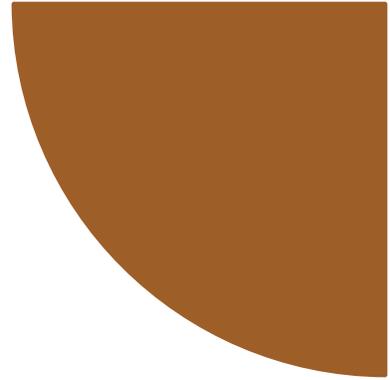
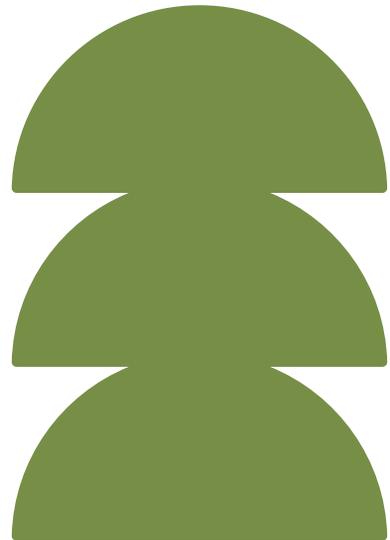

January 2026



Board Report



Prepared by: Sydney Estes
Date: February 2nd, 2026

Grant Updates



MINORITY HEALTH INITIATIVE

Under the Minority Health Initiative, staff continued work aligned with the Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHA/CHIP), monitoring progress toward established objectives. During the reporting period, the group confirmed that efforts remain on track, with continued emphasis on mental health and substance use priorities. Current activities include delivering educational programming in schools. Looking ahead, the initiative plans to expand chronic disease prevention efforts through school-based biometric screenings, which will include the collection of basic health indicators such as height, weight, and blood pressure to help identify risk factors early and support prevention and referral efforts.

OPIOID PREVENTION

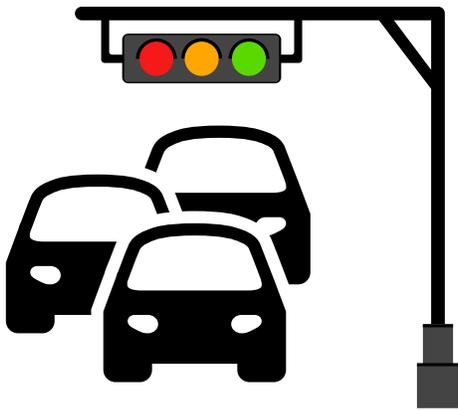
The department hosted its first school speaking event at Sargent Public Schools. Paul Weishapl shared his personal story of substance use and recovery with students in grades 7–12 and faculty, offering a meaningful and candid perspective on the challenges of substance use and the importance of prevention and recovery.



Grant Updates

PUBLIC INFORMATION & EDUCATION HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE

Staff continue to collaborate with local schools to finalize dates and times for a national speaker, Cara Filler. Three schools have confirmed participation to date: Arcadia, Sargent, and Riverside High School.



SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH COLLABORATION PROJECT

Screening of patients continues as services are provided at the health department. Monthly reports are being submitted to Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors to support continued participation and funding for the project.

ACCREDITATION

The department was invited to apply for an additional \$10,000 in funding through its current subaward. Staff are finalizing the required documentation and completing Quarter 1 reporting. In addition, staff have been coordinating the Accreditation Regional Community of Practice, with the first meeting scheduled for early February.



Grant Updates



YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

During the month, staff focused on advancing regional partnerships to support implementation of CredibleMind in alignment with the grant's goal of improving youth mental and physical wellness. Coordination efforts with local hospitals resulted in two hospitals agreeing to serve as financial contributing partners, helping offset implementation costs.

In return, partners will receive access to de-identified, real-time regional data, including usage trends, commonly searched topics, and related insights. A draft partnership agreement has been completed, with a finalized version anticipated in early February.



MATERNAL MORTALITY

LBPHD staff participated in Blue Dot Safe Spot Training through Postpartum Support International, focused on perinatal mental health. With the completion of this training, LBPHD is now a certified Blue Dot Safe Spot, strengthening its role as a trusted resource for individuals and families seeking perinatal mental health support.

Clinical

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

During the reporting period, the department monitored and responded to a range of reportable conditions.

Cases included *Campylobacter* (2), Childhood Lead Poisoning (3), a COVID-19–related death (1), chronic or resolved Hepatitis C (1), Norovirus (3), Rhinovirus (1), Salmonellosis (2), and Shigellosis (1).

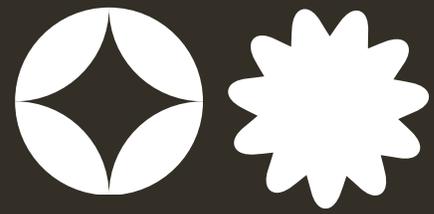
Surveillance activities focused on timely tracking, reporting, and follow-up to support community health and safety.

LB SMILES

In January, the LB Smiles program provided preventive oral health services across six schools, completing 515 oral screenings and applying 140 fluoride varnishes. A total of 72 referrals were made for additional care, while 146 students opted out of the program.



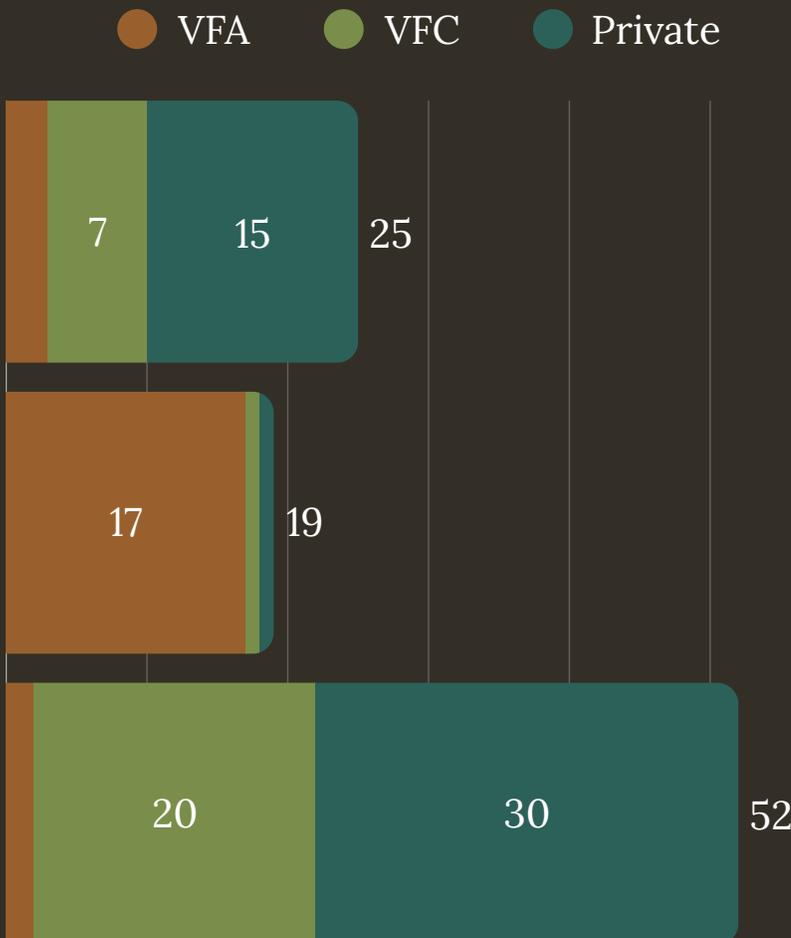
Clinical



VACCINE DATA FROM JANUARY

During this reporting period, the clinical team maintained a strong immunization presence across the district through a combination of in-office services and community-based clinics. Staff attended bi-monthly immunization clinics in Broken Bow on January 6 and Ord on January 8, in addition to supporting routine in-house vaccination appointments.

A total of 55 vaccination appointments were completed, including 47 in-office appointments and 8 appointments at outreach clinics. Vaccines administered spanned all payer categories.



Under the Vaccines for Adults (VFA) program, 22 doses were given, including 3 influenza, 17 COVID-19, and 2 routine vaccines. Through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, 28 doses were administered, consisting of 7 influenza, 1 COVID-19, and 20 routine vaccines. An additional 46 privately funded vaccines were provided, including 15 influenza, 1 COVID-19, and 30 routine immunizations.

Clinical



WRAPPING UP

In addition to direct service delivery, staff are actively reviewing and updating immunization orders to align with recent vaccine recommendation changes, ensuring continued compliance with best practices and current guidance.

To support program quality and coordination, a clinical meeting was hosted to review current updates, upcoming initiatives, and workflow adjustments. The meeting also created space for open discussion around challenges, ideas, and opportunities to strengthen collaboration and improve overall service delivery across the clinical team.

The clinical team is growing with interviews and new employees joining the team, as February is beginning.



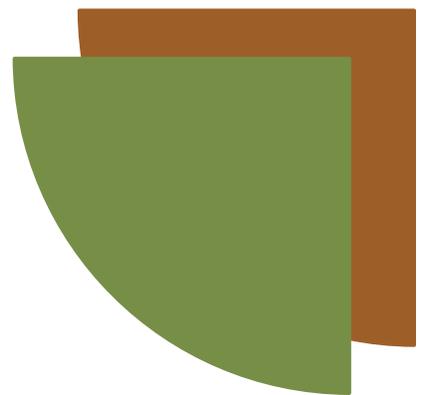
Administrative

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

LBPHD engaged with the American Heart Association to explore potential partnership opportunities. Discussions focused on collaborative initiatives and possible funding support in areas such as food access, tobacco cessation, Project ADAM, and CPR-related programming. In addition, plans are underway to collaborate with the department's Dental Hygienist on the Healthy Smiles, Healthy Heart American Red Cross campaign, further connecting oral health education with broader cardiovascular health efforts.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT

The 2026 legislative session began on January 7, 2026. In support of local public health priorities and Rural Health Transformation funding efforts, Senator Hardin introduced LB912, legislation focused on training Community Health Workers (CHWs). A public hearing for LB912 was held on January 30, 2026. The bill aims to establish CHWs as a reimbursable provider type under Nebraska Medicaid, supporting long-term sustainability for services that connect individuals and families to essential resources.



Administrative

WIC PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT



In late 2025, DHHS approached LBPHD to assess interest in becoming a Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provider. Given the strong alignment between WIC and LBPHD's public health mission, discussions continued regarding a potential transition of WIC services for the nine-county area. In January, LBPHD was formally notified that it could begin a WIC program. Following discussions with the Board's Executive Committee, LBPHD began advertising for key positions to support program development. The proposed transition date for LBPHD to become the WIC provider is July 1, 2026. Amanda and Stephanie have participated in trainings focused on WIC budget development and work plan preparation.

RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION FUNDS

LBPHD continues to work closely with DHHS to determine next steps related to the Rural Health Transformation funds that will be available over the next five years. Planned efforts include hiring Community Health Workers and expanding dental services to enhance access to care across the district.



Administrative

ACCREDITATION

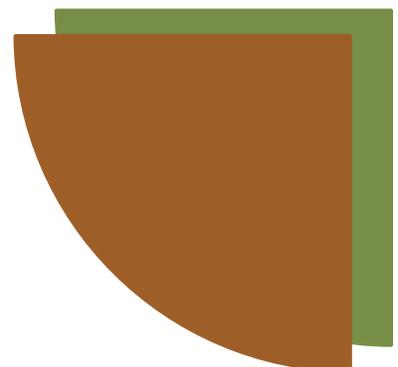
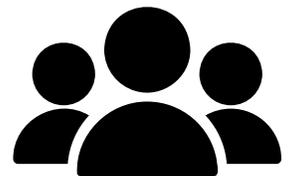


LBPHD was assigned an Accreditation Specialist, Meredith, who will serve as the primary point of contact throughout the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) process. We were informed that LBPHD is the next health department scheduled for document review, a process that may take up to 90 days. Upon completion of the review, PHAB will provide a report identifying any documents requiring reopening and revision. LBPHD will then have 45 days to address recommendations and resubmit the revised materials.

STAFFING UPDATES

Billie Pelster was hired as a CPR Instructor and Community Health Worker, supporting grant-funded initiatives with a focus on cardiac health and cancer prevention. Her start date is February 9.

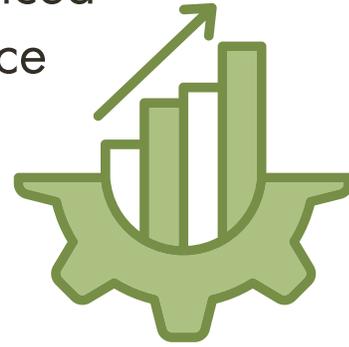
Darren Balderson, Emergency Response Coordinator, began his role on January 20, 2026. **Karlee Tarter** will begin her role as Patient Access Clerk on February 3, 2026, supporting clinic operations and improving patient access and scheduling efficiency.



Administrative

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

The Performance Management Committee met this month to review Quarter 4 staff reporting. While most goals were met, a small number were not fully achieved and follow-up discussions were held with the respective staff members. The committee also advanced implementation of a new Performance Management and Quality Improvement (PM/QI) tracker for 2026.



The tracker is scheduled to be rolled out to all staff in February using the current Bamboo platform.

GRANTS & FINANCIAL REPORTING

LBPHD had 10 grants due for quarterly reporting in January. Staff collaborated to compile and submit required financial reports, invoices, and supporting documentation. In addition, work is underway with Stephanie to update income classification categories to align with revised grant reporting requirements.



Healthy Families

In January, staff participated in a statewide assessment with DHHS focused on perinatal and obstetric services in the region. This discussion is intended to help inform strategic direction for the use of Rural Health Transformation funds to improve access to care.

The Healthy Families program continued to grow, with the caseload increasing to **31 families**. Program capacity was strengthened with the addition of a new Family Support Specialist, who has completed required training and begun working directly with families. Staff continued to provide concrete supports and food assistance to help address immediate needs, while maintaining a focus on relationship-building with partners, including DHHS and Sixpence, to support both current service delivery and future collaboration.

Ongoing staff development remained a priority, with participation in training to strengthen family engagement and service effectiveness. Program leadership also coordinated with the state fiscal team to review updates and ensure continued alignment with program and funding requirements.



Social Media Engagement

52,532

Views
Jan 1 - 31

58 M 31 SEC

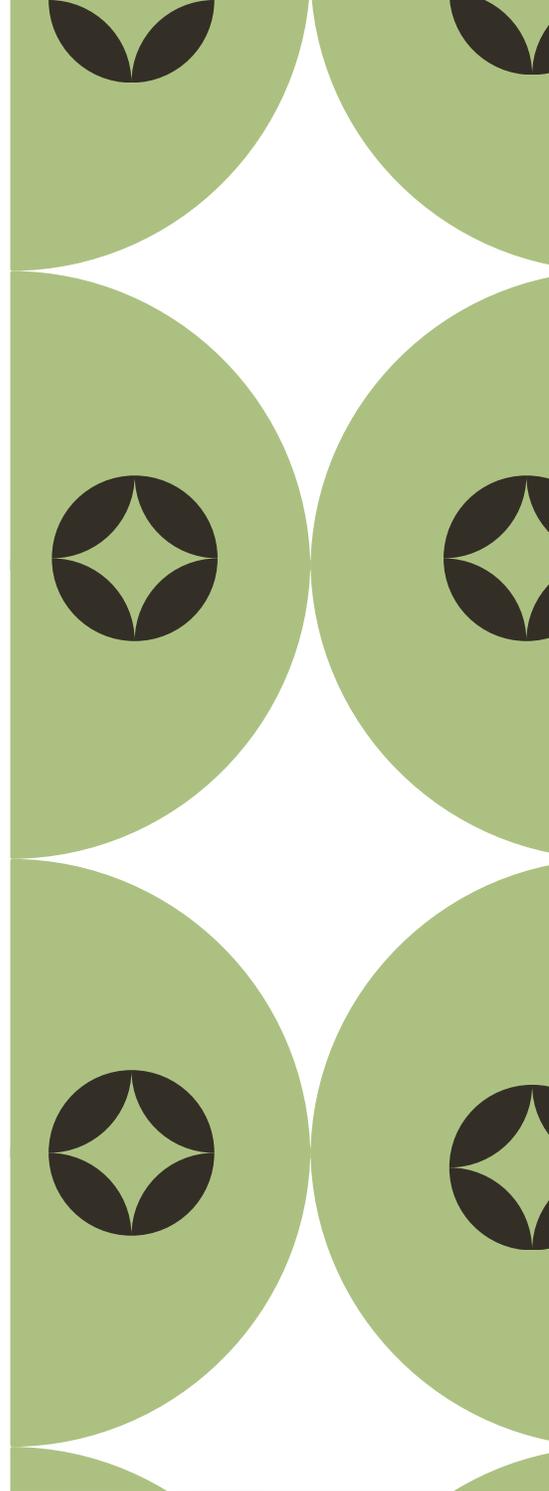
Minutes
Watched

Facebook
Reach goal

6.9K/8.6K

Instagram
Reach goal

172/340





Thank You,
for taking the
time to read our
monthly report!

**LBPHD is proud of what
we do for our communities
across our district.**



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