



Health Commissioner / Medical Director Report Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County

August 5, 2015

This report provides a monthly update for the Board of Health, staff and the community. Our key activities are listed for the seven pillars that support our vision for improving the health of our community.

- Prevent the spread of disease
 - Protect against health threats
 - Promote healthy behaviors
 - Reach out to vulnerable populations
 - Mobilize community action through partnerships
 - Prepare for and respond to public health emergencies
 - Serve as a public health information resource
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Special items

Step Up To Success!

Our Diversity and Inclusion Selection Team is proud to announce the selection of the following employees as Diversity and Inclusion Champions for Public Health:

Mark McCurtis	Administration
Holly Williams	Administration
Teresa C. Bates	Disease Prevention
Laura Hale	Disease Prevention
Jenny Riley	Environmental Health
Odilia Ndefru Tumanjong	Environmental Health
Brenda Alexander	Office of the Health Commissioner
J. Gary Gonnella	Office of the Health Commissioner

Our Champions will support our initiatives throughout the organization, be a part of the on-boarding process so that new employees feel welcome and understand the values of our initiatives and serve as a voice for improving inclusion at Public Health. The Champions will now begin their training with our contractor, Step Up to Success!.

At Public Health, diversity means we are a workforce made up of individuals whose differences include but are not limited to values, lifestyles, backgrounds, cultures and experiences. Inclusion means all individuals are treated fairly and respectfully, have equal access to opportunities and resources, and are able to fully participate and contribute to our success.

Human Services Levy Council Request for Information

The 2015 Human Services Levy (HSL) Council Request for Information has been received from the Montgomery County Human Services Planning and Development Department. Montgomery County has two, eight-year human services levies. Levy A, approved by voters in November 2014, runs from 2015-2022. Levy B, successfully passed in November 2010 expires in 2019.

With each new levy cycle, a full review of the agencies receiving funding is conducted by the HSL Council. The Council assigns an independent Community Review Team to each levy agency to review current programs and services, financial accomplishments and future needs. Our initial meeting with our Community Review Team members occurred on July 29. We are now compiling information on our program outcomes, fiscal accomplishments and needs through 2019. Our agency response is due on August 7.

After evaluation and meetings with our Community Review Team, Public Health will be provided with a funding allocation from the HSL Council. We expect this process to be complete in late September. Our next CRT meeting is scheduled for August 20.

Prevent the spread of diseases

Local Investigations

There has been a dramatic increase in cases of Legionella during the summer. For the year (through July 26), there have been 40 cases of Legionella. There were 32 cases in 2014, which was the highest total in the past 10 years. As of the last week of June, there were 10 patients admitted with Legionella pneumonia. Through July 26, there have been a total of 22 patients admitted. All except one of the cases were pneumonia. Ages have ranged from 4 years to 91 years old with an average of 57.9 years; there were 24 males and 8 females. There have been no deaths reported. There have not been any geographic clustering of cases, and questionnaires have not identified any common factors. Cases of Legionella are increased around the state of Ohio. There is some published data to suggest that there may be an increase in cases in response to increased rainfall.

The bacterium, *Legionella*, which causes this disease, is found naturally in the environment, usually in water. It is spread when people breathe in a mist or droplets of water in the air containing the bacteria, such as droplets sprayed from a hot tub that has not been properly cleaned and disinfected. People may be exposed to the droplets in their homes, workplaces, hospitals or public places. It is not spread person-to-person.

There have been a total of 7 cases of Campylobacter reported during July. Ages have ranged from 9 months to 90 years old. All individuals have been treated and have recovered. There were no epidemiologic links between the cases.

Protect against health threats

General Services Staff Training

The Ohio Association for Food Protection (OAFP) is a professional organization comprised of academia, regulatory and industry officials whose charge is to discuss relevant topics in the field of food safety. Public Health Sanitarians helped to organize and attended OAFP's summer meeting,

which was held in Huber Heights. Topics of interest included: Norovirus in fresh produce and non-thermal technologies to inactivate it, Farmer’s Markets and Home Bakeries, and Meat Inspection of Poultry Plants. Sanitarian Matthew Tyler presented his research “*Increasing Knowledge with Food Safety Training at PHDMC.*” The meeting finished with a tour of Bowman and Landes Turkey Farm in New Carlisle, in which attendees toured the fresh turkey processing plant’s harvesting, processing, cooking and packaging areas.

Staff Oversee Dayton Celtic Festival

The 14th Annual United Irish of Dayton Celtic Festival, Dayton’s largest downtown festival, was held from July 24-26. Environmental Health inspectors were busy checking temporary and mobile food service facilities to ensure food safety. They verified that:

- operators had proper hand and dish washing facilities
- cold foods were 41 °F or below
- hot foods were 135 °F or above
- food and food contact surfaces were stored off the ground.

There were a wide range of food vendors selling sausage, mashed potatoes, fish and chips and ice cream.

Mobilize community action through partnerships

Continuation of the FCFC and United Way Strategic Planning Process

Montgomery County’s Family and Children First Council’s (FCFC) and United Way of the Greater Dayton Area’s joint strategic planning is nearing the end of the priority setting process. Work Groups for each of the focus areas: income & stability, education & life skills, and health & safety, have had multiple meetings to discuss the priority issues proposed by a team of researchers. Priority selection was based on data from the Community Needs Assessment, key themes identified from the panel discussions, and other agency assessments. At the workgroup meetings, a short presentation was given for each priority, followed by group discussions.

The following is a list of the final priorities presented to the Work Groups:

Income & Stability	Education & Life Skills	Health & Safety
• Adults Lack Stable Employment	• Kindergarten Readiness	• Birth Outcomes
• Concentrated Poverty	• Elementary Math and Reading Proficiency	• Chronic Diseases
• Neighborhood Stability & Affordable Housing	• Graduation from High School	• Access to Food
• Homelessness	• Career Ready Credentials & Post-Secondary Credentials	• Alcohol & Substance Use
• Access to Food	• Adults Lack Stable Employment	• Depression & Anxiety
		• Gun & Domestic Violence
		• Neurodevelopmental Disorders

In order to arrive at a final list of priorities for Montgomery County, members will be asked to complete a survey where they will be asked to score each priority issue. Montgomery County Commissioners and the other focus area co-chairs will use the results of the surveys to assist in selecting the final priorities.

The next step in the joint strategic planning process will be to develop strategies based on the priorities.

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Public Health has contracted with the Center for Public Health Practice in Ohio State University's (OSU) College of Public Health to provide guidance in the development of a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for Montgomery County. The purpose of our CHIP is to describe how Public Health and our local public health system partners will work together to improve the health of the population we serve.

Our collaborative CHIP process will include:

- a diverse group of stakeholders
- reviewing health assessment data
- identifying issues and themes
- identifying community assets and resources
- determining a process to select priority health issues
- establishing measurable outcomes / indicators
- identifying policy changes needed to achieve outcomes
- identifying organizations that have accepted responsibility
- reviewing state and national priorities
- tracking and reporting progress

In July, a Steering Committee was convened. This committee identified a diverse list of stakeholders who should be involved in the process. Representatives from these organizations will meet in an initial stakeholder meeting to be convened August 17. In subsequent meetings, the stakeholders will review the Community Health Assessment, the Montgomery County Needs Assessment, as well as the health and safety priorities identified in the joint Family and Children First Council's (FCFC) and United Way of the Greater Dayton Area's joint strategic planning process. Our CHIP process will align closely with the County's strategic planning process and the selection of health priorities. Once the priorities are established, Work Groups will begin identifying objectives and strategies to address the priorities.

Prepare for and respond to PH emergencies

Ebola Virus Disease

The Ebola outbreak in West Africa continues at decreased levels of activity. The World Health Organization reports that there have been a cumulative total of 27,872 cases (suspect and confirmed) of Ebola virus disease with 11,295 deaths in the countries with widespread transmission, as of June 17, 2015. The countries with widespread transmission include:

- Guinea – 3,785 cases (111 new cases in past month)
- Sierra Leone – 13,379 cases (367 new cases in past month).

In Liberia, there were 10,666 cases through March 20; WHO had declared the end to the Ebola outbreak in Liberia on May 9, 2015. On June 29, there was a laboratory-confirmed case reported from Liberia; there have been 6 new cases reported in Liberia since June 28.

Nigeria (20 cases), Mali (8 cases), the United States (4 cases), Senegal (1 case), United Kingdom (1 case), Italy (1 case) and Spain (1 case) have been declared Ebola-free.

Serve as a public health information resource

2014 Annual Report Theme is “Like Public Health”

Public Health’s Public Information department is preparing to release the 2014 Annual Report to the community. The theme of this year’s report is “Like Public Health”. The idea ties in with the agency’s push to expand and integrate social media into all of its marketing efforts. The report features photos and quotes from Montgomery County residents along with more well-known personalities such as Dayton Mayor, Nan Whaley; Channel 2 anchorman, Mark Allan; and Board of Health President, Ken Spires, all stating why they “Like Public Health.”

In addition to highlighting Public Health’s many accomplishments, the report includes articles about the problems of unintentional drug overdose deaths and infant mortality in our community. These issues underscore the importance of increasing community awareness and working with community partners across the county to develop and implement strategies to improve outcomes.

The report also highlights the Human Services Levy and how Public Health depends on funds from the levy to carry out its mission and provide valuable programs and services to the community.

The annual report is Public Health’s signature marketing piece and will be distributed through a mass mailing to elected officials, community leaders and partners, and faith-based organizations. It will also be available at all Dayton-Metro Public Library branch locations throughout Montgomery County and at all Public Health office locations. The report will also be distributed through local city, township and village offices and will be handed out at health fairs and other events attended by Public Health. In addition, the report will be available for download on our website: www.phdmc.org and will also be promoted on Facebook and Twitter.

Americans Are Eating Less

After rising for decades, calorie consumption has declined in recent years as public attitudes have shifted. Calories consumed daily by the typical American adult, which peaked around 2003, are in the midst of their first sustained decline since federal statistics began to track the subject, more than 40 years ago. The number of calories that the average American child takes in daily has fallen even more. The declines cut across most major demographic groups including higher- and lower-income families, and blacks and whites. In the most striking shift, the amount of full-calorie soda drunk by the average American has dropped 25 percent since the late 1990s. The reversal appears to stem from people’s growing realization that they were harming their health by eating and drinking too much. The awareness began to build in the late 1990s, thanks to a burst of scientific research about the costs of obesity, and to public health campaigns in recent years.

Americans are still eating far too few fruits and vegetables and far too much junk food, even if they are eating somewhat less of it. Three large sources of data about diet all point in the same direction.

Detailed daily food diaries tracked by government researchers, data from food bar codes and estimates of food production all show reductions in the calories consumed by the average American since the early 2000s. The eating changes have been the most substantial in households with children. There is no single moment when American attitudes toward eating changed, but 2001, the surgeon general, Dr. David Satcher, issued a report “Call to Action to Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity” modeled on the famous 1964 surgeon general report on tobacco. The 2001 report summarized the increasing evidence that obesity was a risk factor for several chronic diseases, and said controlling weight in children should be a priority, to prevent the onset of obesity-related illnesses.

The anti-obesity public health campaigns have focused on one subject more than any other: beverages. Americans, on average, purchased about 40 gallons of full-calorie soda a year in 1998, according to sales data. That fell to 30 gallons in 2014, about the level that Americans bought in 1980, before the obesity rates took off. Beverage companies have reacted by marketing diet drinks and investing heavily in new products, including iced teas and flavored water. Outside of beverages, there are few clear trends. Experts who have examined the data say the consumption of fruits and vegetables remains low; consumption of desserts remains high. [Source: New York Times, July 24, 2015]

Mass Media Interactions

During the past few weeks, we have had numerous contacts with TV, radio, and print.

The following are a few examples:

- News Release on Breastfeeding Month
- News Release on PrEP to prevent HIV infection
- News Conference and interviews with Chn 2, Chn 22/45, Chn 7 and DDN on PrEP
- Interview with WYSO on using PrEP for HIV prevention
- In studio interview at Chn 2 News on West Nile and mosquitoes
- In studio interview on Living Dayton at Chn 2 about mosquito issues
- Interviews with Chn 2, Chn 7, Chn 22/45 and DDN on rain and mosquito risks
- Interview with DDN on infant mortality intervention grant
- Interviews with Chn 2 and Chn 22/45 on swimming pool safety and inspections
- Interview with Chn 2 about pool inspection data analysis
- Interview with Chn 7 on specifics of swimming pool safety issues
- Interview with DDN about health opportunity maps for City of Dayton
- Interview with Chn 7 about syringe services program

Jeff Cooper and Tom Herchline, M.D.