

The Changing Face of Public Health

Last year, just prior to his retiring as Health Commissioner, Dave Rosebrock wrote about the certainty of change. As the new Health Commissioner, I have to agree. Each year seems to bring new opportunities and challenges to public health.

Many conversations are taking place on many levels about the role of public health and how best to provide public health services for local communities. Health care changes surround us at the state level and national level, with more questions sometimes than there seems to be answers.

The past year has brought numerous changes to the Allen County Health Department in particular that may seem to change the look of public health. The remodeling of our newly purchased building was completed in 2012. While the exterior does not look much different, the changes inside provide a safer, more efficient workspace. We adopted a new logo in 2012, seen at the top of this newsletter. We've got more new faces among the staff than we have had for some time due to the retirement of five employees in 2012, as well as a new Board of Health member.

As your local public health department, we have been evolving over the past decade, changing the services we provide as the health needs of the community change. Despite these visible changes, our commitment to the health and well-being of our community has not changed. Our mission is to protect and improve the health of all Allen County citizens by preventing disease and promoting good health and access to quality health care.

As we continue to evolve, you can count on us to provide these essential public health services to the citizens of Lima, Delphos and all of Allen County:

1. Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems.
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.
4. Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems.
5. Develop policies and plans that

support individual and community health efforts.

6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.

7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.

8. Assure competent public and personal health care workforce.

9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.

10. Research new insights and solutions.

The staff and I are committed to our mission and look forward to working with you to make Allen County a safe and healthy place to live, work and play.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathleen Luhn, MS, MCHES
Health Commissioner

Rosebrock Public Health Building Dedicated



David Rosebrock cuts the ribbon at the dedication ceremony.

In 2011, the Board of Health was able to purchase the building that the health department has called home since 1993. Following the purchase of the building, improvements were made to update the building and make it more energy efficient. The installation of a new elevator makes it easier for our residents to be able to access our services. Additional

measures were taken to increase the security of our building.

On May 11, 2012, the building was dedicated to retired Health Commissioner David Rosebrock, who had served Allen County for 39 years, from 1973 to 2012. The building dedication was a fitting tribute to the untiring service he provided to the residents of Allen County.



DIVISION UPDATES

Nursing Division:

While 2011 brought dramatic funding cuts, 2012 was a year of internal realignment. Streamlining everything that we do has become the main focus. While the focus for Public Health in the future is leaning to population based services (addressing populations and groups more than individuals), there is still a need to offer direct services in some areas. We continue to have clinics for reproductive health and immunizations on a regular basis. 2012 efforts have increased our billing and revenues slightly, while decreasing our costs. These successful efforts permit us to continue with our direct services for 2013. We are becoming increasingly involved in community efforts, such as infant mortality and obesity prevention.

WIC Program:

A new direction for our nutrition education began in 2012. First lady Michele Obama released “MyPlate,” which helped the Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) focus on teaching and motivating families to eat healthy throughout their lives. The “MyPlate” is a visual representation which shows families how to prepare a plate - making half of their plate fruits and vegetables and the other half lean proteins, whole grains and low fat or fat free dairy. In an effort to teach the WIC children this concept, the children created their own “Healthy MyPlates.” Over 11,046 nutrition education sessions were held for our clients and statistics are showing that our program is benefitting the health of the children we serve. Recent reports indicate that nationwide, the childhood obesity rate in WIC children is declining. WIC provides nutrition education and breastfeeding support and education, healthier diets for participants through supplemental foods, and referrals throughout the community.

Environmental Division:

The Environmental Division conducted a total of 7,757 field inspections during 2012. The types and numbers of inspections are listed on page 3 of this report. Bed bugs continue to be an issue across the United States. 36 bed bug infestations were reported in Allen County during 2012. Although they do not transmit disease, our staff has provided education about these pests to interested community groups. Additional information has been included on our website. 2012 was a year in which two employees retired taking many years of experience with them. Environmental Administrative Coordinator Ms. Mattie Smith with 35 years of service and Sanitarian II Mr. Greg Elwood with 20 years of service both retired at the end of 2012. They take with them a lot of experience and will be missed. The existing division staff is committed to providing the citizens of Allen County with quality work to protect the public’s health.

Vital Statistics:

The Vital Statistics office files records for births and deaths that occur in Lima, Delphos, and all of Allen County. Our files date back to December 1908, when the filing system for the state began. Ohio law only allows for the issuance of certified copies of birth and death records. Our office can now issue certified birth certificates for all births occurring in the State of Ohio. Any births outside of Ohio must be requested directly from that state. We do not accept personal checks, but require cash, a money order, or cashier’s check. We also offer the use of a debit/credit card machine with an additional usage fee applied to the cardholder when placing an order in the office. Most credit/debit cards are accepted, however VISA credit cards cannot be used at this time. When possible, Vital Statistics staff issues copies while customers wait—approximately 10 minutes. On-line ordering is available via a link on our website: www.allencountyhealthdepartment.org.

Health Education Division:

The Health Education Division continues to provide a variety of services. The Creating Healthy Communities program promotes policy and environmental changes to reduce the incidence of chronic diseases. We specifically address risk factors including sedentary lifestyles, poor nutrition, and tobacco use. The West Central Ohio Health Ministries Program continues to provide educational programs and resources that promote healthy people and healthy congregations. In 2012, the program began to address the needs of spiritual and mental health. New to the division in 2012 was the addition of the Disease Intervention Specialist program. This program provides follow-up to specific disease diagnoses in a 16 county area. Confidential HIV testing continues to be provided as well.

Public Health Preparedness/Emergency Response:

The Public Health Preparedness Division had a productive year. We continued rolling out our Community Based Points of Distribution plan to the County’s political subdivisions. When completed, the plan will give the Health Department and the County a practical plan for providing medication during an emergency. The Health Department also continued to recruit members for the Medical Reserve Corp (MRC). The MRC is a great way to volunteer your time and expertise during a disaster. For more information please log on to Ohioresponds.gov.

PROGRAM STATISTICS FOR 2012

Nursing Division

Breast and Cervical Cancer Program

Caseload (BCCP) - Serving Allen and 6 surrounding counties

•Pap tests	448
•Screening and diagnostic mammograms, breast ultrasounds	578
•Breast cancer diagnosed	7
•Cervical dysplasia diagnosed	19
•Cervical cancer diagnosed	2

Komen for the Cure® Caseload

• Mammograms	147
• Breast cancer diagnosed	2

Total Immunizations Given 10,044

•Travel Vaccines	1,423
•Flu Shots (adults and children) - seasonal	600
•Childhood Immunizations	8,021

Family Planning Clinic Visits 3,665

•New patients to Family Planning	789
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TB Skin Tests Given 1,166

Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps Caseload - Unduplicated 653

Communicable Diseases Reported 1,096

Caring for Two –African American Infant Mortality Prevention Home Visits 1,317

Vital Statistics

Births/Birth Certificates

•Number of county resident births filed	1,222
•Number of certified copies issued	6,592

Deaths/Death Certificates

•Number of county resident deaths filed	1,012
•Number of certified copies issued	5,815

Environmental Division

Private Water System Inspections	256
Private Sewage System Inspections	1,537
Recreational Parks and Camps Inspections	40
Manufactured Home Park Inspections	209
Public Swimming Pool and Spa Inspections	242
Open Bathing Area Inspections	7
Solid and Infectious Waste Inspections	88
Demolition Waste and Clean Hard Fill Inspections	295
School Inspections	117
Plumbing System Inspections	1,714
Food Service Operation Inspections	1,574
Retail Food Establishment Inspections	407
Food Vending Inspections	151
Animal Bite Investigations	474
Environmental Complaint Inspections	466
Smoke-Free Workplace Complaint Investigations	23
Tattoo and Body Piercing Service Inspections	14

Health Education Division

HIV Tests performed 750

•Positive Tests	8
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WIC Monthly Caseload 3,613

•Women	785
•Infants	795
•Children	2,033

2012 FINANCIAL REPORT

BALANCE January 1, 2012 \$634,488.00

2012 RECEIPTS

	Amount	Percentage
Townships, Villages, and Cities	686,033.00	18.6%
County Commissioners	36,102.00	1.0%
Grants	1,676,659.00	45.6%
Permit and Service Fees	1,123,541.00	30.5%
Medicaid/Insurance Reimbursement	137,304.00	3.7%
State Subsidy	20,508.00	0.6%
TOTAL	3,680,147.00	100.0%
BALANCE AND RECEIPTS	4,314,635.00	

2012 EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits	2,652,598.00	72.5%
Clinic Supplies	84,607.00	2.3%
Other Supplies	123,760.00	3.4%
Lab Expenses	8,521.00	0.2%
Building/Occupancy Costs	221,367.00	6.0%
Equipment/Equipment Repair/Service Contracts	79,599.00	2.2%
Training/Continuing Education	7,545.00	0.2%
Transportation	28,315.00	0.8%
Contractual Services	73,697.00	2.0%
Payments to State*	269,992.00	7.4%
Other (Insurance, audits, etc.)	108,199.00	3.0%
TOTAL	3,658,200.00	100.0%
Ending BALANCE December 31, 2012	\$656,435.00	

* Each year our budget is inflated by fees that we are required to collect and send to the state of Ohio. Most of these fees go to the Ohio Department of Health with a smaller share going to Ohio Children's Trust Fund, Ohio Family Crisis Centers, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. A total of \$269,992.00 was collected and sent on to Columbus in 2012.

CONGRATULATIONS ACTIVATE ALLEN COUNTY

Allen County was the only community in Ohio to receive funds for the Small Community Transformation Grant (SCTG) 2012 cycle. This \$1.2 million grant from CDC will be used to promote healthy eating, increased physical activity, decreased tobacco use and high-impact quality clinical preventive services. The Allen County Health Department is proud to be a member of this county-wide partnership.



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an equal opportunity employer and
provider of services.*

ALLEN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

As established in Ohio law, the seven member Board of Health is our policy-making body with authority to adopt regulations and establish programs to promote public health within the district. Board members during 2012 included Dr. Charles Thompson, President; Don Schweingruber, Vice President; Dr. Wilfred Ellis; Janis Carse, Eric Kerner and Marva Cowan. Due to changes in state law that impacts how manufactured home parks are licensed, 11-year Board member Jon Neuman was no longer eligible to represent the District Licensing Council on the Board of Health. In November, Mr. Neuman was recognized for his years of service. The District Licensing Council appointed Scott Shutt to complete Mr. Neuman's term.

Six of the seven Board members are appointed by the mayors, township trustees, and county commissioners of Allen County. The District Licensing Council appoints the seventh member. The Board meets at 8:00 a.m. on the second Friday of each month, and meetings are open to the public.

