



# Health Commissioner / Medical Director Report

## Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County

**October 5, 2016**

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

### **2015 Annual Report**

Public Health recently released the 2015 Annual Report to the community. The theme of this year's report is *A Healthy, Safe and Thriving Montgomery County*. The theme was adopted from the vision statement in the Montgomery County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The CHIP is featured in the report with pages dedicated to the three health priorities: Birth Outcomes, Chronic Disease Prevention, and Behavioral Health.

In addition to highlighting the agency's many accomplishments, the report features articles on Public Health initiatives such as the National Diabetes Prevention Program, Link Bike-share, CarePoint Syringe Services Program, and the Asthma Alliance. There is a Q&A section with Larry Cleek, Public Health's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, as well as articles on the agency's commitment to becoming a more culturally diverse and inclusive organization. There are a variety of articles featuring the great work that our Environmental Health Division is doing, including RAPCA and the importance of ozone pollution monitoring. The *Public Health by the Numbers* section provides an indication of the number of people helped by our services. 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 primary marketing piece and will be distributed through a mass mailing to elected officials, community leaders and partners, and faith-based organizations. The report will also be distributed throughout the community and will be handed out at health fairs and other events attended by Public Health. In addition, the 2015 Annual Report is available for download on our website: [www.phdmc.org](http://www.phdmc.org) and will also be promoted through social media.

## **Reibold 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Clinic Update**

Over the past several months Public Health staff members, along with Montgomery County Facilities Management, have been working with App Architecture to design a clinic that celebrates who we are and who we serve, is environmentally friendly, and uses technology and functionality to provide the best care possible.

Marianne Weber, Principal with App Architecture, led the design process which included:

- meeting with staff to identify specific room requirements
- coordinating two site visits to generate ideas
- facilitating six working meetings with program managers and supervisors to review and gather feedback on the architectural design
- meeting with all clinic staff to review the proposed clinic design and gathering feedback/suggestions

The architectural design is being finalized. If required approvals and construction goes according to schedule, we will take occupancy of the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2017.

## **Management Training**

Management training for Public Health managers, supervisors, and coordinators started in September and will wrap up in February of 2017. The required trainings are *Management Critical Skills*, *Relationship Management & Conflict Resolution*, and *Building Inclusive Teams that Work*. The three trainings are intended to develop a more inclusive workplace in order to better serve our community. All sessions will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Reibold Building and facilitated by Dr. Burrs of Step Up to Success!. The trainings align with our Diversity & Inclusion initiatives, recommendations from the Workforce Development Team, and the 2014 Training Needs Assessment survey.

*Management Critical Skills* training sessions are currently being held. The learning objectives include understanding the connection between management and leadership, exploring the art of delegation, reviewing the basic coaching process and understanding the importance of giving and receiving feedback.

## **Strategic Planning Group – Annual Plan Update Meeting Held**

On September 19, our Strategic Planning Group met to discuss our 2016 agency accomplishments, to begin drafting our 2017 Strategic Priority and Performance Measure Dashboard (SPPMD), and to recommend opportunities for improvement in our 2013 - 2017 Strategic Plan. A summary of the agency accomplishments identified by staff included:

- implementing our new table of organization
- updating the Public Health website
- initiating a new process for tracking and reporting required new employee training
- building personnel capacity
- progressing towards becoming a nationally accredited health department
- implementing the Quality Improvement Plan including the formation of the Quality Council
- implementing the Diversity and Inclusion (DI) Plan
- advancing workforce development training

- completing and implementing the Community Health Improvement Plan
- completing the Marketing and Branding Plan
- using the Incident Management Team for a responses to Ebola, Zika, Mumps, Salmonella
- completing the architectural design for the Reibold 3<sup>rd</sup> floor clinic
- completing the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards assessment and report
- forming an Ethics Advisory Committee
- addressing Heroin/Opiate epidemic including planning for the medication assisted treatment program
- receiving Department of Medicaid funding to improve birth outcomes

Staff also provided recommendations on our 2017 Strategic Priorities and suggestions on how we can improve our planning process, particularly employee engagement, when we begin developing our new strategic plan in 2017. The new SPPMD will be finalized by the Executive Team and be distributed to staff by January 2017.

## Prevent the spread of diseases

### **2016 Public Health Employee Influenza Program**

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness that can make you miserable. Serious outcomes of flu infection can result in hospitalization or death. Some people, such as older people, young children, and people with certain health conditions, are at high risk for serious flu complications. The best way to prevent the flu is by getting vaccinated each year.

In an effort to protect our workforce, Public Health is again offering annual influenza vaccines to all employees at **no out-of-pocket cost**. The vaccination is completely covered by insurance, so take advantage of this great opportunity to protect yourself, your family, coworkers and the community we serve.

The CDC recommends that ALL individuals 6 months of age and older receive an influenza vaccine annually. The current vaccine protects against 4 strains of the influenza virus. If you would like more information, the *Vaccine Information Statement* and our Medical Director's *Flu: FAQs and Answers* are available on our Portal and public website.

### ***Employee Influenza Vaccination Opportunities***

- Monday, October 3: Reibold 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Multipurpose Conference Room, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, October 5: Reibold 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Multipurpose Conference Room - immediately following the Board of Health meeting from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 6: County Administration Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Lobby, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, October 12: Drew Health Center, Room 100, 12:30 - 3:00 p.m.

***Please bring your Public Health ID and a copy of your insurance card. Public Health will bill your insurance.***

Employees who miss the scheduled influenza clinic dates may schedule an appointment in the Immunization Clinic (225-4550) during normal business hours to receive the vaccine.

## **Local Investigations**

There was an increase in Legionnaires' disease cases in August. Thirteen people were positive for legionella antigen this month. These people were between the ages of 35 and 74 years old. Ten of the individuals were admitted to a hospital for more than one night, 3 of which were in intensive care units for multiple days during their inpatient stay. Four of the individuals had traveled outside the state of Ohio during their exposure periods. Only 2 people said they used any form of respiratory equipment. None of these people were linked to each other or any previously reported cases.

There were 10 reports of Cryptosporidium this month. Ages ranged from 2 years to 64 years old. Four of the people interviewed said they had visited pools or splash parks, but all had visited different pools. Three people had traveled outside of Montgomery County during their exposure period. There was one case of probable secondary infection from a member of the same household, otherwise these individuals did not have links to one another.

## **Protect against health threats**

### **Ragweed Season Begins**

Each year millions of Americans suffer from hay fever with amazing regularity. They develop spasms of sneezing, a stuffed-up, runny, itchy nose, itchy and swollen eyes, and itching and mucus in the throat. For many people in the Miami Valley, these symptoms start each year in mid-August.

Ragweed is the number one cause of seasonal allergy symptoms, but there are steps that can be taken to avoid or lessen the severity of these symptoms. Treatment for ragweed allergy may include allergy shots, which are effective in up to 90 percent of patients. There are also easy steps individuals can take to limit their exposure and reduce their symptoms: keep windows closed and use air conditioning, avoid yard work, shower after spending time outdoors and avoid hanging sheets or clothing outside to dry.

Since hay fever can develop quickly into more complications like ear infections, sinus infections and even asthma, Public Health encourages allergy sufferers to work with an allergist or immunologist to determine the best course of treatment.

Ragweed season begins in mid-August, peaks around Labor Day and slowly tapers off through September and October, until the first significant frost kills the plant.

Public Health's Regional Air Pollution Control Agency (RAPCA) can also help allergy sufferers take the first step toward avoiding exposure to the pollen by following the pollen and mold reports on our website - [www.rapca.org](http://www.rapca.org). RAPCA reports daily pollen and mold counts Monday through Friday to area news media. The readings measure the amount of pollen found during the previous 24-hour period, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

### **New Limits on Air Pollution**

New pollution limits on electricity-generating power plants will go into effect in 2017. The limits will restrict emissions of nitrogen oxides, which contribute to summertime ozone pollution in our

area. Studies have shown that power plant emissions of nitrogen oxides as far away as Alabama can cause high ozone levels downwind, including in our area.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency recently issued a regulation called the “Cross-State Air Pollution Rule” to ensure that power plants in 22 states reduce their emissions of nitrogen oxides.

Ozone pollution is our area’s number one cause of air pollution advisories and other public health warnings. High ozone levels occur mainly in the summer, on hot and dry summer days. Ground-level ozone, or smog, is linked to a variety of serious public health effects such as asthma and other lung diseases. Power plants are one of the largest contributors to ozone pollution, and the new limits will help clean up our air.

RAPCA monitors ozone air pollution in Montgomery County, as well as Clark, Greene, Miami, and Preble counties. Ozone pollution readings are available on RAPCA’s website - [www.rapca.org](http://www.rapca.org). RAPCA also provides air pollution forecasts so citizens can plan their activities.

## Promote healthy behaviors

### **Westown Health Fair**

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Westown Health Fair sponsored by Public Health, WDAO Radio, CareSource, Premier Community Health, and the Westown Management was a success. Over 30 social service organizations provided screenings and information. Screenings offered were blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar, and bone density. Confidential HIV testing was also offered. All participants were notified of their screening results through a follow-up process.

## Reach out to vulnerable populations

### **Every Baby Matters**

Public Health’s Healthy Mommy-Healthy Baby Program held its’ second annual Every Baby Matters Event at the Mt. Enon Missionary Baptist Church on Saturday, September 24. The event focused on social determinants of health and how they directly impact birth outcomes. In Montgomery County for every one Caucasian baby that dies, almost 3 African American babies die. The goal of the event was to highlight this disparity and to provide individuals with the tools necessary to have a healthy birth outcome.

The event was well attended with City of Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley providing opening remarks regarding the disparity. Activities included health screenings, information on educational opportunities, healthcare coverage, job readiness, women’s health, literacy, mentoring, breastfeeding, mental health resources, immunizations and more.

Presentations on Safe Sleep, Infant CPR, Postpartum Depression and Newborn care were provided to the attendees by local professionals. A special appearance by McGruff the Crime Dog was a huge hit for the children in attendance.

The event was sponsored by CareSource along with Dayton Children's Hospital who, through their Cribs for Kids program, provided cribs for pre-registered participants who met the eligibility requirements and attended the onsite training.

## Mobilize community action through partnerships

### **County-wide Collaborative to Fight Opioid Epidemic**

A county-wide Collective Impact Collaborative has been established to attack the opioid epidemic that is plaguing our community. The Montgomery County Commission, Public Health and the ADAMHS Board are spearheading this critical undertaking. Active participation by all stakeholders is essential to showing measurable improvement.

Our goal is to initially stabilize the continuing upward trend in unintentional drug overdose deaths. Confronting this public health and public safety crisis will be challenging and we must do it together. We must attack this epidemic that is taking the lives of our family members, friends and neighbors and affecting every community in Montgomery County.

The Collaborative will allow us to coordinate all of the actions that are happening in the community to address the epidemic, focus those activities on specific results, identify gaps and needs, secure funding and evaluate our work so that we know it is effective. The Collaborative aligns with Public Health's Community Health Improvement Plan for behavioral health, the Montgomery County Strategic Plan and the ADAMHS Continuum of Care.

## Prepare for and respond to PH emergencies

### **Zika Activity**

In May 2015, the World Health Organization reported the first local transmission of Zika virus in the Western Hemisphere (in Brazil). In November, a possible association between Zika and microcephaly was reported. On January 15, 2016 the CDC began requesting providers report suspected Zika virus disease. Through Sept 21st, there have been 3358 cases reported in the US (41 in Ohio); of these, 3315 were travel-associated and 43 were locally acquired vector-borne cases (all in Florida). Through the US Zika Pregnancy Registry, there have been 749 pregnant women with laboratory evidence of possible Zika virus infection. Through Sept 15th, there have been 20 liveborn infants with Zika-related birth defects and five pregnancy losses with birth defects. The first cases of local transmission via mosquitos identified in Florida occurred in the Miami area in late June/early July. As of Sept 22, there is one area of active local transmission – in the Miami Beach area. There are travel and testing guidelines in place for this area for pregnant women, women of reproductive age and their partners.

## Serve as a public health information resource

### **Marijuana for Qualifying Medical Conditions**

Governor John Kasich has made eight appointments to the Ohio Medical Marijuana Advisory Committee. State legislators will appoint the others. By state law the panel has to include

members who represent doctors, pharmacists, employers, labor unions, law enforcement and others potentially impacted by the law. Those appointed include: Curt Passafume Jr., OhioHealth's System Vice President of Pharmacy Services - the Hilliard resident will be the committee chairman; Stephanie Abel, a Dublin pharmacist; Gary Wenk, an Ohio State University professor who has studied the medical benefits of marijuana; Tony Coder Jr. of Mount Gilead, Assistant Director of the Drug Free Action Alliance; Michael Hirsch, of Hirsch Fruit Farm in Chillicothe; Dr. Jerry Mitchell Jr., a physician in Powell; Dr. Amol Soin, a pain specialist in the Dayton area; Michael Stanek, a northeast Ohio CFO who sits on the board of the Greater Cleveland Partnership.

Marijuana became legal for qualifying medical conditions in Ohio on Sept. 8, though it could take up to two years for qualifying patients to legally purchase the drug at dispensaries. The Ohio State Medical Board has directed doctors should seek advice from their employer or private attorney if they are considering recommending marijuana as a medicine before dispensaries are licensed and opened. For now, marijuana will be legal for some patients, but no stores are open and the state still has to develop much of the regulations. The medical board has until September 2017 to develop rules governing how doctors can issue recommendations for medical marijuana.

### **Adult Obesity Rates Dropping in Ohio**

According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, obesity rates remained high for most of the country in 2015, but in Ohio, adult obesity rates dropped for the first time in more than a decade. The obesity rate for Ohio adults dropped nearly 3% from 32.6% to 29.8%. Ohio now has the 26th highest adult obesity rate in the nation, reversing the long-term trend in which Ohio's adult obesity rate has nearly tripled since 1990.

Public Health's Office of Health Promotion addresses the obesity issue through community programs such as: the Diabetes Prevention Program, Creating Healthy Communities, Communities Preventing Chronic Disease, and GetUp Montgomery County.

### **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 Public Health Receives Bicycle Friendly Business<sup>SM</sup> Award
- Interview with DDN about Zika funding
- Interview with DDN about the infant mortality rate
- Interview with DDN about Layer Park and Miamisburg Bell Park
- Interview with DDN and Channel 7 about food truck inspections
- News Release on the Every Baby Matters Health Fair
- Interview with DDN about obesity rates in Ohio and Montgomery County
- Interview with Channel 7 about fall pollen
- Interview with DDN and Channel 7 on the Collective Impact Collaborative meeting
- Interview with Channel 7 about tobacco use in teens
- Interview with DDN about Zika mosquito trapping

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