

**August 30, 2023**  
**For Immediate Release**

**MEDIA REQUESTS**  
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**Results from Community Listening Sessions Being Released**  
*Third-party expert to present report Sept. 5*

Comments from nine Community Listening Sessions are being finalized into a report which will be presented to the Health Department of Northwest Michigan (HDNW) Board of Health at the 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 5 monthly meeting at the Shirley Roloff Center in Charlevoix. Dr. Kari Krantz, a third-party expert who designed and hosted the sessions, has documented the results and will make the presentation.

In-person and virtual gatherings were held in May and June for residents of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties to share their experiences and perceptions of HDNW. At each session, Krantz, an independent professional facilitator, listened and documented the comments shared by residents. The presentation will include a review of the report, which will be posted on the HDNW website later that day.

“The health department exists to serve residents living throughout our four counties,” says HDNW Health Officer Dan Thorell. “We contracted with a third-party expert to provide a professional and safe atmosphere for community members to talk through their experiences during the pandemic, how those experiences impacted their perception of the health department, and what they would like to see moving forward. The report being presented to the board and provided to us will help us better gauge how to connect with residents moving forward.”

“This is a huge initiative that has been managed with public transparency and the best of intentions,” says Holly Campbell, HDNW Deputy Health Officer. “We are looking forward to studying the collective outcome, and we thank each community member who took time out of their busy lives to be heard. We truly are listening.”

The report will become an important part of HDNW’s planning process. The Sept. 5 board meeting can be attended in-person or watched through a Zoom link that will be posted at [nwhealth.org](http://nwhealth.org) prior to the meeting.

Other items being considered by the Board of Health at that meeting include an introduction to the 2023-2024 health department budget and a draft grant application policy reviewed and approved by the Program & Evaluation Committee Aug. 29.