



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Dayton & Montgomery County



# Monthly Update

January 2018

*Our mission is to lead and innovate by working with our community to achieve the goals of public health: prevention, promotion, and protection.*



## Fighting Food Deserts

Building on the established activities surrounding food access in Montgomery County, Public Health's involvement recently expanded. Following the fire at Food-for-Less, the closing of Aldi grocery, and the attempted robbery at Estridge Grocery, Public Health has provided resources and education to these communities within the local food deserts. Actions include offering guidance to Life Enrichment Center on the role they can play in response to Food-for-Less burning down, purchasing new doors for Estridge Grocery, and participating in community forums in West Dayton.

Ongoing Public Health efforts to promote good nutrition and combat food access challenges include activities throughout Montgomery County.

Examples are:

- Expansion of community and school gardens.
- Produce Perks which provide fresh fruits and vegetables to those least able to afford them.
- Support for food pantries and corner stores to provide fresh produce.
- Summer meals program for children.



## Strategic Planning Update

On December 13, Public Health's Strategic Planning Group met to review the work completed during the November 17 planning retreat and to draft goals for each of the three agency Strategic Priorities:

- Reduce the leading causes of preventable disease and premature death
- Improve the performance of programs and business operations
- Assure a more competent workforce and inclusive culture

The next step in our planning process will be for the Executive Team to finalize our goals and have teams develop SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound) objectives for each goal.



### **Community Health Assessment Hospital Alignment**

Under the Ohio Revised Code, it is required by the year 2020 that all local health departments and tax-exempt hospitals align their Community Health Assessments (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIP) in a three-year cycle. The urgency of collaboration is of utmost importance. To reduce costs, meet the mandated obligation for completing an aligned CHA and CHIP and to better direct public health services in the southwest Ohio region, Ohio Department of Health, local health departments and hospital systems have been working throughout 2017 to coordinate unified documents by 2018. The work has included identifying and aligning Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) and hospital IRS requirements; identifying data needs; sharing of data; creating a data analysis list and creating questions for focus groups that will convene in the spring of 2018. Public Health will also be working directly with our hospital partners and Montgomery County to align the county strategic plan with the combined CHA and CHIP.



### **General Services completes Ohio Department of Health Pool Survey**

Environmental Health's Bureau of General Services received a report from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) with results of a survey conducted on our Public Swimming Pool and Spa Program. The purpose of the survey was to determine if Public health is carrying out the mandated program requirements per Ohio Revised and Administrative Codes. The survey consisted of a review of the licensing and certification procedures, fees, and annual inspection reports. There was also a field review of eleven Sanitarians to evaluate their inspection techniques, including their knowledge and application of the rules. The field portion consisted of the ODH Survey Officer and the Sanitarians conducting inspections separately at two pool facilities and then comparing and discussing findings at the completion of the field inspection. The Cities of Kettering and Vandalia graciously allowed us to utilize their respective recreation centers for the field portion of the survey. The Sanitarians noted all the same violations as the Survey Officer. Overall, the program earned a score of 88.1 out of a possible 100 with the field and administrative portions combined. As such, Public Health is approved by the Ohio Department of Health as a public swimming pool licensor for our district.



## National Radon Awareness Month

January is National Radon Awareness Month. The Regional Air Pollution Control Agency (RAPCA), in partnership with the Ohio Department of Health and Union County Health Department, is offering free radon test kits for Miami Valley home owners. Radon is a colorless, odorless soil gas that can build up in homes and may increase the risk of lung cancer for occupants. The Ohio Department of Health estimates about half of Ohio families live in homes with elevated radon levels. This makes it especially important for homeowners to test their homes and take corrective action if needed. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Ohio Department of Health, and the Surgeon General recommend that all homes be tested for the presence of radon gas.

To get a free test kit go to [www.rapca.org/programs/radon](http://www.rapca.org/programs/radon) or call RAPCA at 937-225-4435 and leave your name, address, and phone number.



## Staff Training In CLAS

Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) standards were developed to provide guidance on how to improve service delivery to clients who may not have sufficient access to care based on race, ethnicity, linguistic capacity or cultural background. And while the goal is to benefit the client, there are also great benefits for our organization and staff. CLAS makes sense—from a service perspective, a financial perspective and a legal perspective. By offering services that engage clients from racially, ethnically and linguistically diverse backgrounds, our staff can improve both their health and satisfaction levels. Clients who understand and feel understood, and see positive changes in their health may be more satisfied, better prepared to follow up, and more likely to use the services of Public Health again.

CLAS is also federal law. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits any program receiving federal financial assistance from discriminating based on race, color or national origin (now also interpreted to include discrimination based on limited English proficiency). On a practical level, this requires that agencies receiving federal funding take measures to ensure their services are accessible. Guidelines to accomplish this are outlined in the CLAS standards.

Public Health has developed a self-learning module to help our employees understand the fundamentals of CLAS and how the standards impact the services that we provide to the greater Montgomery County community.

Beginning in January 2018 and annually thereafter, Public Health will provide all employees with on-line CLAS education through our employee portal. The presentation will provide baseline education on

CLAS concepts and provide on-line CE learning opportunities. The new CLAS training will also be added to the new employee on-boarding process during the week of orientation.



### **Classification/Compensation Study**

Public Health is at the midway point of its internal Classification / Compensation Study that is expected to be complete by late spring. As part of the review, Public Health has contracted with Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. to do an analysis of our current classification structure to ensure that positions with similar decision-making responsibilities are grouped together. Employees have completed a position description questionnaire which will then be analyzed by Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. Recommendations for a new classification structure will be presented to the Executive Team. They will also be providing training to the HR staff in using the “Decision Band” method of classification for future positions at Public Health.



### **Media Opportunities:**

DDN on **Flu** (12/4/17)  
DDN on **Overdose Epidemic - COAT** (12/5/17)  
Fox 45 on **Flu** (12/5/17)  
DDN on Schools on **Testing for Lead in Water** (12/7/17)  
DDN, Fox 45, WDTN on **COAT Monthly Briefing** (12/7/17)  
DDN on **Voices Project / COAT** (12/11/17)  
News Release on **Holiday Stress** (12/18/17)  
DDN on **Flu** (12/18/17)  
WCSU on **Chronic Disease** (12/20/17)  
Wall Street Journal on **Overdose Deaths** (12/21/17)  
DDN on **Life Expectancy** (12/21/17)



### **Outreach Opportunities:**

**RTA Get Healthy for the Holidays** at Wright Stop Plaza (12/8/17)

## **Stat of the Month...**

# 21%

*The percentage of Montgomery County residents who report they are smokers.  
Make a New Year's resolution to quit today!  
Call 224-4398*

Submitted by:

**Jeff Cooper**, *Health Commissioner*

**Michael Dohn, M.D. MSc**, *Medical Director*