

A New Era in Public Health

Nearly 50 years ago, famous singer-songwriter Bob Dylan penned the well-known song, 'The Times They Are a-Changin''. As it relates to public health, and in fact, the entire health care industry, the lyrics to that song are just as relevant today as they were in 1964.

The convergence of the Affordable Care Act and challenging economic times has propelled us all to take an inward look at our health care system to determine the most effective ways to deliver the best health care for today's society.

In public health, we are moving into an era of certifying agency performance. Called Public Health Accreditation, this initiative sets a measurement of health department performance against nationally recognized standards. The stringent accreditation process provides recognition of the work accomplished in public health through the national Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).

We are particularly excited about the process, because Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH) consistently performs at the top of its class and we are anxious to standardize performance while helping to maintain efficiencies in public health. Accreditation will ultimately form the basis for continual development, revision and distribution of public health standards.

The initial foray into the accreditation process involved conducting a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). I am pleased to report that the assessment was completed in 2012. Hamilton County Public Health was part of a regional coalition of healthcare providers and community agencies that contributed to the report.

While we have completed health assessments for many years, this report represents the first time that healthcare stakeholders – hospitals, medical centers, foundations, non-profit organizations, health leadership groups and public health agencies – joined forces to assess our region. This partnership resulted in an informative and comprehensive examination of health indicators used to identify key problems and assets in our communities. Perhaps more importantly, the findings set the stage for ongoing community engagement and collaborative participation in maintaining and improving health. I urge you to spend some time reviewing the report's findings. It is available on our Website – www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org.

The next phase in the accreditation process – one that is presently underway – includes consolidating findings from the CHNA into a Community Health Improvement Plan and a corresponding strategic plan for HCPH. It is in this phase that the "rubber meets the road," as it were. We are working with the Board of Health and select stakeholders to identify strategies and tactics to begin to attack the barriers to health in our region.

Areas of focus for our plans include:

- Leadership
- Community engagement
- Customer-centric focus
- Development of our workforce
- Continuous evaluation and quality improvement



Our strategic direction and community engagement tactics will provide us with a laser-like focus necessary to achieve successful health outcomes now and into the future. Working closely with the entire healthcare community will allow us all to do what we do best, while working to eliminate redundancies and inefficiencies in community healthcare. The process will prioritize needs identified in the assessment and assign remediation strategies and tactics to those best able to accomplish them. Broad participation in the process and information sharing with all involved will help us hone in on what is most important – major improvements in community health.

In the area of community engagement, we will begin reaching out to leadership in the jurisdictions we serve to help as health policy partners and advisors. Over the next several months, we will be forming a Community Public Health Council. This will be an advisory, communication and action panel designed for two-way messaging and participation between your community and our agency. Your input is crucial to our work as we continue to develop and implement practices and programming to make Hamilton County a leader in healthy practices.

There are 10 essential public health services defining public health and serving as a framework for responsibilities for public health systems. They are to:

1. Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems;
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community;
3. Inform, educate and empower people about health issues;
4. Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems;
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts;
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety;

7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of healthcare when otherwise unavailable;
8. Assure a competent public and personal healthcare workforce;
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility and quality of personal and population-based health services;
10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

I am encouraged by our initial review of these 10 essential functions, as I believe we currently handle them well, or we are in an excellent position to quickly ramp-up efforts to accomplish the goals. I am even more excited about our partnerships with the regional healthcare community. Hamilton County Public Health is at the forefront of establishing collaborative efforts with the region's healthcare system, as evidenced by our work in approaching Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Both of these health issues are present in Hamilton County at rates above national averages. It will take strong partnerships and the ability to leverage what we all do well to bring these disease incidences to acceptable levels.

I am looking forward to changing paradigms for community health in 2013 and beyond. With the strong partnerships we have already forged, coupled with citizen input, the next few years will be groundbreaking in terms of advancing population health in Hamilton County and throughout our region.

Tim Ingram
Health Commissioner
Hamilton County Public Health



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Program and Services Updates

Disease Prevention

During 2012, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Prevention Grant funds were utilized to provide free testing, counseling and risk-reduction interventions to Hamilton County residents. During 2012, Disease Investigation Staff received 842 reports of syphilis infection and 283 reports of HIV infection. Of these, 625 required investigation and 522 were new infections. In total, 384 (96 percent) have received treatment for syphilis, many on-site in the twice-weekly clinics. Eighty-four percent of those with newly identified HIV infections were successfully linked to HIV-related specialty care.

The Tuberculosis (TB) clinic provides walk-in TB testing for more than 3,000 Hamilton County residents annually. During 2012, 12 persons with active TB disease and more than 220 with latent TB infections received diagnostic testing and medical treatment. Staff provided 3,155 TB skin tests, 600 chest x-rays, 1,660 prescriptions and 876 physician visits to Hamilton County residents.

Through the Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh) Program, public health nurses provided assistance to parents so their children receive diagnostic, therapeutic and service coordination services. Public health nurses also provided immunizations to adults and children in five locations throughout the County; assisted parents of children with elevated lead levels to take measures that reduce those levels and safeguard their children's health.

Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness staff continued to work with the 45 jurisdictions to develop a plan that would utilize familiar local places as Points of Dispensing (PODs) should the need for distribution of mass medication or vaccines arise. HCPH conducted two large-scale exercises in 2012. A distribution exercise was conducted in October, 2012 with 32 open community PODs and 19 closed business PODs. Supplies were distributed to all 51 locations within three hours. Prior to the distribution exercise, the team also completed an activation drill notifying all partners. A new partner, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, participated in the exercise distributing medications. In a November, 2012 exercise, 528 heads of household, representing a total population of 1,961, were dispensed medication in less than two hours. This exercise simulated how a POD would operate during a real emergency.

Environmental Health

The popular Clean Kitchen Award program saw awards increase from 29 in 2011 to 160 in 2012. The Southwest Region of the Ohio Environmental Health Association recognized two EH staffers for outstanding accomplishments during the year: Scott Puthoff's article on Farmers Markets received the Publication of the Year award; and Mandy Bartel received the Sanitarian of the Year Award.

Epidemiology

Communicable disease and outbreak investigation/management activities for all non-sexually transmitted diseases were transferred from Disease Prevention to the Division of Epidemiology and Assessment in 2012. The Division's Epidemiologists and Disease Investigators received more than 1,000 reports of non-STD communicable diseases and responded to 36 local communicable disease outbreaks in 2012.

The Division continued to provide contractual services for clients in five neighboring counties. As a result of HCPH being appointed the

lead agency for the Hamilton County Child Fatality Review Board, a staff member from Epidemiology and Assessment was designated the Coordinator of the Board. Three case review meetings were conducted in 2012 while under the leadership of HCPH. The division also continued work to update and expand the data presented in the Community Access to Epidemiology and Assessment Data (AHEAD) tool -- a Web-based platform that provides an array of community-level health statistics via the HCPH Website.

Health Promotion and Education

The Health Promotion and Education (HPE) Division continued with county-wide progress of the WeTHRIVE! initiative. A new effort included WeTHRIVE! Community mini-grants. A total of 15 communities were awarded \$24,000 each. Communities developed or enhanced Wellness Committees, completed community assessments and developed work plans. Work plans focused on enhancing the ability of communities to make the healthy choice an easier choice for all residents -- specifically healthy eating and physical activity. Community successes included 12 shared use agreements, 12 Wellness Resolutions, seven gardens, 21 infrastructure enhancements (e.g. skate park, outdoor exercise equipment, connected sidewalks, etc.), as well as education and promotion.

Plumbing

The Division continued its successful program of inspecting residential and commercial plumbing projects in Brown County, as well as medical gas services in Brown, Warren and Clermont Counties. Mercy West hospital, located on 60 acres in Green Township, is anticipating opening in fall, 2013. Two inspectors have been assigned to inspect the plumbing and medical gas -- a large division project for the year.

Waste Management

The Division of Waste Management continued to enhance its online communications to improve access to public records and provide useful information to the community. Users can now access an interactive map of active waste facilities in the county. Also new for 2012 are file summaries for known closed landfills within HCPH's jurisdiction, many of which staff continues to monitor for environmental concerns.

Water Quality

The Division of Water Quality expanded its online communications, improving access to public records and providing useful information to the community. Users can now access an interactive map on the HCPH Website showing the location of properties that have a sewage treatment system. Users can also view inspection results as well as the history of inspections at a particular location. Additionally, applications, permits and reviews can now be viewed from the Website using the Cincinnati Area Geographic Information System's (CAGIS) ezTrak tool.

Vital Statistics

Vital Statistics continued to improve efficiencies; last year they began to issue birth certificates for people born anywhere in Ohio. Customers continued to order birth certificates online directly from HCPH. The procedure for Vital Statistics to process the online orders is more streamlined. Preparation has begun for statewide access to death certificates, when HCPH will be able to issue death certificates for any person who has passed away in Ohio.

Hamilton County Public Health Mission

The purpose of Hamilton County Public Health is to work with the community to protect the public health and environment. By providing education, inspections, health care coordination and data analysis we strive to assure that the citizens of Hamilton County are safe from disease, injury and contamination.

Hamilton County Public Health Vision

Hamilton County Public Health will revolutionize the way it provides services to a changing community. We will provide a network of information to be used as a tool to improve public health. Communities will develop new and innovative ways to solve problems. Together we will be uniquely equipped to face the challenges of tomorrow and provide an environment in which we will be proud to live and work.

Our Core Values

Our service will be prompt, reliable and professional. Our staff will be caring and responsible.

District Advisory Council

Members include presidents of township boards of trustees, village mayors and the President of the Board of County Commissioners. Members are required by law to meet annually in March. They select four of the five members of the Board of Health, make recommendations to the Board of Health and authorize city contractual agreements.

Chairman Joe Sykes
Secretary Gwen McFarlin

Licensing Council

The Licensing Council provides input on rules and fees regarding business entities licensed by the Hamilton County Board of Health. It meets at least annually and appoints one member to the Board of Health.

Chairperson of Licensing Council Larry Riddle
Vice Chairperson Jim Brett
Secretary Bill Mowery

Board of Health

The Board of Health is the governing body of Hamilton County Public Health. It has the authority to adopt rules and regulations which have the same status as law, enact policies within the jurisdiction of HCPH and hire a health commissioner. Meetings are held at the HCPH office on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

President Thomas Chatham
Vice President Jim Brett
Board Members Kenneth Amend, M.D.
Tracey A. Puthoff, Esq.
Mark Rippe

Health Commissioner and Staff

Health Commissioner Timothy Ingram
Assistant Health Commissioner Kathy Lordo, Department of Community Health Services
Assistant Health Commissioner Greg Kesterman, Department of Environmental Health Services

Divisions

Disease Prevention Pat Allingham, Director
Environmental Health Jeremy Hessel, Director
Epidemiology and Assessment Craig Davidson, Director
Health Promotion and Education Stacy Wegley, Director
Plumbing Lisa Humble, Director
Waste Management Chuck DeJonckheere, Director
Water Quality Chris Griffith, Director

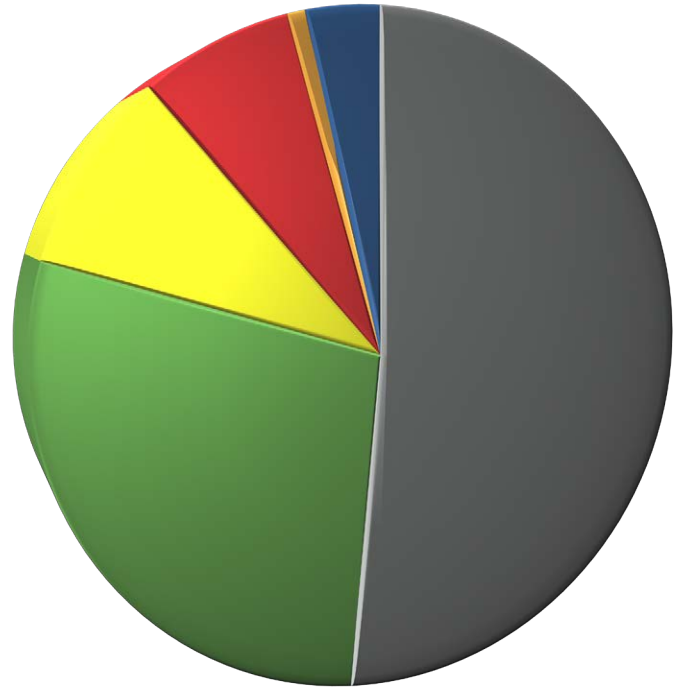
Financial Report

2012 Financial Report of Hamilton County Public Health

Numbers rounded to the nearest dollar

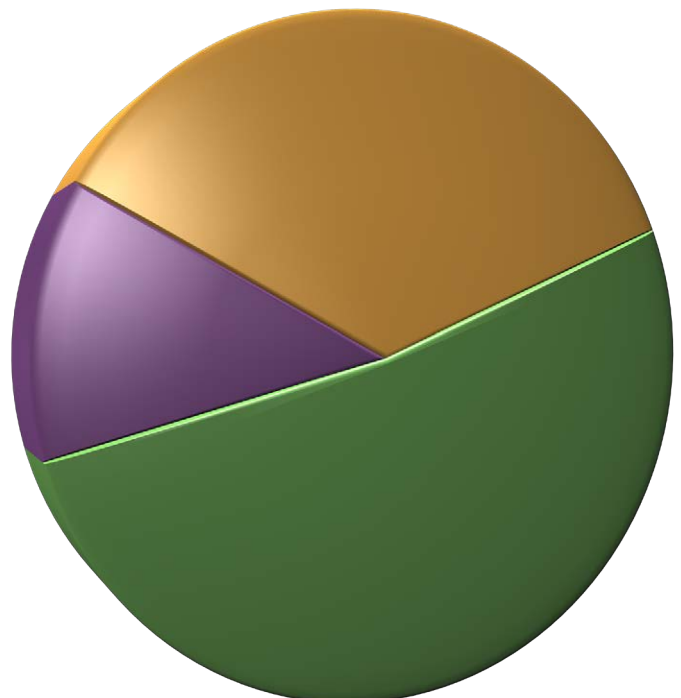
Revenues & Resources

● Fees & Permits	\$5,689,847
● Grants & Contracts	\$3,133,141
● Indigent Care Levy	\$980,920
● Cities, Townships & Villages	\$784,748
● State Subsidy	\$95,874
● Other Revenue	\$394,157
Total Revenue & Resources	\$11,078,687



Expenditures

● Personnel Services	\$5,502,073
● State & Other Agency Fees	\$1,269,010
● Operating Expenses	\$3,760,503
Total Expenditures	\$10,531,586



Programs and Inspections

Frequently Requested Information

Customer Service

Main Number	(513) 946-7800
Administration/Health Commissioner's Office	(513) 946-7822
Main Fax	(513) 946-7890
Plumbing Fax	(513) 946-7925
TB Clinic, Nursing, STD & HIV Fax	(513) 946-7601

Important Phone Numbers and Websites

Hamilton County Public Health Online	www.HamiltonCountyHealth.org
Follow us on Twitter	@HamCoHealth
Join us on Facebook	www.fb.com/HamCoHealth
YouTube	www.youtube.com/HamCoHealth
WeTHRIVE! SM	www.WatchUsThrive.org
Hamilton County Fall Prevention Task Force	www.FallPreventionTaskForce.org
Odor Complaint Hotline	(513) 946-7879

Programs and Inspections Summaries

Epidemiology and Assessment

Birth Records Recorded	5,506
Birth Records Issued	18,689
Death Records Recorded	4,828
Death Records Issued	24,578

Disease Prevention

Communicable Diseases Reported (excluding STDs)	1,040
Communicable Diseases Reported (including STDs)	3,842
Confirmed Cases of Tuberculosis	12
Directly Observed Therapy Visits	831
BCMh contacts	2,923
Immunizations Given at Clinic	1,687
Flu Shots Given (September 2012 – December 23, 2012)	168
Patients Visiting Regular Clinics	763
Tuberculosis Screenings	29

Waste Management

Construction and Demolition Debris Landfill Inspections	186
Compost Site Inspections	73
Infectious Waste Facility Inspections	51
Lead Risk Assessments	7
Municipal Solid Waste Facility Inspections	42
Open Dumping Investigations	110
Environmental Sampling at Waste Facilities	40
Solid Waste Nuisance Inspections	408
Tire Site Inspections	55
Tattoo/Piercing Facility Inspections	46

Plumbing

Backflow Surveys	60
Backflow Inspections	65
Testable Backflow Devices	9,552
Plumbing Nuisance Investigations	26
Plumbing Permits issued	1,773

Health Promotion and Education

Fall Prevention Presentation Attendees	254
Fall Prevention Website Visits	11,430
School Wellness Teams Supported	14
WeTHRIVE! Community and School Gardens	17
WeTHRIVE! Child Care Resolutions	18
WeTHRIVE! Community Resolutions	3
WeTHRIVE! Tobacco Free Child Care Resolutions	7
WeTHRIVE! Shared Use Agreements	22
WeTHRIVE! Safe Routes to School Initiatives	2
WeTHRIVE! Faith Based Wellness Resolutions	4

Environmental Health

Nuisance and Housing	1,380
Food Service Inspections	3,741
Food Safety Training Individuals Trained	806
Food Safety Training Facilities Trained	145
ServSafe -- Individuals Trained	71
Jail Inspections	4
Manufactured Home Park & Camp Inspections	67
Public Accommodation Facility Inspections	80
Nuisance Complaint Inspections	1,380
Rabies Control Cat & Dog Bites	674
School Inspections	323
Swimming Pool/Spa Inspections	1,116
Smoke Free Ohio Inspections	104

Water Quality

Mechanical (Sewage Treatment System) STS Inspections	9,532
Mechanical STS Re-inspections	3,143
STS New Construction/Replacement/Alteration Reviews	124
Household Sewage Code Variances	26
Installer/Repairer Registrations	81
Non-mechanical STS Inspections	1,294
Non-mechanical STS Re-inspections	119
Semi-public STS Inspections	339
Semi-public STS Re-inspections	143
Septic Hauler Registrations	21
STS Permit to Install	85
Subdivision Reviews	15



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TB Clinic Fax	(513) 946-7603
Odor Complaint Hotline	(513) 946-7879

Web sites

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Follow us on Twitter	@HamCoHealth
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YouTube	youtube.com/hamcohealth
WeTHRIVE! SM	www.WatchUsThrive.org
HC Fall Prevention Task Force	www.FallPreventionTaskForce.org