



Health Commissioner / Medical Director Report

Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County

June 3, 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!

We continue to make progress on our actions to become a more culturally competent health department. Foremost, we have developed definitions for diversity and inclusion. These definitions are important because we now have benchmarks to measure our success and they will guide our actions on a daily basis.

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.

We are now recruiting volunteers from each division to serve as Champions to support our initiatives and to make sure that our efforts are sustainable. Our Champions will receive specialized training, provide input on our planning documents, promote our efforts in their division, and support our new employee orientation process.

The time commitment is 4-5 hours per month for the next 18-24 months, and all employees other than Bureau Supervisors and Executive Team members are eligible. We are encouraging individuals to consider this volunteer opportunity to be an active participant in this important endeavor to make Public Health a more diverse and inclusive organization.

FCFC and United Way Strategic Planning

Montgomery County's Family and Children First Council (FCFC) and United Way of the Greater Dayton Area are conducting a joint strategic planning process from March through November 2015 across three interdependent focus areas:



The purpose is to develop a 3-5 year Strategic Plan which will include priorities and indicators for tracking progress. This process is intended to improve alignment and partnership opportunities among community partners who provide intervention, prevention-based and core safety net services.

Recently, five Community Panel Discussions were held to identify gaps in the current Human Services Safety Net. A video of each panel will be available at www.mcoho.org/services/hspd.

The next step in this overall planning process will be a series of workgroup meetings from June through September to establish priorities for improvement in the three focus areas. The Health and Safety Workgroup meetings begin June 5.

Prevent the spread of diseases

Local Investigations

Tick season has arrived. There was a 6 year old boy who was diagnosed with Rocky Mountain spotted fever in early May. The family had recently returned from a camping trip at Deer Creek State Park. The child did not have any documented tick bites, but numerous ticks were seen on tents and clothing of those in the group. The child was treated with doxycycline and recovered.

There were three cases reported of individuals suspected to have Lyme disease. A 69 year old man was diagnosed with Erythema Migrans (the rash of Lyme disease); no confirmatory testing (Western Blot) was obtained. A 49 year old woman, who had been having recurrent rash on her face and hands

since January, developed Bell's (facial) Palsy. She tested positive with IgM Western Blot but negative for IgG; the diagnosis of Lyme disease is considered not confirmed at this time. The third case was a 69 year old woman who had tested positive for Lyme disease 19 years ago and had repeat testing for possible recurring symptoms. She was not considered a confirmed or probable case.

There were three cases of Giardia reported during May. The ages of the individuals were 23, 25 and 65. Both of the younger individuals were immunocompromised. There were no epidemiologic links between the cases.

Protect against health threats

Festival Season Begins

The month of May is a busy time for Environmental Health's General Services staff. The third weekend in May traditionally kicks-off the festival season. This year, our Office Support Specialists processed over 70 temporary food service licenses for that weekend. Sanitarians conducted inspections to ensure perishable foods were not being held in the danger zone – making sure cold foods were held at 41°F or less and hot foods were at 135°F or more. They also verified that hand washing was properly set up and being used, food equipment was being cleaned and sanitized correctly, and that food and clean equipment were stored off the ground consistent with insect and flood protection methods. The events of that weekend included:

- The 42nd Annual World 'Afair Festival in which the three day event had 30 countries represented with food, two stage performances and parades. Five inspectors conducted 60 total inspections during the weekend including one permanently licensed food operation.
- Two sanitarians inspected temporary and mobile food operations from around the county at Taste of Miamisburg held at Riverfront Park in Miamisburg.
- Big Brews & Blues event was held underneath Riverscape Pavilion and raised funds for Diabetes Dayton in which one sanitarian inspected mobile and temporary food operations.
- The 51st Annual Hamvention was held at Hara Arena. For many years it has been the world's largest amateur radio gathering, attracting operators from around the globe <http://hamvention.org/about/hamvention/>. Sanitarians inspected temporary food operations as well as the permanently licensed food operations located inside of Hara Arena.
- Miamisburg Spring Fling Festival was held at Library Park in Miamisburg. One sanitarian inspected temporary and mobile food operations. The event had a parade, carnival, craft and food vendors.
- Fleurs et Vin event was at Welcome Park and benefited AIDS Resource Center of Ohio. Two sanitarians inspected nineteen temporary operations most of which were restaurants in the Dayton area, including Carver's Steaks & Chops, Jay's Seafood, Wheat Penny, De'Lish Café and others.

Healthy and Safe Swimming Week 2015

Memorial Day signals the start of the pool season and the unofficial beginning of summer. This spring, Environmental Health's General Services Office Support Specialists processed 350 swimming pool, spa, wading pool, special use pool, and spray ground license applications. Sanitarians performed opening pool inspections for seasonal pools. The swimming pool inspection ensures compliance with the rules governing them and consists of making sure that the filter and pumps are working correctly, the pool chemistry is balanced in the water and safety equipment and signs are provided.

Look at the pool and surroundings. What should you notice?

Clean and clear pool water

You should be able to clearly see any painted stripes and the bottom of the pool: the main drain cover should be visible.

Smooth pool sides

Tiles should not be sticky or slippery: green and slimy usually indicates algae growth.

No odor

A well-chlorinated pool has little odor. A strong chemical smell indicates a maintenance problem: either used-up chlorine or too much chlorine.

Pool equipment working

Pool pumps and filtration systems make noise and you should hear them running.

19th Annual Children's Water Festival at University of Dayton

Nearly 1500 fourth-graders got a taste of college life at the Children's Water Festival held at the University of Dayton campus on May 6. This annual event is organized under the auspices of the multi-jurisdictional Source Water Protection Program with the goal of educating the next generation about protecting our water resources. The field trip is provided at no cost to the school groups and bus transportation is provided courtesy of public and private event sponsors. Classroom groups were drawn from 28 different schools primarily in the Dayton Public School system.

Children and their teachers attended 2-3 classroom presentations plus, an entertainment session and outdoors activities. Weather was warm and sunny the day of the event. Evaluations returned by teachers were overwhelmingly positive.

The event is a huge logistics undertaking requiring months of preparation by the planning committee. A total of 250 volunteers are needed the day of the event including 25 classroom presenters. Since the event's beginnings in 1996, staff from Source Water Protection, RAPCA and other EH programs have served as classroom presenters, building monitors and co-chair of the planning committee.

Promote healthy behaviors

Link: Dayton's New Bike Share Program

May 5 launched the Link Dayton Bike Share program at Courthouse Square with a ribbon cutting and inaugural ride led by Mayor Nan Whaley. Link Dayton has 24 stations and over 200 bikes around the city; making it economical and convenient to use bikes for trips that are too far to walk but too short to drive. Our Creating Healthy Communities Program sponsors the Wright-Dunbar station located on West Third Street.

During the first week in operation the program saw over 1,300 trips and over 350 unique users checking out bikes. Users can purchase 24-hour memberships for \$5 at station kiosks or a variety of other memberships online including a \$65 annual membership. All membership types include unlimited 30 minute checkouts.

Link Dayton is a combined operational model with Bike Miami Valley and Greater Dayton RTA. Other sponsors include: Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, CareSource, City of Dayton, Five Rivers MetroParks, Sinclair Community College and the University of Dayton. For more information visit www.linkdayton.org.

WIC Program Implements Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT)

The "Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010" was passed by Congress and signed by the President on December 13, 2010. This law not only reauthorized child nutrition programs, but also mandated all state WIC agencies nationwide to implement Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) systems by October 1, 2020. WIC EBT is an electronic system that replaces paper food coupons with a card for food benefit issuance and redemption at authorized WIC grocery stores. In Ohio, transition to EBT has been in the planning process since the initial successful pilot from 2000-2005 exclusively in Montgomery County. Funding constraints held that pilot back from going statewide. In the summer of 2014, State WIC began piloting a new EBT system (now called WNC or WIC Nutrition Card) in Greene and Licking counties, and began expansion across the state in 2015, both under budget and ahead of schedule.

Montgomery County WIC went live on May 4, 2015 and began the process of converting all 11,500 participants from paper coupons to the Ohio WNC. The WNC provides a more secure, convenient way to redeem WIC food benefits that are tailored to meet the special nutrition needs of each participant. WIC food items include fruits and vegetables, whole grains, milk, soy milk, tofu, peanut butter, beans/legumes, 100% fruit/vegetable juice, cereal, infant formula and baby foods. One participant said, "I love how easy the card is to use and how much quicker it is at the store!"

Reach out to vulnerable populations

Bureau of Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh) Public Health Nurse Updates

Our BCMH Nurses attended the Southwest Regional BCMH Nurse Update on March 27 at Dayton Children's Hospital. One of the highlights of the meeting was the presentation and discussion of the new BCMH Policy Manual. The manual was completely revised and updated for 2015 and is now available electronically. It included updated coverage guidelines for children receiving services

under BCMH. As an example there have been advances in blood glucose monitoring systems and hearing devices for children. Genetic testing parameters have been expanded and defined. The role of Nurse Practitioners to manage children in the BCMH program has also been defined. It is really important for our BCMH Nurses to stay updated on these changes so that they can provide the best possible case management to the children we serve.

At the meeting, Dayton Children's Hospital also presented an update on Bleeding and Clotting Disorders of Childhood. The new factor concentrates (with longer half-lives) for children with hemophilia have made it easier for these families to manage their children's hemophilia at home. The BCMH nurses are looking forward to the fall 2015 update at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Liberty Campus.

Prepare for and respond to PH emergencies

“Blowing in the Wind” Full-Scale Exercise

On May 7 Public Health participated in a regional full-scale exercise titled “Blowing in the Wind.” The exercise simulated a super-cell tornado system hitting our West Central Ohio (WCO) region. Over 100 agencies from nine counties were directly involved in the exercise. Participating organizations included fire/EMS, hospitals, local health departments, Wright-Patterson AFB, law enforcement, Emergency Management Agencies, dispatch centers, American Red Cross chapters, long-term care facilities, and numerous volunteer groups. Volunteer groups provided nearly 300 volunteers to act as injured patients. Roughly 100 were split between two designated disaster sites and the remaining 200 were pre-stationed at 18 hospitals to basically show up as walking wounded. The nearly 100 patients from the disaster sites were transported to surrounding hospitals during exercise play by EMS units.

The exercise was developed and conducted by our Emergency Preparedness staff. The exercise began with the playing of a news video at most locations. The video was produced by Channel 2 local news in support of the exercise. The video was a driver for implementing tornado drills at participating locations. Following completion of the tornado drill, each location received a situational scenario specific to their location. It basically provided feedback on the current status of communications, power outages, damage to facilities, and injured individuals at their site.

Public Health's response dealt with food and water safety issues, tetanus vaccinations, media releases, epidemiological surveillance and communication concerns. A total of ten objectives were tested during the exercise at multiple locations throughout the region. This exercise provided responders the opportunity to practice for a worst case scenario to be better prepared for smaller incidents that are more likely to occur. These exercises are conducted for two specific reasons: to identify strengths that can be shared with all organizations and to identify areas for improvement and to correct them before a real incident occurs.

Nursing & National Disaster Health Consortium (NDHC) Program

Public Health's Director of Nursing and twelve of our nurses attended the first, one-of-a-kind interactive National Disaster Training program at Calamityville in Fairborn, Ohio. Course instructors were Wright State University professors, area EMS and retired U.S. military officers that had served as recently as the Iraq War. The training consisted of on-line courses, on-site courses and 5 days of

on-site training. Presidential Policy Directive 8: National Preparedness (PPD-8) and the current National Preparedness Goal describe the Nation's approach to preparing for the threats that pose the greatest risk to the security of the United States.

National preparedness is a shared responsibility that includes standardized training and Emergency Support Function 8 (ESF 8) specifically lays out guidance for the medical and public health workforce. The NDHC is designed to assure that inter-professional, competency-based training pulls all health professionals into compatible training, taking the healthcare community a significant step closer to a nationwide standardized response to disasters. With completion of the course content our nurses received several CE hours and a Certificate of Completion.

Ebola Virus Disease

The Ebola outbreak in West Africa continues to decline. The World Health Organization reports that there have been a cumulative total of 27,049 cases (suspect and confirmed) of Ebola virus disease with 11,134 deaths in the countries with widespread transmission, as of May 24, 2015. There had been 26,277 cases with 10,884 deaths, as of April 26, 2015. The countries with widespread transmission include: Guinea - 3641 cases; Sierra Leone – 12706 cases; Liberia - 10666 cases. In Liberia, there have been no new reported cases since March 20; WHO declared the end to the Ebola outbreak in Liberia on May 9, 2015. On May 12, there was a laboratory-confirmed case reported from Italy in a healthcare worker who had returned from Sierra Leone on May 7. Mali (8 cases), the United States (4 cases), Nigeria (20 cases), Senegal (1 case), United Kingdom (1 case), and Spain (1 case) have been declared Ebola free.

Serve as a public health information resource

Adult Obesity Rates Continue to Rise

Obesity rates among American adults kept increasing last year, up to 27.7% in 2014 according to a Gallup poll released May 27. It was the highest percentage since Gallup started studying American weight issues in 2008. The rate was 27.1% in 2013, 26.2% in 2012 and 25.5% in 2008. The percentage of Americans who are either obese or overweight was 62.9% last year, compared to 62.8% in 2013, 62.3% in 2012 and 62.2% in 2008. The Gallup poll uses self-reported height and weight which differs from the government reports that use measurements from clinical visits.

Americans who have a body mass index (BMI) of 25 to 29.9 are classified as overweight; those with a BMI of 30 or higher are classified as obese. Obesity rates rose in particular among people over age 65 and among women. Obesity rates declined among adults ages 18-29. Overall, African Americans, the poorest Americans and people living in Southern or Midwestern states are the most likely to suffer from obesity. Obese people also enjoy less "well-being," calculated with a related poll that takes into account personal, social and financial factors. The Gallup poll involved 176,702 American adults and was conducted from January 2 through December 30, 2014.

Public Health Advocacy for Tobacco Control

On May 20 former Ohio Attorney General Betty Montgomery and Public Health's Healthy Lifestyles Supervisor provided testimony before the Senate Finance Committee. Our testimony was in support of Governor Kasich's proposal to increase the cigarette tax by \$1.00 per pack and to equalize the tax rate on other tobacco products. Ohio's smoking rate is 23.4% and is the 8th highest

in the nation. For Montgomery County, 23% of our adults are current smokers. That afternoon, in the Ohio Capital, Public Health participated in a press conference to address the urgency of tobacco control in Ohio and to support the Governor's plan to address tobacco use.

Mass Media Interactions

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

The following are a few examples:

- Channel 7 on food deserts
- Channel 2, 7, 22/45, and DDN on Syringe Services Program
- DDN and Channel 7 on hotel/motel inspections
- Channel 22/45 on public pool inspections
- Channel 22/45 and DDN on botulism risks
- News Release on regional full-scale exercise
- Channel 22/45 on regional full-scale exercise
- Columbus Dispatch on pollen and mold season
- Springfield News Sun on Clark County air quality
- Channel 22/45 on tick problems
- Channel 2 on food truck inspections
- WCSU radio on minority health issues
- Channel 22/45 on inspection of water splash pads
- News Release on Medicine on the Move walking program

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