

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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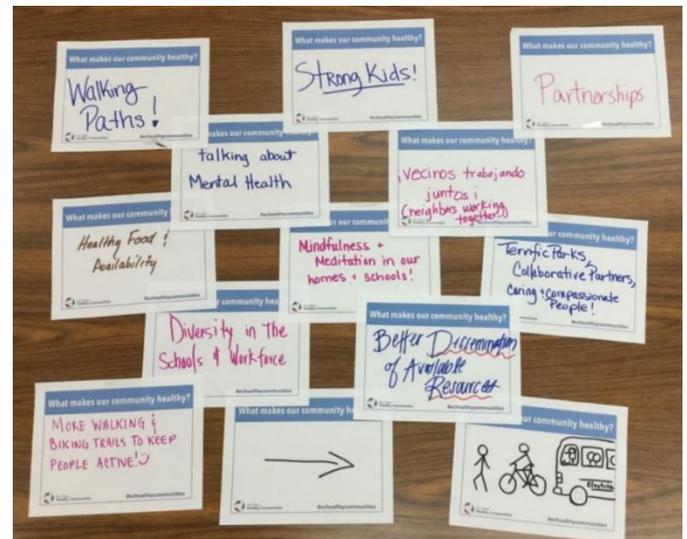
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## Health Department celebrates National Public Health Week

**Eau Claire, WI, April 1, 2018-** Each year during the first week of April we celebrate National Public Health Week. This year's theme is "Creating the Healthiest Nation: For science. For action. For health". This week we recognize the important role of public health and prevention.

To create the healthiest nation, we know it isn't enough to ask people to make healthy choices. It's clear: how well and long people live is directly connected to the places we live, learn, work, and play. Challenges like poverty, education level, and housing have a large impact on health.

What we can do is look at smart policies and changes that make health a priority. For example, research shows that well-maintained sidewalks can encourage physical activity. A local example is how the Eau Claire School Board recently passed a policy around e-cigarettes in schools. This policy will help raise parent, teacher and student awareness of the dangers of e-cigarettes. The goal is that less students have access to and choose not to use e-cigarettes.



We also know we cannot do it alone! We collaborate with many coalitions and community partners to address the complex health issues affecting our community. "These critical, diverse, cross-sector partnerships can only lead us closer to becoming a healthier Eau Claire," says Lieske Giese, Director/Health Officer.

To learn more about what public health professionals do in the community and the services they provide, visit [www.ehealthdepartment.org](http://www.ehealthdepartment.org).

To get involved with local coalitions that are working to create a healthier Eau Claire, visit: [Eau Claire Healthy Communities](#) or the [Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention](#).

- Everyone is also invited to attend Eau Claire Healthy Communities Annual Celebration on Thursday, April 25th from 5:15-7:30pm! Come learn about the progress made towards healthier lives for residents. The event will also feature keynote speaker Carl J. Alves, a leading expert on substance abuse prevention. He will share how we can build community capacity to address substance abuse. Register online at: [bit.ly/EHCcelebration2019](http://bit.ly/EHCcelebration2019).