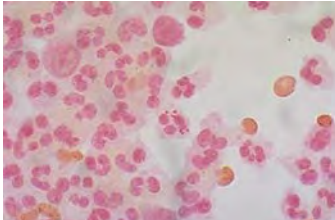


and Health Commissioner Jeff Cooper reiterated their support in working towards efforts to improve birth outcomes in our community and working together to improve the health and quality of life of our mothers, babies, and families. Keynote presenters included: Arthur James, MD, Senator Charleta Tavares, Angela Dawson, Marc Belcastro, DO, and Johnnie “Chip” Allen; with topics that addressed the social determinants of health, the importance of state and local partnerships, and importance of prioritizing and embracing the community. Health Commissioner Jeff Cooper and Director of Health Promotions Terra Williams closed by launching the proposed structure of the Task Force and brand name, *EveryOne Reach One*.



Strategic Plan for 2018-2020

Public Health has contracted with Evident Analytics to help create our 2018 – 2020 Strategic Plan. The plan will be the guiding document that will assist us in decision-making as we move forward through 2020. To ensure broad community input into the process, Public Health hosted a Community Forum on Thursday, September 26 at Central State University’s Dayton Campus. The public was invited to offer observations and suggestions regarding Public Health’s programming and services. The results of this session will be incorporated into the final plan that will be presented to the Board of Health at the end of 2017.



Positive Meningococcus Result

Just before close of business on Friday, September 15 Public Health was notified of a positive laboratory result for *Neisseria meningitidis*. We used our internal Incident Management Team (IMT) to respond. The initial investigation found that the individual was in a local hospital and receiving antibiotic treatment. The individual had a legal guardian who verified that the individual lived in a group home and attended a daytime adult workshop during the week. The group home was visited that evening. Public Health talked to staff on-site as well as management by phone from that location. Education, including frequently asked questions about meningococcal disease and recommended prophylaxis, was provided to the staff at the group home. This information was also shared with the adult workshop.

The following business day Medical Director Michael Dohn visited the adult workshop and answered questions and concerns from employees. Their staff greatly appreciated the quick response from Public Health in answering their questions and concerns.



Second Public Information Meeting on RAPCA Proposed Fees

On September 18, RAPCA held a second public information meeting regarding the proposed maintenance fee schedule. Seventy-nine facilities were invited, including 47 facilities that are considered high priority by federal and state regulations because of their potential to emit very high levels of air pollution, some of which are cancer causing. There were 22 attendees representing: Public Health (8), Montgomery County (2), Channel 7 (1), the Dayton Daily News (1), the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce (1), the Dayton Regional Manufacturing Association (1), and regulated facilities (8), including DP&L and Rack Processing who have previously commented on the proposed maintenance fee schedule.

RAPCA presented information showing that 90% of the regulated facilities will pay less than \$750 per year. In addition, RAPCA showed a comparison of the proposed fees for Montgomery County to other Ohio local air agency fees established in the early 1990s. This comparison showed that after adjusting these fees to today's dollar, the proposed maintenance fees are in line with the other Ohio local air agency fees. RAPCA also shared details regarding the value of retaining local services which go beyond the services that Ohio EPA can provide. RAPCA offered to all in attendance the opportunity to contact them if they were interested in discussing ways to reduce their proposed maintenance fee. Following the meeting, RAPCA had discussions with three facilities regarding options for lowering the projected maintenance fee.



State Smoke-Free Housing Workshop Held in Dayton

On September 19, Dayton held the first ever state of Ohio, Smoke-Free Housing Workshop. The workshop was coordinated by Public Health and the Chicago office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). The University of Dayton generously provided the Conference Center and CareSource graciously provided lunch for participants. Health Commissioner, Jeff Cooper, welcomed the near capacity audience to Dayton. Participants heard from health experts, safety experts and Mike Freiberg, from the Public Health Law Center in Minnesota. There were panel experts from both private and public housing to take questions from participants about how they can have smoke-free units. Participants included people from across the state of Ohio and three other states. The U.S. EPA also sent a representative from Washington D.C.



Westown Health Fair

The 29th Annual Westown Health Fair, sponsored by Public Health, WDAO Radio, and the Management of Westown Shopping Center was a success. Over 100 individuals participated in the event. Thirty (30) social service organizations provided screenings and information. Screenings offered were mammograms, blood pressure, and blood sugar. Confidential HIV and Hepatitis C tests were also available. An aerobic exercise demonstration was performed by *Head to Toe Zumba Gold*.



Statewide Public Health Quality Indicators Annual Report

The 2017 Public Health Quality Indicators Annual Report has been released by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). Ohio Revised Code 3701.98 requires all Ohio local health departments (LHDs) to report on measures related to public health outcomes, capacity, and how they are addressing public health issues and implementing evidence-based programs in their communities. The 2017 report is posted on the ODH website at <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/localhealthdistricts/Futures/Quality%20Indicators.aspx>.

LHDs are required to submit data on fourteen quality indicators: two outcome related measures, eight related to capacity and four related to practice.

A. Outcome Indicators

1. infant mortality rate by race
2. increasing the percentage of children entering kindergarten who are fully vaccinated

B. Capacity Indicators

3. access to birth and death records: measured by the access and usage of the secure Ohio Public Health Data Warehouse
4. ability to receive and respond within one hour to an emergency preparedness on-call drill initiated by ODH, twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week
5. meeting the annual required inspection frequency and providing verification of registered sanitarian or sanitarian-in-training conducting inspections for food safety, public swimming pools and campground programs
6. participation in the Medicaid Administrative Claiming program to promote access to healthcare.
7. expanding the use of electronic data management systems in the administration of public health programs (e.g., clinical, environmental and/or administration)

8. demonstrating one full-time equivalent epidemiologist per 300,000 population

Completeness and timeliness for nine reportable diseases:

9. meeting the median number of days between date of diagnosis and report to the health department in the Ohio Disease Reporting System
10. increasing the percent completeness for reportable infectious diseases in the Ohio Disease Reporting System by age, race, ethnicity, and gender

C. Practice-based Indicators

11. reporting engagement with the community (clinical and non-clinical) about policies and/or strategies that will promote the public's health
12. reporting of at least one evidence-based injury prevention intervention
13. reporting of at least one evidence-based tobacco prevention or control intervention
14. reporting of at least one evidence-based healthy eating and/or active living intervention for children birth to 18 years of age

This is the third year that we have submitted data and information to ODH. Public Health met 12 of the 14 quality indicators in 2015 and 2016. In 2017, we improved our performance and met the measures for all 14 indicators. Our goal for 2018 is to continue to meet 100% of the measures to improve health outcomes.



Layer Park Update

On April 4, 2016, Public Health posted a “Warning” at the entrance of Layer Park in Miami Township advising the public of lead hazards on the property. The park has been closed to the public since that date.

Layer Park is bounded to the north by residences on Bushwick Drive, to the south by residences on Polo Park Drive, to the south and east by the Miami Valley Hunt & Polo Club and to the west by residences on Polo Park Drive and Cordell Drive. A former skeet shooting range operated from the Miami Valley Hunt & Polo Club in the 1930s to the 1950s. A portion of the shooting range eventually became Layer Park. An unknown quantity of lead was deposited on the surface of the soil from skeet activities. Old aerial photos show two skeet-shooting stations were located on the grounds of the Miami Valley Hunt and Polo Club south of the park.

U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA investigators determined contamination varied widely over the 7.5-acre park. Lead concentrations in soil were found at up to 60 times the safe level in some sections of the park

and a residential yard. Arsenic was not found in the yard, but levels of the element were discovered in the park at three times the health threshold. Based on the results of sampling done by U.S. EPA, cleanup was done on about 2.5 acres of the 7-acre site.

A public meeting was held in November 2016 at the Miami Township offices to inform the area residents of the most recent soil sample results, health risks, and planned clean-up. Public Health participated on the panel with representatives from Montgomery County, Miami Township, Ohio EPA, and U.S. EPA.

The project began with the removal of trees in the affected area. Due to the presence of the Indiana Bat and Northern Long Eared Bat, tree removal occurred during the hibernation period of October 2016-March 2017 to comply with the Endangered Species Act. The removal of the trees generated 700 cubic yards of mulch after chipping.

Excavation of lead contaminated soil began in May 2017. As part of U.S. EPA's health and safety plan, the agency collected both personal air and perimeter air samples during the excavation. All samples were below action levels. A total of 5,724 tons of lead contaminated soil were removed for disposal as hazardous waste. Excavation was completed the end of July 2017. Concurrent with the soil removal, clean fill was brought in and leveled to grade. Public Health visited the site multiple times during the soil removal phase to ensure that the contractor used dust suppression to minimize airborne dust leaving the site. A water truck was observed wetting the soil during the excavation.

Next activities to occur in September-November 2017 will include: Hydro seeding of the excavation area; replacement of the basketball/tennis courts; resurfacing of the parking lot; and replacement of 50 trees. The park will be re-opened in the spring of 2018. The cost of cleanup is 1.75 million dollars.

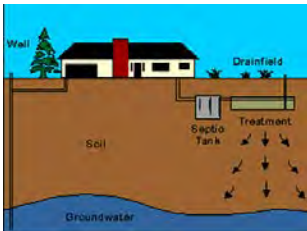


“Let Us Celebrate” Exercise

From September 12-15, a drill titled “Let Us Celebrate,” was conducted within Public Health. The exercise was designed to strengthen interviewing abilities for staff who would be involved during an actual outbreak. In addition, it provided an opportunity for epidemiologists to review and provide data analysis. Participants included staff from Environmental Health, Epidemiology, Communicable Disease Reporting, Emergency Preparedness and the Medical Director.

Two separate scenarios were developed and used on different days. Interviewers contacted simulated clients (acting either sick or well) that were played by other Public Health staff. The exercise was designed so that some clients would be easy to work with, while others would cause issues to try and throw off the interviewers. Once interviews were completed on a given day, responses were forwarded to the epidemiologists for analysis.

Debriefs were completed by participants at the end of each play day to identify strengths and areas for improvement. The exercise was deemed highly successful by multiple participants. Congratulations should go out to Melissa Vining, Communicable Disease Reporting Nurse, and her team on the development of such a well-received exercise. An after-action report will be generated to ensure that strengths as well as areas for improvement are documented to improve our overall process within Public Health.



Sanitarians Attend Soils Training

Staff from Environmental Health’s Household Sewage Treatment Program attended a soil science field day on September 14. This was a joint venture organized by the Association of Ohio Pedologists and the Indiana Association of Professional Soil Classifiers. The Ohio portion of the program took place in Clermont and Brown Counties and featured both classroom and field presentations. This was the first year these soil scientist professional associations opened their member training to Registered Sanitarians.

Since the state sewage rule updates of 2007 and 2015, an increasing emphasis has been placed on the importance of reliable soil evaluation for proper on-site sewage system design. Yet, the opportunities for hands-on field training have been few in recent years. For sanitarians involved in the Sewage Treatment Program, whether they perform the soils evaluation themselves, or review reports by consultants, they can never get too much hands-dirty field training. This opening of the field day to health department staff is a welcome development. Both Public Health attendees reported the field day to be very valuable.



Public Health Assists with Campylobacter Investigation

Public Health is assisting with investigations into the Petland puppy-linked outbreak of Campylobacter illness. The outbreak involving seven states is under investigation by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Agriculture, ODH, and agencies of several other states. As of this writing, 39 people had been infected, with nine being hospitalized. There have been no deaths. Ohio has had the highest number of human infections at eighteen.

Campylobacter is a bacterial infection which causes severe gastrointestinal illness including diarrhea, cramping, and fever. It can be transmitted through consuming contaminated foods or water, raw milk, and having contact with animals. The best prevention is proper preparation, cooking and holding of foods, and hand washing after contact with animals. While usually self-limiting within a week, vulnerable individuals can suffer more severe illness (dehydration, bloodstream infection, colitis) as well as post-illness complications.

Puppies distributed by the Petland pet store chain have been identified as a likely source. There is one Petland store in Montgomery County and ODH asked Public Health to collect stool samples from puppies at that location. Staff collected samples on September 20. Samples were shipped the same day for analysis by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. More details will become available as the investigation progresses.



Commissioner Cooper Receives Public Health Distinguished Service Award

Health Commissioner Jeff Cooper was awarded the Public Health Distinguished Service Award by the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (AOHC) on Wednesday, September 22 at their annual conference in Columbus. This award was established to recognize a member of AOHC that has:

- Given continued and committed time for the betterment of the Association, or
- Responded to the needs of the Association through personal appearance, written documentation and supportive cooperation, or
- Served in special ways to improve the Association.



Media Opportunities:

- WDTN, WKEF, and DDN on **COAT Media Briefing** (9/7/17)
- WDTN and WKEF on **Campylobactera** (9/12/17)
- DDN and WHIO TV on **Infant Mortality** (9/12/17)
- DDN on **Reduction in Overdoses** (9/15/17)
- DDN on **Drugs in the Water Supply** (9/17/17)
- DDN and WHIO TV on **RAPCA Fees** (9/18/17)
- Fox 45 on **Flu Season** (9/19/17)
- Fox 45, WDTN, and DDN on the **Infant Mortality Conference** (9/22/17)
- DDN on the **COAT** (9/22/17)
- DDN on **STDs** (9/27/17)
- WDTN on **STDs** (9/28/17)
- WHIO on **Algae** (9/29/17)



Outreach Opportunities:

- 9/9/2017 Westown Health Fair at Westown Shopping Center
- 9/9/2017 Baby Buggy Walk at Cooper Park
- 9/12/2017 Prime Time Seniors Health Fair at Kroc Center
- 9/13/2017 DPS Back to School Event at Ponitz Center
- 9/14/2017 Activity Committee Team Health Fair at Greater Dayton Premier Management
- 9/14/2017 Buckeye Health Plan Resource Fair at Central State University-Dayton Campus
- 9/15/2017 Voss Auto Health Fair at Voss Auto
- 9/16/2017 New Life Church health event at New Life Church
- 9/20/2017 Meet the partners night at East End Community Center
- 9/22/2017 Infant Mortality Conference at Dayton Convention Center
- 9/23/2017 Infant Mortality Conference at Dayton Convention Center
- 9/23/2017 Pretzel Festival at Germantown

Stat of the Month...

7.5

2015 Montgomery County Infant Mortality Rate

The Dayton & Montgomery County Infant Mortality Task Force was formed to reduce the infant mortality rate to 6.0 by the year 2020.

Submitted by:

Jeff Cooper, Health Commissioner

Michael Dohn, M.D. MSc, Medical Director