

**2014 National Public Health Week Proclamation**

**Eau Claire City- County Health Department**

**Whereas** the week of April 7–13, 2014, is National Public Health Week, and the theme is “Public Health: Start Here”;

**Whereas** since 1995, the American Public Health Association, through its sponsorship of National Public Health Week, has educated the public, policymakers and public health professionals about issues important to improving the public’s health;

**Whereas** heart disease and cancer, preventable diseases, were the leading causes of death in Eau Claire County. Another striking fact is that 75 percent of our health care dollars are spent treating such diseases. However, only 3 percent of our health care dollars go toward prevention;

**Whereas** more than half of all cancer deaths could be prevented by making healthy choices like not smoking, staying at a healthy weight, eating right, keeping active, and getting recommended screening tests;

**Whereas** nearly one-third of all students in the United States do not graduate from high school on time. Students who don’t graduate face lifelong health risks and high medical costs, and are more likely to engage in risky health behaviors. They are less likely to be employed and insured, and earn less—all of which continues the cycle of poverty and disparities;

**Whereas** foodborne contaminants cause an average of 5,000 deaths, 325,000 hospitalizations, 76 million illnesses and costs billions of dollars annually. The five most common foodborne pathogens cost the U.S. economy more than \$44 billion each year in medical costs and lost productivity;

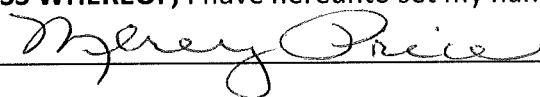
**Whereas** Eau Claire county residents have prioritized Chronic Disease Prevention, High-Risk Alcohol Use and Mental Health, as health areas to focus collaborative prevention efforts around;

**Whereas** strong public health systems are critical for sustaining and improving community health:

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mery Price, Chair of the Eau Claire City-County Board of Health, do hereby proclaim the week of April 7-13, 2014, as National Public Health Week 2014 and call upon the people of Eau Claire City/County Communities to observe this month by helping our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers and leaders better understand the importance of public health to a successful health system in light of this year’s theme, “Public Health: Start here.”**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014.

Signature



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