



## **2021 Health Officer and Board of Health of the Year Awards Named for the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards**

**May 4, 2021** – Today, the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB), the statewide leader and voice for local governmental public health, named its 2021 WALHDAB Awards for Health Officer and Board of Health of the Year, respectively. This recognition demonstrates nominees who showcase exemplary qualities in response to critical local public health needs.

**Janel Heinrich, Public Health Madison-Dane County**, is named the 2021 Health Officer of the Year. One of the many nominators for this award shared this: “Janel’s leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic has been inspiring and has modeled evidence-informed decision-making for our state. She has been a great collaborator across local, regional and state government and has centered equity in her work.”

Another nominator shared that Janel has provided statewide leadership through her three year commitment to WALHDAB and in the public health community. Janel brings a passion for health equity and a clarity on how to successfully navigate challenging situations with partners.

Janel is deserving of this award for her leadership for WALHDAB, her community, and the state.

**Eau Claire City-County Board of Health** has been chosen as the 2021 Board of Health of the Year.

According to Lieske Giese, Eau Claire City-County Health Officer, “During the past year, the Board of Health has been particularly supportive of staff and leadership in the difficult work of pandemic response. As meetings shifted to web-based platforms, all board members leaned in hard to stay connected and show their caring for the work that the team was doing to protect the health of those that live, study, work, and play in Eau Claire.”

The nomination described the board’s commitment to racism as a public health priority and the support of the Health department’s Strategic Plan, Quality Improvement Plan, Community Health Assessment, Performance Measures through regular board meeting review, vetting, updating & guidance.

Members of the board of health are: Emily Berge, Don Bodeau, MD, Jennifer Eddy, MD, Mark Kaeding, Terry Miskulin, DDS, Martha Nieman, Merey Price, RN, and True Vue. The board was nominated due to their strong population health advocacy, their commitment to excellence, and their caring for all members of the community, particularly those that are most vulnerable.

The awards will be celebrated during the Public Health Awards Ceremony, being held on May 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Congratulations and thank you to all public health professionals and advocates for their tireless efforts, and especially to Janel Heinrich and the Eau Claire-City County Board of Health.

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