



LakeCounty

Health Department and
Community Health Center

Health Policy Updates

June 24, 2026

Emily Gelber-Maturo
Public Policy Strategist

Public Policy Strategist

Promoting the health and well-being of all who live, work and play in Lake County.

01

Identify solutions and opportunities

02

Advocacy and education

03


Policy analysis, research and recommendations

04


Policy implementation

Why Policy Matters

Public health outcomes are shaped by decisions made at the local, state, and federal levels



Our programs and services are shaped and funded by policy decisions at the local, state, and federal level.



Policy is one of the most powerful tools for improving and protecting health.

Levels of Policy



Big "P"

Laws shape priorities, creates mandates, and authorities.



Little "p"

Regulations, grant and program requirements, and internal policies define operational requirements, implementation, and compliance.



Legislation may define goals and changes; regulation determines what happens.

How LCHD engages in policy



TRACK LEGISLATION
AND REGULATORY
ACTIVITY



ANALYZE POTENTIAL
IMPACTS ON PUBLIC
HEALTH , PROGRAMS,
FUNDING, AND
OPERATIONS



COORDINATE INTERNAL
REVIEW AND RESPONSE,
PROVIDE PUBLIC
COMMENT



RELATIONSHIP
BUILDING WITH
POLICYMAKERS,
PARTNERS, AND
STAKEHOLDERS



PARTICIPATE IN
COALITIONS AND
ASSOCIATIONS



ADVOCATE FOR PUBLIC
HEALTH PRIORITIES

Key Issues

Public health
funding and
infrastructure

Behavioral health
and substance
use prevention
and treatment

Workforce
recruitment and
retention

Access to care and
affordable
medications

Insurance,
Medicaid and
uninsured

Immunization
Access

Legislative Engagement Strategies



In-district meetings



Letters, emails,
phone calls,
testimony



Sharing reports and
data

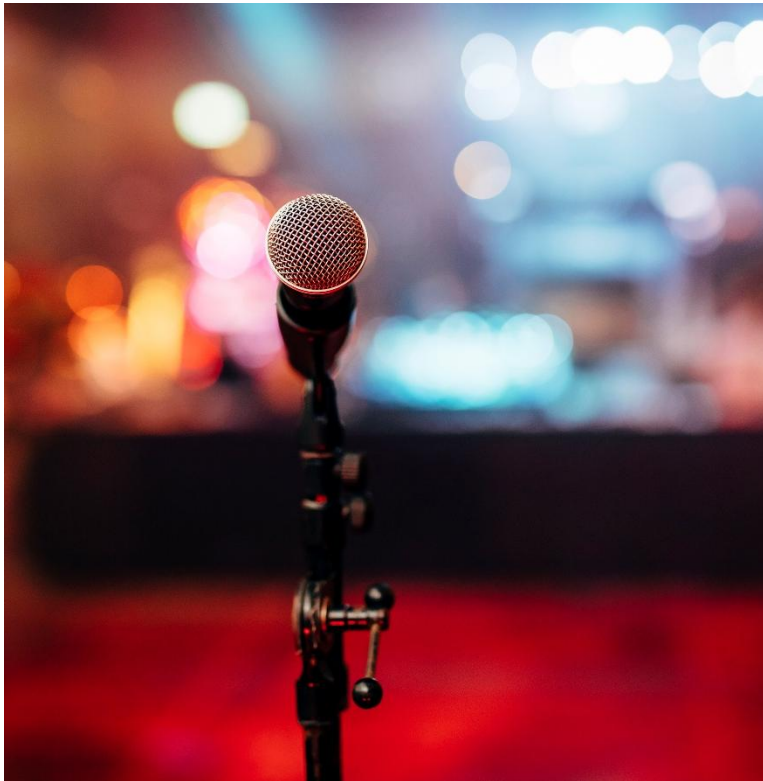


Community
activities and
partnerships



Educational
legislative forums

Coalitions, Associations, and Stakeholder Groups



Building influence through shared goals

- Policy Development and Expertise
- Coordination
- Action

Examples

Community Behavioral Health Association
Illinois Primary Health Care Association
Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium
Illinois Public Health Association
Illinois Animal Control Association
LiveWell Lake County
Issue specific coalitions

Highlights from Legislative Session

- Behavioral Health and Substance Use Prevention
- Public Health Prevention
- Primary Care



Behavioral Health & Substance Use Prevention Legislation



Reducing administrative burden for behavioral health staff

Managed Care Organization pre-/post-payment standard review framework included in the Medicaid omnibus bill.

* Secured legislative support

Preventing substance use Cannabis omnibus bill regulates hemp, prohibits hemp products intended to be smoked or vaped, and largely limits THC beverages derived from hemp.

* Encouraged regulation

Public Health Prevention Legislation

Improving access to emergency medications in Lake County Schools

HB3454

*Ensured drafting errors were corrected

Moving towards universal postpartum home visits for every baby

HB4606

*LCHD support and coalition support

Improving access to Early Intervention Services

\$15 million for the Early Intervention program in the state budget.

*Educated state legislators



Primary Care Legislation

Protecting Access to 340b Affordable Medications

HB2371 SA2

*Outreach and education to
legislators

**\$10 million dollars in the state
budget for health centers.**

*Outreach and education to
legislators



Reactive: Legislation that didn't go through

Avoiding policies that could increase health risks, create unfunded mandates, or redirect staff from other essential work.

No dogs at the local pool.

Local health departments won't be doing inspections of construction site bathrooms.

Raw milk sales are still not permitted off farm.



Proactive: Data Access Legislation



Ideas. Experience. Practical answers.



Improving Local Public Health Access to Public Health Data: Illinois Out in Front

Background

Local health departments are the boots on the ground—interfacing with the public and tackling public health challenges, such as COVID and the opioid crisis, head on. Yet, while in many cases the action takes place on

At the request of a local health department in Illinois, make any and all public health data related to residents of that local health department's jurisdiction available to that local health department for the purposes of preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability.

- 01 Access to Public Health Data Act passed in 2024
- 02 Data use agreement established with IDPH in 2025
- 03 Data Access in 2026.
- 04 Future data requests fulfilled with fewer barriers.



LakeCounty

Health Department and
Community Health Center



3010 Grand Avenue, Waukegan, Illinois 60085
(847) 377-8000
health.lakecountyiil.gov



HealthDepartment



@LakeCoHealth



HealthDepartment