

City of Milwaukee Board of Health

Est 2019





[251.03](#)

251.03 Local board of health; members.

- (1) A local board of health shall consist of not more than 9 members. At least 3 of these members shall be persons who are not elected officials or employees of the governing body that establishes the local health department and who have a demonstrated interest or competence in the field of public health or community health. In appointing the members who are not elected officials or employees, a good faith effort shall be made to appoint a registered nurse and a physician. Members of the local board of health shall reflect the diversity of the community. A county human services board under s. 46.23 (4) may act as a county board of health if the membership of the county human services board meets the qualifications specified in this subsection and if the county human services board is authorized to act in that capacity by the county board of supervisors. If a county human services board acts in this capacity, it shall use the word "health" in its title.
- (2) The chief executive officer of a city or a village shall appoint members of a local board of health, subject to confirmation by the governing body. In a county with a county executive, the county executive shall appoint members of the county board of health, subject to confirmation by the county board of supervisors. In a county without a county executive, members of the county board of health shall be appointed by the chairperson of the county board of supervisors, subject to confirmation by the county board of supervisors. The person who appoints members of the local board of health may designate certain members to be nonvoting members of the board.
- (3) In establishing a city-county or multiple county health department, the relevant governing bodies shall agree on how many members of the local board of health are appointed by each governing body and how many of each governing body's appointees shall be members who are not elected officials or employees of the governing body. The members shall be appointed as specified in sub. (2).
- (4) Governing bodies of counties, cities or villages that appoint local boards of health shall specify the lengths of terms of members and shall provide for staggered terms.
- (4m) Subsections (1) to (4) do not apply to a village or town that establishes a local health department under s. 251.02 (3m). In a village or town that does so, the village board or town board shall establish itself as a local board of health or appoint either wholly or partially from its own members a local board of health that consists of a suitable number of competent persons. A local board of health under this subsection shall elect a chairperson and clerk.
- (4r) Subsections (1) to (4m) do not apply to a city, village or town that establishes a multiple municipal local health department under s. 251.02 (2) (b) or (3r), or to cities that establish a city-city local health department under s. 251.02 (3r). In establishing a multiple municipal local health department as described under s. 251.02 (2) (b) or (3r), the relevant governing bodies shall agree on how many members of the local board of health are appointed by each governing body and how many of each governing body's appointees shall be members who are not elected officials or employees of the governing body. The members shall be appointed by the relevant governing bodies. A local board of health under this subsection shall elect a chairperson and clerk.
- (5) No governing body of a county, city, village or town is required to use the term "local board of health" to refer to a local board of health that is established under this section.

History: 1993 a. 27; 1999 a. 9; 2003 a. 158.

251.04 Local board of health; powers and duties.

- (1) Except as authorized in s. 251.02 (2) (b), (3m), (3r), and (3s), a city board of health shall govern a city health department, a county board of health shall govern a county health department or multiple county health department, and a city-county board of health shall govern a city-county health department. A city board of health, a county board of health, a city-county board of health, or a board of health for a local health department as authorized in s. 251.02 (2) (b), (3m), (3r), or (3s) shall assure the enforcement of state public health statutes and public health rules of the department as prescribed for a Level I local health department. A local board of health may contract or subcontract with a public or private entity to provide public health services. The contractor's staff shall meet the appropriate qualifications for positions in a Level I local health department.
- (2) A city or county board of health or a board of health for a local health department as authorized in s. 251.02 (2) (b), (3m), (3r), or (3s) shall assure that its local health department is a Level I, Level II, or Level III local health department, as specified in s. 251.05 (1).
- (3) A city or county board of health or a board of health for a local health department as authorized in s. 251.02 (2) (b), (3m), (3r), or (3s) may adopt those regulations, for its own guidance and for the governance of the local health department, that it considers necessary to protect and improve public health. The regulations may be no less stringent than, and may not conflict with, state statutes and rules of the department.
- (4) A local board of health shall report to the department as required by rule.
- (5) A local board of health shall meet at least quarterly.
- (6) A local board of health shall:
 - (a) Assess public health needs and advocate for the provision of reasonable and necessary public health services.
 - (b) Develop policy and provide leadership that fosters local involvement and commitment, that emphasizes public health needs and that advocates for equitable distribution of public health resources and complementary private activities commensurate with public health needs.
- (7) A local board of health shall assure that measures are taken to provide an environment in which individuals can be healthy.
- (8) Unless the manner of employment is otherwise provided for by ordinance, a local board of health shall employ qualified public health professionals, including a public health nurse to conduct general public health nursing programs under the direction of the local board of health and in cooperation with the department and may employ one or more sanitarians to conduct environmental programs and other public health programs not specifically designated by statute as functions of the public health.

WI State Statute 251.03 requires a local Board of Health, and lists powers duties and responsibilities of BOH

Common Council File #180919 – Ordinance

Legislation creating a Board of Health

- to help guide policies and initiatives to improve the health of Milwaukee residents
- to combat health disparities in minority communities within the city

The ordinance creates a nine-member Board to be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council.

AUTHOR

Ald. Chantia Lewis

COSPONSORS

Ald. Nikiya Todd

ACTION

Approved by the Council
February 2019

"The Board of Health functions as a partner with the Mayor, Common Council, and the Milwaukee Health Department (MHD), and works diligently to improve overall public health outcomes by ensuring a constant flow of information focused on key health issues. The Board helps the Council to allocate resources for MHD programming and other services to citizens where needed. It is my belief that the Board will help us achieve a much healthier Milwaukee for our current residents and future generations."

- 9th District Milwaukee
Chantia Lewis



Approved in Feb 2019, members were appointed and confirmed in summer 2019, and completed their first board mtg in August 2019. Have met monthly since that time.

Article 2: Authority

2.1 The Board is established pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 251.04(1) and 251.01(2)(a) and City of Milwaukee Code of Ordinances (“MCO”) Chapter 59. Under state law, the Board is the policy-making body for the City of Milwaukee Health Department and shall govern the Milwaukee Health Department.

2.2 The Board adopts these Rules and Regulations pursuant to its authority under Wis. Stat. § 251.04(3) to adopt regulations for its own guidance and for the governance of the local health department. The Board’s Rules and Regulations may be no less stringent than, and may not conflict with, state statutes and rules of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (“DHS”).

Article 3: Powers and Duties

3.1 The Board’s powers and duties are established by state law and set forth in Wis. Stat. § 251.04.

Members

Caroline Gomez-Tom, MSW,

Julia Means, RN

Ericka Sinclair, MS, MPH Board Vice Chair

LaNelle Ramey, MPA

Ruthie Burich-Weatherly, Board Chair

Alder Chantia Lewis

Wujie Zhang, PhD

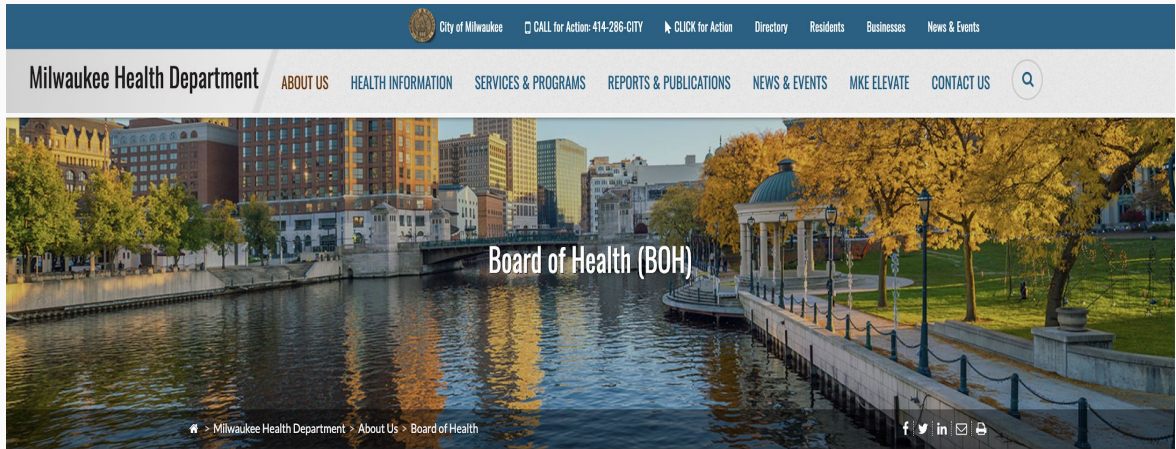
Bria Grant

Ian B. K. Martin, M.D., M.B.A., FACEP, FAAEM

BOH must consist of:

9 member, with at least one registered nurse one physician and one common council member.

Terms shall be staggered with 3 members serving 2-year terms, 3 members serving 3-year terms and 3 members serving 5-year terms.



Contact:

Ruthie Burich-Weatherly
rwathe@milwaukee.gov

Board members are each listed on
BOH webpage with contact info.

In 2019, the City of Milwaukee reestablished its Board of Health. The nine member governing board is responsible for advising the department on priorities, taking public stances on public health policy issues, and being champions for public health in Milwaukee.



Contact Us

<https://city.milwaukee.gov/Health/AboutUs/boardofhealth>