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 7. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES PRESENTATION

Description of the Item:

Dr. Robert Steiner, Newborn Screening Program Medical Consultant will present on NBS program

Suggested Board Action:

Review and provide input.

Staff Recommendations and Comments:

Receive for information.

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
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BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 8. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE DIVISION

Description of the Item:

Dr. Allen Bateman will present on communicable disease testing for Afghan Refugees housed at Fort McCoy

Suggested Board Action:

Review and provide input.

Staff Recommendations and Comments:

Receive for information.

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
Board of Directors Meeting
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BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 9. SOILS LAB UPDATE

Description of the Item:

Andrew Stammer, WSLH Soils Lab Manager, will provide an update on the progress of the Soils Lab

Suggested Board Action:

Review and provide input.

Staff Recommendations and Comments:

Receive for information.

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
Board of Directors Meeting
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BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 10. FINANCIAL REPORT

Description of the Item:

Kevin Karbowski, WSLH Chief Financial Officer, will provide the Financial Report to the Board.

Suggested Board Action:

Review and provide input.

Staff Recommendations and Comments:

Receive for information.

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
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FISCAL YEAR
2021

Contents

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- Statement of income
- Comparative income statement
- Comparative balance sheet
- Statement of cash flows
- Notes to the financial statements

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
Board of Directors Meeting
December 21, 2021**

**WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE
STATEMENT OF INCOME
For the period July 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021**

	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Variance Over/(Under)	Variance % of Budget	Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Budget
SUPPORT AND REVENUE					
Clinical	\$6,572,372	\$6,728,689	(\$156,317)	-2.3%	\$20,324,657
Newborn Screening	1,580,211	1,484,364	95,847	6.5%	4,300,000
Driver Improvement Surcharge	480,237	528,102	(47,865)	-9.1%	1,619,200
Environmental	1,903,904	2,040,280	(136,376)	-6.7%	5,984,085
National Atmospheric Deposition Program	557,530	592,432	(34,903)	-5.9%	1,777,308
Proficiency	1,185,599	1,172,172	13,427	1.1%	3,433,738
Occupational Health	586,320	777,558	(191,238)	-24.6%	2,156,557
Laboratory Services	12,866,173	13,323,598	(457,425)	-3.4%	39,595,545
Fund 150 Support	336,185	335,002	1,183	0.4%	1,005,007
WI DHS Employee Contracts	244,053	287,589	(43,536)	-15.1%	862,767
Earnings - Investment Income	914	2,700	(1,786)	-66.1%	6,000
Other Revenue	581,152	625,291	(44,139)	-7.1%	1,873,774
Sponsored Projects	2,091,310	1,982,820	108,490	5.5%	6,204,641
Program Revenue	15,538,635	15,931,709	(393,074)	-2.5%	47,673,960
State General Program Revenue (GPR)	3,610,625	3,794,461	(183,836)	-4.8%	11,820,000
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	19,149,260	19,726,170	(576,910)	-2.9%	59,493,960
EXPENSES					
Salaries	7,075,436	7,167,125	(91,689)	-1.3%	23,186,967
Fringe Benefits	2,866,676	3,027,245	(160,568)	-5.3%	8,519,989
Supplies & Services	6,977,740	7,065,354	(87,614)	-1.2%	21,578,848
Building Rent	1,084,776	1,093,115	(8,340)	-0.8%	3,330,756
Transfer Overhead to UW	340,560	323,855	16,705	5.2%	1,017,487
Depreciation	764,695	797,213	(32,519)	-4.1%	2,474,948
Bad Debt Expense	410	1,200	(790)	-65.8%	3,600
Interest Expense	196	2,000	(1,804)	-90.2%	6,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	19,110,488	19,477,107	(366,619)	-1.9%	60,118,594
NET OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	\$38,771	\$ 249,063	(\$210,291)	-84.4%	(\$624,634)

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
Board of Directors Meeting
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**WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE
COMPARATIVE INCOME STATEMENT
For the 4 months ended October 31, 2021 and October 31, 2020**

	Year to Date Actual	Prior Year Actual	Variance Over/(Under)	Variance % of Budget
SUPPORT AND REVENUE				
Clinical	\$6,572,372	\$6,882,849	(\$310,477)	-4.5%
Newborn Screening	1,580,211	1,508,407	71,804	4.8%
Driver Improvement Surcharge	480,237	546,029	(65,792)	-12.0%
Environmental	1,903,904	1,811,467	92,437	5.1%
National Atmospheric Deposition Program	557,530	535,369	22,161	4.1%
Proficiency	1,185,599	1,128,188	57,411	5.1%
Occupational Health	586,320	447,450	138,870	31.0%
Laboratory Services	12,866,173	12,859,759	6,414	0.0%
Fund 150 Support	336,185	327,639	8,547	2.6%
WI DHS Employee Contracts	244,053	302,631	(58,579)	-19.4%
Earnings - Investment Income	914	3,713	(2,799)	-75.4%
Other Revenue	581,152	633,983	(52,831)	-8.3%
Sponsored Projects	2,091,310	1,625,412	465,897	28.7%
Program Revenue	15,538,635	15,119,154	419,481	2.8%
State General Program Revenue (GPR)	3,610,625	3,802,297	(191,672)	-5.0%
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	19,149,260	18,921,451	227,809	1.2%
EXPENSES		0		
Salaries	7,075,436	6,801,457	273,979	4.0%
Fringe Benefits	2,866,676	2,903,863	(37,186)	-1.3%
Supplies & Services	6,977,740	7,044,489	(66,749)	-0.9%
Building Rent	1,084,776	1,044,882	39,894	3.8%
Transfer Overhead to UW	340,560	279,391	61,169	21.9%
Depreciation	764,695	687,699	76,995	11.2%
Bad Debt Expense	410	434	(24)	-5.5%
Interest Expense	196	599	(403)	-67.3%
TOTAL EXPENSES	19,110,488	18,762,813	347,675	1.9%
NET OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	\$38,771	\$158,638	(\$119,866)	-75.56%

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
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**WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE
COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET
As of October 31, 2021 and June 30, 2021**

ASSETS

	October 31, 2021	June 30, 2021
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$4,722,082	\$3,202,501
Cash-restricted (Note 1)	4,147,952	4,031,415
Net accounts receivables (Note 2)	6,779,392	5,696,761
Other receivables	396,562	912,602
Inventories	46,183	39,107
Prepaid expenses	0	264,896
Total current assets	16,092,171	14,147,282
EQUIPMENT AND BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS		
Equipment	34,297,930	33,123,260
Building improvements	6,878,228	6,878,228
	41,176,158	40,001,488
Less accumulated depreciation	(28,690,023)	(27,925,329)
Total net fixed assets	12,486,134	12,076,159
Total Assets	\$28,578,306	\$26,223,442

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Salaries and fringe benefits payable	\$0	\$0
Accounts payable	2,055,124	845,108
Accrued expenses	1,024,011	0
Deferred revenue	0	252,619
Compensated absences (Note 3)	1,212,314	997,964
Proficiency testing deferred revenue	1,433,644	1,024,366
Newborn screening deferred revenue	2,310,882	2,310,120
Newborn screening surcharge payable	403,427	696,929
Total current liabilities	8,439,401	6,127,106

LONG TERM DEBT

Compensated Absences (Note 3)	1,661,462	1,657,664
Total long term debt	1,661,462	1,657,664
Total Liabilities	\$10,100,862	\$7,784,770

EQUITY

Net Operating Income (Loss)	38,771	189,728
Retained earnings	12,804,156	12,614,428
Contributed capital	5,634,516	5,634,516
Total retained earnings	18,477,443	18,438,672
Total Equity	18,477,443	18,438,672
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$28,578,306	\$26,223,442

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
Board of Directors Meeting
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WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For the 4 months ended October 31 , 2021 and June 30, 2021		
	Year to	Prior Year
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net income	\$38,771	\$189,728
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	764,695	2,026,375
Changes in working capital components:		
Decrease/(Increase) in net accounts receivables	(1,082,631)	(1,862,839)
Decrease/(Increase) in other receivables	516,040	(17,860)
Decrease/(Increase) in inventories	(7,077)	2,332
Decrease/(Increase) in prepaid expenses	264,896	(170,412)
(Decrease)/Increase in salaries payable	0	0
(Decrease)/Increase in accounts payable	1,210,016	393,248
(Decrease)Increase in accrued expenses	1,024,011	(78,194)
(Decrease)Increase in deferred revenue	(252,619)	249,424
(Decrease)Increase in proficiency testing deferred revenue	409,278	(102,661)
(Decrease)/Increase in newborn screen deferred revenue	762	(114,879)
(Decrease)/Increase in newborn screening surcharge payable	(293,503)	(290,666)
Net cash provided (used) in operating activities	2,592,639	223,597
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of equipment and physical plant improvements	(956,522)	(3,033,294)
Net cash provided (used) in investing activities	(956,522)	(3,033,294)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Principal payment on Capital Lease	-	-
Net cash provided (used) in financing activities	-	-
Net increase (decrease) in cash	1,636,117	(2,809,697)
Cash:		
Beginning	7,233,916	10,043,613
Ending	\$8,870,033	\$7,233,916

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
Board of Directors Meeting
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**WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the period July 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021**

NOTE 1 - NATURE OF BUSINESS AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Nature of Business:

- The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) is a governmental institution which provides medical, industrial and environmental laboratory testing and related services to individuals, private and public agencies, including the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Health Services (DHS). Approximately 75% of the WSLH operating revenues are program revenues, including contracts, grants, and fee-for-service billing. The remainder are general purpose revenues (GPR), which are Wisconsin state general fund dollars.

Budgetary Data:

- Fiscal Year 2021-2022 operating budget amounts were approved by the WSLH Board on June 22, 2021.

Basis of Presentation:

- The financial statements have been prepared on a modified accrual basis following Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

Basis of Accounting:

- Revenues are recognized at the completion of the revenue generating processes. Fee-for-service revenues are generally recognized in the period services are completed.
- Revenues from GPR, OWI, Grants, and expense reimbursement contracts for salaries, fringe benefits, capital, and supplies are recognized as expended.
- Expenses are recognized and accrued when the liability is incurred.

Estimates and assumptions:

- The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying footnotes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Assets

- As of October 31, 2021 cash is restricted to the newborn screening surcharge payable, to the proficiency testing deferred revenue and to the newborn screening deferred revenue.
- Accounts receivable are reported at net realizable value. Net realizable value is equal to the gross amount of receivables less an estimated allowance for uncollectible amounts.
- Inventory is stated at cost (first in, first-out method).
- Equipment and building improvements are carried at cost. Expenditures for assets in excess of \$5,000 are capitalized. Depreciation is computed by the straight-line method.

Liabilities

- A liability for unearned revenue is recognized for prepaid receipts for WSLH-provided Proficiency Testing programs and for prepaid newborn screening tests.

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
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NOTE 2 - ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

- Accounts receivable and allowance for uncollectible account balances as of October 31, 2021 and June 30, 2021 are as follows:

	<u>October, 31, 2021</u>	<u>June 30, 2021</u>
Accounts Receivable Total	\$6,865,733	\$5,786,045
Allowance for bad debt	<u>(86,341)</u>	<u>(89,284)</u>
Net Receivables	\$6,779,392	\$5,696,761

NOTE 3 - COMPENSATED ABSENCES

- GASB Statement No. 16, "Accounting for Compensated Absences," establishes standards of accounting and reporting for compensated absences by state and local governmental entities for which employees will be paid such as vacation, sick leave, and sabbatical leave. Using the criteria in Statement 16, a liability for compensated absences that is attributable to services already rendered and that is not contingent on a specific event that is outside the control of the State and its employees has been accrued. The table below details the liability by benefit category:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Vacation</u>	<u>Pers Hol</u>	<u>Legal Hol</u>	<u>Sabbatical</u>
Current	\$1,212,314	\$966,250	\$75,210	\$25,248	\$145,606
Long Term	<u>1,661,462</u>				<u>1,661,462</u>
	<u>\$2,873,776</u>	<u>\$966,250</u>	<u>\$75,210</u>	<u>\$25,248</u>	<u>\$1,807,068</u>

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
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BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 11. CONTRACTS REPORT

Description of the Item:

Kevin Karbowski, WSLH Chief Financial Officer, will provide the Contracts Report to the Board.

Suggested Board Action:

Review and provide input.

Staff Recommendations and Comments:

Receive for information.

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
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**University of Wisconsin-Madison
Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
Summary of Contracts Executed Since September 2021 Board Meeting**

Title	Party	Award Amount	Timeframe	Notes:
APHL GC Proficiency Testing Panel	APHL	\$ 16,500	over 9 mos.	Prep and distribution of panels to public health labs
Wisconsin Overdose To Action	WDHS	294,800	over 12 mos.	Effort to focus on complex nature of overdose epidemic
ELC Enhancing Detection Expansion	WDHS	17,516,548	over 30 mos.	Enhancing and expanding disease detection
PHEP Supplement	APHL	182,115	over 8 mos.	Admin component of blood metal testing and urine analysis
Newborn Screen SCID	APHL	55,000	over 9 mos.	Develop and validate NBS assay
Total		<u>\$ 18,064,963</u>		

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
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BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 12. HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

Description of the Item:

Cynda DeMontigny, WSLH Human Resources Director, will provide the HR update from the period of September 11 to December 03, 2021 to the Board.

Suggested Board Action:

Receive for information.

Staff Recommendations and Comments:

Receive for information.

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Retirements				New Employees						Resignations			
September 11, 2021 to December 3, 2021				September 11, 2021 to December 3, 2021						September 11, 2021 to December 3, 2021			
	AS	US			AS	US	SH	FT	TE		AS	US	
DPD		1		DPD	1						DPD	1	1
EHD	1	3		EHD							EHD		1
LID				LID							LID		
CDD				CDD	2	1					CDD		
Admin		1		Admin		1					Admin		
OHD	1		Total	OHD						Total	OHD		Total
	0	0	0		3	2				5		1	2
	2	5											3
				Internal Hires						Recruitments			
					AS	US	SH	FT	LTE		September 11, 2021 to December 3, 2021		
				DPD							DPD	6	
AS	Acad Staff			EHD	3	1					EHD	10	
US	Univ Staff			LID							LID	0	
SH	Student Hourly			CDD	1						CDD	1	
FT	Faculty			ADMIN							Admin	1	
LTE	Limited Term			OHD						Total	OHD	2	
					4	1				5			

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
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Item 13. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a) Dr. James Schauer, Director, WSLH

- **Overview of Omicron Variant Testing**
- **Blood Lead Testing**
- **Water Boil Notice Report**
- **Public Relations Report**

**Report to the Wisconsin State
Laboratory of Hygiene Board
Water Systems Tests by the WSLH**

September 1, 2021- December 1, 2021

No information available as of December 12, 2021

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Report to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board

Representative Public or Environmental Health Incidents of Educational Interest
September 11 – December 6, 2021

Approx. Date	Agent or Event Name	Description	Current Status
OUTBREAKS and INCIDENTS			
January 2020	COVID-19 virus	<p>In early March 2020, only the WSLH and the City of Milwaukee Health Dept. Lab were testing for COVID-19 virus in the state. Since then the WSLH has helped bring 130+ labs in the state online for testing and also added multiple different testing platforms. The WSLH continues to perform testing primarily in our outbreak response role.</p> <p>The WSLH continues to collaborate with the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (WVDL) and University Health Services to maintain COVID testing at WVDL on the UW-Madison campus for UW students, faculty and staff.</p> <p>With funding from the WI Department of Health Services, the WSLH is also performing population-based surveillance testing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WSLH Communicable Disease Division is performing antibody testing for the Past Antibody COVID-19 Community Survey (PACCS). • WSLH Environmental Microbiology have developed methods and are performing testing for a statewide (and UW-Madison campus) wastewater surveillance study. <p>The WSLH Communicable Disease Division is performing whole-genome sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 viruses for strain surveillance and variant detection statewide, as well as to inform many outbreaks, including outbreaks in Corrections facilities. The Division is also coordinating a</p>	Ongoing

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		<p>network of 4 other labs in the state that perform whole-genome sequencing for variant detection.</p> <p>With CARES/ELC funding through WI DHS, WisCon has established a COVID-19 Consulting service, providing consultation services for WI businesses seeking to improve their facility’s employee protection plans and procedures related to COVID-19. The group is conducting bi-weekly public outreach webinars, provides phone and virtual consultation services. The services have been popular and well-received by served businesses and local public health departments around the state. Additionally, the group is partnering with DHS Procurement and Infection Preventionists to provide respirator fit testing kits, training, and related assistance to employees at over 4,500 nursing and residential care facilities throughout the state.</p>	
<p>Sept. 4, 2021</p>	<p>Testing for Afghan refugee guests staying at Ft. McCoy</p>	<p>Working in support of the WI Department of Health Services, WSLH Communicable Disease Division scientists performed measles and TB testing for Afghan refugee guests staying at Ft. McCoy.</p> <p>From Sept. 5th – mid-October, the WSLH tested specimens from between 50- 60 guests suspected of having measles. Because the WSLH is a CDC-funded Vaccine Preventable Regional Reference Center, we are able to perform screening of suspect samples using the both the pan-measles PCR and measles vaccine assay (MeVA), which can determine if a rash is caused from a vaccine reaction or wild-type measles infection. Of the specimens tested, 22 were wild-type positive for measles. Sanger sequencing revealed that all the cases were of the B3 genotype, which is the most common genotype in Afghanistan.</p> <p>Due to the high MMR vaccine acceptance rate on the part of the Afghan guests and a quick</p>	<p>CDD Testing – Complete</p>

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		<p>response by military officials, state health officials, and CDC response teams, the measles cases were kept from spreading out of control.</p> <p>In September, Ft. McCoy began screening all 13,000+ refugee guests for tuberculosis (TB). From mid-September – late November, the WSLH tested more than 250 specimens (3 tests per person) for TB. This represented a 30% increase in our normal TB testing volume. Testing confirmed 7 guests were positive for TB. An additional 6 positive guests were identified on clinical grounds for a total of 13 positive TB cases out of more than 13,000 people.</p> <p>In addition to CDD testing, the WSLH Environmental Health Division has been asked to provide lead testing for ~50 samples of Kajal, a traditional Afghani cosmetic used on children. The testing may be performed using lab-based methods, or employ equipment loan program field instrumentation.</p>	Lead testing - ongoing
RECENT EVENTS and FINDINGS			
September 2021	UW Oshkosh Graduate Student research in TECL	<p>UW Oshkosh graduate student Sarah Woody spent this past summer looking at heavy metal concentrations in sediment, plant and muskrat tissue at Horicon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. Sarah collaborated with WSLH Trace Elements Clean Lab (TECL) scientists to perform the sample processing and analysis for her research.</p> <p>See Sarah in her waders collecting samples in the Marsh and in her lab coat in the TECL in this video produced by UW Oshkosh - https://uwosh.edu/today/99704/grad-student-spentsummer-hunting-heavy-metals-at-horicon-marsh/</p>	Complete

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September 2021	Childhood lead poisoning	A recent recall of point-of-care blood lead testing instruments has created a large gap in the screening of children at risk. In response, the WSLH has substantially increased our testing volume, and furnished sampling and packaging materials. Testing increases are expected to continue, at least in the near-term. Emergency preparedness and response resources are being utilized to help meet the increased demands.	Ongoing
September 2021	Research in Communicable Disease and Environmental Health Divisions	<p><u>WSLH, UW and Oregon School District Research Bears Fruit</u></p> <p>Since 2015, scientists in the WSLH Communicable Disease Division have been collaborating with Dr. Jon Temte, UW professor of family medicine and UWSMPH associate dean for public health and community engagement, on the Oregon Child Absenteeism Due to Respiratory Disease Study (ORCHARDS). The CDC-funded research has been helping families and schools in the Village of Oregon, WI, track and understand seasonal influenza and other respiratory illnesses.</p> <p>WSLH CDD scientists test ORCHARDS specimens for influenza and other respiratory diseases, but early in the pandemic couldn't also perform SARS-CoV-2 analysis due to limited supply and testing constraints at the time.</p> <p>However, the WSLH stores the ORCHARDS specimens after testing and earlier this year CDD scientists analyzed archived specimens collected from students between September 2019 and June 2020 for SARS-CoV2 and performed whole genome sequencing.</p> <p>Through this process researchers found that the first known case of household transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in Wisconsin happened in March 2020 - https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34710308/</p>	Ongoing (ORCHARDS) and Complete

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		<p><u>Carbapenemase production among less-common Enterobacterales genera: 10 US sites, 2018</u> <i>JAC-Antimicrobial Resistance</i>, Volume 3, Issue 3, September 2021, dlab137; https://doi.org/10.1093/jacamr/dlab137 Alicia Shugart, et al (including Ann Valley and Megan Lasure)</p> <p>“Historically, United States’ carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (CRE) surveillance and mechanism testing focused on three genera: Escherichia, Klebsiella, and Enterobacter (EsKE); however, other genera can harbour mobile carbapenemases associated with CRE spread.”</p> <p>The study reports on a “10-state evaluation (including Wisconsin) to assess the contribution of less common genera (LCG) to carbapenemase-producing (CP) CRE.”</p> <p><u>Lead Isotopes in North American Precipitation record the presence of Saharan Dust</u> <i>Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society</i>, published online Sept. 13, 2021; https://doi.org/10.1175/BAMS-D-20-0212.1 Sean R. Scott, Jason P. Dunion, Mark L. Olson, and David A. Gay</p> <p>The paper reports on a collaboration between the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) housed at the WSLH along with the WSLH’s Trace Elements Clean Lab and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) studying lead isotopes in precipitation during the Saharan dust incursion into southeast U.S. last summer. “This storm provided a means to evaluate the influence of Saharan dust in North America confirmed by independent satellite and ground observations.”</p>	
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September – October 2021	ANSI Safety Professional Certifications	<p>Within 1 month, WisCon Safety consultant Treena Feisel received both her Associate Safety Professional and Certified Safety Professional (CSP) credentials.</p> <p>The CSP is an ANSI-accredited professional certification that is recognized world-wide as a mark of professional excellence within the safety and health field. Certified Safety Professionals (CSP) are persons who perform at least 50% of professional level safety duties. Candidates for the CSP must first meet educational, experiential and credentialing requirements and then must pass a rigorous written examination.</p>	Complete
September 15, 2021	Communicable Disease Division Wisconsin Clinical Laboratory Network Webinar	Dr. Allen Bateman, CDD Director, and Erin Bowles, CDD WCLN Coordinator, gave a webinar for WCLN members and local public health officers entitled “SARS-CoV-2, Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses Update – 2021”. Dr. Bateman reviewed the 2020-2021 respiratory virus season and discussed the surveillance strategies and potential challenges of the upcoming 2021-2022 respiratory virus season. New vaccine technologies were also discussed.	Complete
September 26 – October 1, 2021	Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT) Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN	Forensic Toxicology Director Amy Miles presided over the SOFT annual meeting of 700 attendees in her role as President. During this meeting, Forensic Toxicology Supervisor, Bill Johnson, was appointed as a Director to the SOFT Board.	Complete
September 28, 2021	SOFT annual meeting, Nashville, TN	Forensic Scientist Ted Savage co-chaired a half day workshop for the SOFT annual meeting. The topic of the workshop was oral fluid testing and projects.	Complete
September 29, 2021	Cooperative Agreement between SOFT and the National Highway Traffic Safety	Forensic Toxicology Director Amy Miles signed a 3 year, \$675,000 cooperative agreement between SOFT and NHTSA to launch a Regional Toxicology Liaison Project. Miles will serve as the Project Manager in her role as the National Resource Toxicologist.	Ongoing

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	Administration (NHTSA)		
October 2021	ABMGG Board Certification	<p>Cytogenetics and Molecular Genetics Assistant Director Kaitlin Lenhart passed her American Board of Molecular Genetics and Genomics (ABMGG) board exams and is now board certified in clinical laboratory genetics and genomics.</p> <p>Kaitlin is considered a “Diplomat of the American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics” or DAMBGG. She can now apply to be a Fellow of the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (FACMG), which requires board certification.</p>	Complete
October 2021	Water Resources Institute drinking water research article	<p>Sean Scott’s (WSLH Trace Elements Clean Lab) analytical contributions are recognized in a UW Water Resources Institute article about UW researchers investigating “how the interactions between water and rock in Fond du Lac County might result in naturally occurring contamination of public drinking water wells and nearby private wells.”</p> <p>From the article:</p> <p>Through an analysis of the samples—pioneered by Sean Scott, assistant scientist at the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene and a person who Ginder-Vogel described as “incredibly critical” to the project—the team could get quite precise results from the different locations. Scott’s method uses smaller-quantity water samples, allowing for less variability in results, providing a clearer picture of groundwater flow and geochemical conditions at the site.</p> <p>https://www.wri.wisc.edu/news/radium-and-strontium-researchers-take-a-seat-at-the-table/</p>	Complete

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October 6, 2021	WCLN Regional meeting	The Communicable Disease Division held a hybrid WI Clinical Laboratory Network (WCLN) regional meeting in the WI Dells. There were nearly 40 clinical laboratorians and local health department staff in-person and another 30+ online. The event theme was "The COVID-19 Pandemic Response Olympics" and featured scientific speakers from the WSLH, UW SMPH, and Marquette University, as well as a motivational speaker who spoke about life/work balance and self-care. The in-person networking with clinical laboratorians from around the state was a very valuable part of the meeting.	Complete
October 12, 2021	Intervention and Treatment Committee of the State Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs of Abuse (SCAODA)	Forensic Toxicology Director Amy Miles presented to the ITC regarding delta-8-THC, delta-9-THC and Kratom. There is currently legislation being introduced in WI to legalize Kratom and the group wanted more information.	Complete
October 13, 2021	Illinois Assoc for Problem Solving Courts Virtual meeting	Forensic Toxicology Director Amy Miles presented on THC and CBD for this group.	Complete
October 15, 2021	Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) school	Forensic Scientist Kimberle Glowacki presented to the new recruits of the DRE school.	Complete
October 20, 2021	National Alliance to Stop Impaired Driving (NASID)	Forensic Toxicology Director Amy Miles has been appointed to the NASID Board to assist in direction of funding research projects relevant to forensic toxicology research.	Ongoing
October 21, 2021	WI Prosecutor Seminar	Forensic Toxicology Supervisor Kayla Neuman provided a laboratory update for the Wisconsin Prosecutors during their annual virtual conference.	Complete

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October 25 - November 2, 2021	NADP Annual Meeting and Science Symposium	<p>Over two weeks, the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) held its annual Fall Meeting and Science Symposium. This was the second year in a row the Fall Meeting was held completely online due to the pandemic.</p> <p>The meeting had hundreds of participants from multiple countries and continents. More than 50 presentations and posters were given on a number of different air pollution/deposition of pollutant topics, all relating back to basic NADP measurements.</p>	Complete
October 28, 2021	Illinois Probation and Court Services Assoc (IPCSA)	Forensic Toxicology Director Amy Miles presented 2 talks for this organization's annual meeting that was held virtually. One presentation focused on THC, the other was on other trending drugs of abuse.	Complete
October 28, 2021	National Academy of Sciences	Forensic Toxicology Director Amy Miles presented (virtually) on the SOFT/NHTSA Cooperative Agreement and the current status of forensic toxicology labs across the country.	Complete
November 2021	WI Chapter of CLMA Board	<p>Kristine Hansbery, director of the Laboratory Improvement Division (WSLH Proficiency Testing) was asked to join the Board of Directors for the Wisconsin Chapter of the Clinical Laboratory Management Association (CLMA).</p> <p>At the first meeting she was nominated to the role of Program Planning Director. She will be in charge of identifying venues, speakers, and educational opportunities for the Chapter throughout the year and for the biannual meetings.</p>	Ongoing
November 2021	Chemical Emergency Response (CER)	The CER program recently received a supplemental award from CDC for their expanding materials production role for the national chemical response laboratory network. The award totaled \$200,000.	Complete

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November 2021	Acumatica Order to Cash Go-Live	The second phase of the WSLH Acumatica ERP project went live for the WSLH's Laboratory Improvement Division (aka WSLH PT). This replaced the Phoenix system that had been used by LID for several years. As part of this go-live, Acumatica was also activated for Accounts Receivables for this division. This conversion will continue into December for the AR team.	On-Going
November 2021	OnBase Data Load	In November, more than 791 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) were loaded into the OnBase system. This replaces the manual process of document approval and control that has been in place for many years. In addition, the documents associated with Acumatica (called BPP's or Business Process Procedures) were also updated (34 in total) in the OnBase system to support the multiple functions (Purchasing, Finance, Accounting, Sales Orders, Shipping, Invoicing) that are live in this system.	On-Going
November 2, 2021	Sauk Prairie Hospital	Communicable Disease Division Director Dr. Al Bateman gave a talk on "Influenza and other respiratory viruses update" to Sauk Prairie clinicians as part of their CME program.	Complete
November 3, 2021	WMLN Regional Meeting	The WSLH Communicable Disease Division held its annual WI Mycobacteriology Laboratory Network (WMLN) Annual Meeting. The meeting was held virtually, and featured presentations by DHS, WSLH, and UW infectious disease physicians.	Complete
November 9, 2021	Wisconsin Association of Medical Directors presentation	Communicable Disease Division Director Dr. Al Bateman gave a talk on "Influenza, SARS-CoV-2, and other respiratory viruses update" to the Wisconsin Association of Medical Directors (nursing homes) for their CME program.	Complete

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<p>November 9, 2021</p>	<p>WSLH Employee Recognition Awards</p>	<p>On Nov. 9th, WSLH Director Dr. Jamie Schauer presented the 2021 WSLH Recognition Awards in a small ceremony with nominees, nominators and award winners.</p> <p>The WSLH Employee Recognition Awards Program was created in 2018 as one of many ways to bring awareness to all the great work being accomplished throughout the lab.</p> <p>2021 saw a record 38 WSLH staffers nominated for an award. The nominees in alphabetical order:</p> <p>Dagmara Antkiewicz Kelsi Berlinghof Alec Burcham Janeen Eisenman Devin Everett Rebecca Fahney Treena Fiesel Kelsey Florek George Gruetzmacher Danica Harrier Tasha Heaton Tracy Heidke Patrice Held Vanessa Horner Scott Hurlbert Natalie Jamandre Kayley Janssen Ann Jurkowski Terry Lawrin Richard Lentz Doug Maska Maureen McCormack Paige Mullen Ed Oliver John Olson Ryan Pieters Hannah Pilch Kelli Rush Ted Savage</p>	<p>Complete</p>
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		<p>Veronica Scott Martin Shafer Angellica Stanley Ernie Stracener Dan Trocke Ann Valley Robert Vercellino Pang Vue Chris Worley</p> <p>The 2021 Winners are ...</p> <p>Staff Distinguished Service – Ann Valley (CDD)</p> <p>Collaboration - COVID Sewage Team: Dagmara Antkiewicz, Devin Everett, Rebecca Fahney, Kayley Janssen, Paige Mullen, Hannah Pilch, Martin Shafer, Angellica Stanley</p> <p>Education and Outreach (tie) – Kelsey Florek (CDD) and WisCon COVID-19 Consultation Team: Kelli Rush, Robert Vercellino, Veronica Scott, Tasha Heaton, George Gruetzmacher</p> <p>Service to the Community – Robert Vercellino (WisCon)</p>	
November 10, 2021	Communicable Disease Division Wisconsin Clinical Laboratory Network Webinar	Erin Bowles, CDD WCLN Coordinator, moderated a WCLN webinar for WCLN members and local public health officers entitled “ <i>A Peek Behind the Curtain</i> ”. Dr. Blake Buchann, Associate Director of Clinical Microbiology and Molecular Diagnostics at Wisconsin Diagnostic Laboratories was the guest speaker. Dr. Buchan provided listeners with an overview of culture-dependent and culture-independent laboratory diagnostic methods comparing and contrasting strengths and weaknesses and appropriate utilization of the assays for bacterial identification.	Complete
November 15, 2021	DRE re-certification	Forensic Scientist Kimberle Glowacki presented to the DREs of WI to provide continuing education.	Complete

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November 15, 2021	Black River Falls High School Forensic Science students	Forensic Scientist Lindsey Skaggs was invited to give a talk to the students at Black River Falls HS. She covered the basics of forensic toxicology and drug trends.	Complete
November 16, 2021	New Hampshire Impaired Driving Summit	Forensic Toxicology Director Amy Miles presented (virtually) with the local forensic toxicology lab regarding current issues in drug testing for impaired driving.	Complete
November 16, 2021	Communicable Disease Division Annual LabTAG Meeting	<p>Erin Bowles facilitated the annual in-person meeting with WCLN Laboratory Technical Advisory Group members. Dr. Alan Bateman and Dr. Alana Sterkel also attended the meeting. LabTAG collaborates with and advises CDD on the educational needs of the clinical laboratories in WI. After discussing the effectiveness of the educational events provided by CDD in 2021, the group moved on to discuss the current challenges and needs of clinical labs which helped in planning the educational events for 2022.</p> <p>Laboratories have been severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic experiencing shortages in supplies, testing equipment and reagents, and in personnel. A key take away was that despite the desire and need for laboratory professionals to attend continuing education events, WCLN members will have difficulty getting time away from work to attend educational events. CDD may need to continue providing combination virtual and in-person training events to engage a larger audience.</p>	Complete
December 3, 2021	State Council for Alcohol and Other Drugs of Abuse (SCAODA)	Forensic Toxicology Director Amy Miles presented on THC and Kratom. The Council is considering a position statement on current Kratom legislation and possibly future THC legislation and requested more information on both topics.	Complete