Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBER OF THE YEAR

HEALTH OFFICER OF THE YEAR

This award recognizes a health officer who has made a significant contribution to WALHDAB at either the local, state or national level over a prolonged period.

Julie Willems van Dyjk

In addition to providing outstanding leadership for Marathon County Public Health, Julie serves as a valuable resource for all health departments and a mentor for many of the Health Officers in the Northern Region. She unselfishly shares her staff and resources to benefit smaller health departments who do not have similar capacities.

She has provided leadership as a fiscal agent throughout the implementation and management of the public health preparedness program.

During her current term on the Public Health Council, Julie represents local public health department issues and views in an articulate manner that both informs the Council and helps provide direction. Most recently Julie chaired the Public Health Finance Committee. The end result of her leadership is a comprehensive document that addresses key issues in public health finances, proposes reasonable measures to increase and stabilize public health funding and challenges all of us in local public health departments to shoulder responsibility and work with partners to address this important issue.

While completing her Doctorate of Nursing at UW-Milwaukee, Julie completed a study on the effectiveness of Prenatal Care Coordination. Her research supports the experiential findings of local health departments that provide case management to pregnant women. By reaching these women in their homes on their schedules to meet their needs, whether it is rent money, baby clothes or furnishings or transportation, local health department PNCC staffs make a difference. Women and infants who receive PNCC services have better outcomes.

This research may influence future policy decisions related to improving partnerships between public and community based services and managed care organizations.