Janet Lewellyn is being recognized as the Health Officer of the Year. Jan, as she is known to everyone in public health, is the former Health Officer of Shawano County, having retired on December 31, 2010 much to the dismay of her staff, colleagues and friends. She has given 39 years of dedicated service to public health.

“We’re proud to recognize Jan Lewellyn as our Health Officer of the Year,” says WALHDAB co-president Jean Durch. “Jan's service to her community and beyond exemplifies a true public health leader. She has left a legacy that will continue to make a difference in the years ahead.”

Jan's leadership in public health has lead to many successes in Shawano County including promotion of smoke free initiatives long before the statewide smoking ban, initiation of local hospice services and implementation of the first domestic abuse shelter in her county. Jan also demonstrated leadership that benefited the people of Wisconsin and the public health system. Jan volunteered her department to be a pilot site for the Wisconsin Immunization Registry which now accounts for 50 million immunizations given to 7 million clients. She served on the WI Division of Public Health Performance based contracting Lead Team and she initiated a regional work group to establish consistent public health policies and procedures for local health departments.

Because of Jan's leadership, her agency and Board of Health were among the first in the state to perform a self-assessment by using the National Public Health Performance Standards. Even in retirement, Jan's public health passion continues. Jan plans to continue to advocate for a bike and trail system in her community and plans to stay involved in professional organization.