



PRESS RELEASE
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Wisth and Preder Receive Statewide Recognition
*Award for Excellence in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention goes to
County's Health Educators*

[Washington Ozaukee Public Health Department's](#) Health Educators received the 2018 Wisconsin Public Health Association's Award for Excellence in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. Amanda Wisth and Julie Preder have spent the past two years revitalizing the community health coalitions in Washington and Ozaukee County, with a specific focus on mental health.

The result of these efforts – the Cultivate model and a mental health resource guide for professionals in both counties. The Cultivate model is intended to create mental health friendly communities. It is made up of four phases, each phase has 10 - 12 evidence-based steps for communities to complete. Steps include CIT training for law enforcement, administration of the YRBS in school districts and community conversations around mental health.

“Amanda and Julie are the future of public health in Wisconsin,” said Health Officer Kirsten Johnson. “Their quest for innovation through evidence and desire to improve community health through prevention is unmatched. We are leading the mental health discussions in Washington and Ozaukee County.”

Amanda Wisth received her Master's Degree in Public Health from the University of Minnesota and is a Certified Health Education Specialist. She has spent her career working with individuals and communities on a variety of public health issues including tobacco prevention, chronic disease, and alcohol and other drug prevention. Amanda joined the Washington Ozaukee Public Health Department in 2015. She coordinates the county-wide health coalition, Well Washington County and leads the Community Health Improvement Plan process in Washington County.

“I am lucky to work at a health department that continues to be a leader in public health and values my role as a health educator,” said Wisth. “I am honored to receive this award and to be recognized for my dedication to change the culture of health in Washington and Ozaukee Counties.”

Julie Preder is a graduate from City University of New York City, Hunter College with a degree in Community Health Education. Julie is a Certified Bereavement Counselor and Field Traumatologist. She has spent her career working with clients and communities on a variety of public health issues including maternal and child health, chronic disease, childhood poverty and military suicide; focusing on trauma and loss. Julie joined the Washington Ozaukee Public Health Department as a Public Health Educator in 2016. She chairs the Mental Health Coalitions and coordinates the Child Death Review Team for Washington and Ozaukee County.

“I am honored to receive this designation in public health,” said Preder. “Mental health needs community voices to shift the culture of understanding and stigma. I look forward to continuing the conversation and work around improving our community culture.”



(Preder, Wisth and Johnson)

Washington County acknowledges the importance of ensuring access to basic physical, behavioral and socio-economic needs including access to services that provide for the community's health and physical well-being, encompassing all ages, ability and circumstances.