

# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



## HAMILTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

### Public Health Challenges Change Over Time

#### Public Health Assists Opioid Fight

Last year, we discussed the initiation of public health's response to opioid epidemic. The public health system's efforts to address the epidemic are reminiscent of many past public health initiatives. During the 20th Century, public health tackled issues such as water fluoridation, immunization, seat belt use, tobacco cessation, family planning and a myriad of other health issues. All of these issues, while still in various stages of remediation, represented changes in not only public health activity, but also in increasing health and life span for the population. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention credit many of these initiatives with adding 25 years to the lifespans of Americans during the last century.

Today's opioid epidemic shares similarities with many of these public health interventions. Drug abuse previously lived in law enforcement and sometimes, mental health realms. Today we know that addiction is a disease and needs to be treated as such. That's where public health comes in. We have been working diligently through the Hamilton County Heroin Coalition to affect a paradigm shift in the way we approach addiction. Law enforcement is on-board. There are currently programs throughout the County in which law enforcement tempers its incarceration model in favor of programs that work long-term to cure the disease of addiction.

Our next hurdle is working with our health care system to more closely monitor prescribing practices and to help those addicted with medication-assisted treatment to gain remission from the disease of addiction.

We still have much work before us, but the models are beginning to change. During the year, Hamilton County Public Health distributed some 5,000 doses of naloxone – the overdose reversal drug – to first responders throughout the County. I am pleased to report that this program has already resulted in more than 1,000 “saves.” Everyone deserves a second (and third, fourth, etc.) chance at life.

#### Zika Remains a Concern

No doubt you have heard about Zika Virus and its spread. The virus has been implicated as a cause of birth defects. Similar to West Nile, Zika is spread primarily through the bite of an infected mosquito. Zika is not new. Outbreaks of Zika previously have been reported in tropical Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands. We have already seen Zika in Florida and Texas. Zika likely will continue to spread to new areas.

Fortunately, the mosquito responsible for transmission of Zika is not found in our area. However, we must remain vigilant, as those visiting effected areas could return with the virus. It can be spread to people through bites of infected mosquitos as well as between people through sexual transmission and from mothers to their children during pregnancy. For those pregnant or trying to conceive, it is a good idea to avoid travel to effected areas and take precautions around others who may have been in those areas.

## **10 Years of Smoke-Free Workplaces**

2016 marked the tenth year that workers in Ohio businesses are guaranteed a smoke-free work environment. The State's Smoke Free Ohio law ensures that employees, as well as patrons of businesses are no longer subjected to second-hand smoke and the health threats it causes.

We joined forces with our colleagues in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky to celebrate the law's anniversary, as well as to demonstrate its importance for our neighbors in Kentucky. We are hopeful that Kentucky will join some 30 other states in implementing smoke free laws so that its citizens enjoy the same health benefits we are now enjoying.

## **Medical Gas**

In a first-ever shared services agreement between the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Health, we began inspections for Cincinnati facilities using non-flammable medical gas, beginning October 1, 2016.

Non-flammable medical gas is used in hospitals and most healthcare facilities for a number of purposes, including delivery of oxygen, nitrous oxide and anesthesia, and medical vacuum applications. Inspectors check for appropriate installation through the code developed by the National Fire Protection Association, as well as adherence to engineering specifications.

## **Indian Hill**

We are pleased to welcome The Village of Indian Hill fully into the communities served by Hamilton County Public Health. Beginning in 2016, Hamilton County Public Health began implementing additional inspection work on sewage treatment systems. Full program responsibility begins in 2017. We welcome Indian Hill and look forward to a productive relationship.

## **Food Safety**

Food safety is critical function within public health. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that each year, roughly one in six Americans (or 48 million people) get sick, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die of foodborne diseases.

Ohio has taken a leadership role in helping to prevent foodborne illnesses. Beginning in 2016, representatives from all licensed facilities are required to complete comprehensive training in food handling and safety. As a result, our food safety classes have been booked solid and we have added more offerings to accommodate the requirement.

We are very pleased with the new requirements. Training not only achieves our standard of education over enforcement, but also has a positive impact on public health.

Also in the area of food safety is the continued success of our Clean Kitchen Award program. The award recognizes food service operators who have consistently shown careful adherence to food safety practices. In 2016, we saw an increase of 78 percent increase in the number of award winners, a sure sign that attention to food safety is growing. If you are out dining and your favorite establishment has not achieved a Clean Kitchen Award, ask them why. The same goes for schools, many of which have also participated in the program.

## **WeTHRIVE!**

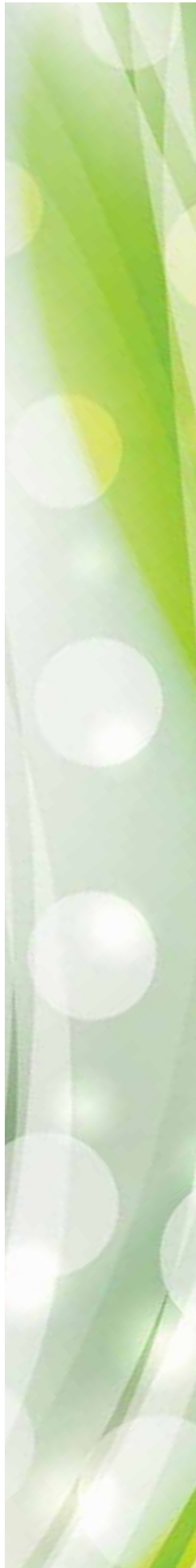
WeTHRIVE! is a county-wide initiative that began in 2009 and seeks to make healthy living easier. Hamilton County Public Health engaged schools, businesses, churches, elected officials and residents to address chronic disease by increasing access to healthy foods and physical activity opportunities, while decreasing exposure to secondhand smoke. This collaboration resulted in numerous policy and environmental changes that will have lasting impact in our communities.

As a result, Hamilton County Public Health expanded the focus of WeTHRIVE! to include additional initiatives to improve the overall health of a community. Participating communities can now select from among six of these initiatives, or pathways. These include: chronic disease; emergency preparedness, environmental health; injury prevention; social health; and substance abuse prevention.

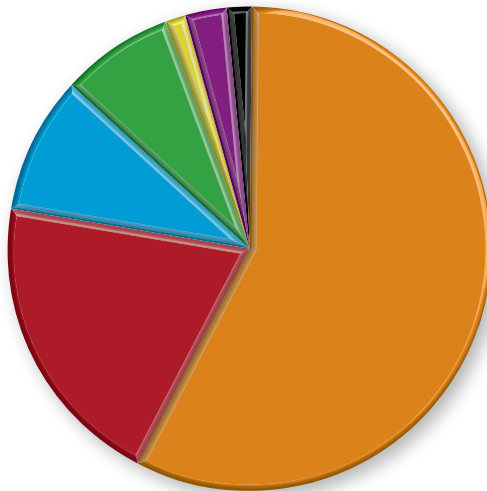
We have 21 communities now working to implement programs and policies to enhance health for their residents. What is keeping you from joining them? Please call me anytime for an introduction to WeTHRIVE! and how the program might work in your community.

Stay healthy!

Tim Ingram  
Health Commissioner



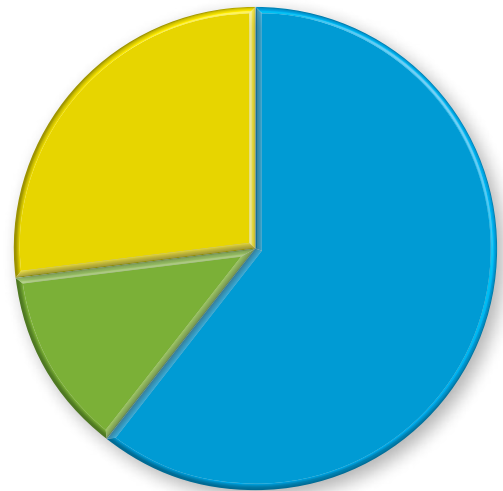
## 2016 REVENUE & EXPENDITURES



### Revenues

● Fees & Permits . . . . .	\$5,757,367
● Grants & Contracts . . . . .	\$1,987,216
● TB Control-Indigent Care Levy . . . . .	\$908,000
● Cities, Townships, Villages . . . . .	\$754,285
● State Subsidies . . . . .	\$130,923
● Cash Reserves . . . . .	\$294,364
● Other Revenue . . . . .	\$147,203

**Total Revenues . . . . . \$9,979,357**



### Expenditures

● Personnel Services . . . . .	\$6,047,081
● State & Other Agency Fees. . . . .	\$1,251,072
● Operating Expenses . . . . .	\$2,681,204

**Total Expenditures . . . . . \$9,979,357**

### 2016 Program Highlights

Birth Records Issued	15,980
Death Records Issued	25,955
Communicable Diseases Reported	11,794
Communicable Disease Outbreaks	17
Tuberculosis Screenings	1,586
Active Cases of Tuberculosis	10
Immunizations Given at Clinics	1,633
Public Health Nuisance Complaints	1,823
Tattoo/Piercing Facility Inspections	42
Waste Facility Inspections	365
Plumbing Permits Issued	4,467
WeTHRIVE! Communities	21
Food Service Inspections	6,356
Food Safety Training – Individuals Trained	1,532
School Inspections	336
Swimming Pool/Spa Inspections	1,229
Sewage Treatment System (STS) Inspections/Re-inspections	16,659
Community Preparedness Points of Dispensing Sites	74

### Frequently Requested Information

#### Customer Service and Important Phone Numbers

Main Number  
(513) 946-7800

Administration/Health Commissioner's Office  
(513) 946-7822

Main Fax  
(513) 946-7890

TB Clinic, Nursing, STD & HIV Fax  
(513) 946-7603

Odor Complaint Hotline  
(513) 946-7879

#### Web and Social Media

Hamilton County Public Health Online  
[www.HCPH.org](http://www.HCPH.org)

Follow us on Twitter  
[@HamCoHealth](https://twitter.com/HamCoHealth)

Join us on Facebook  
[www.fb.com/HamCoHealth](https://www.fb.com/HamCoHealth)

YouTube  
[www.youtube.com/HamCoHealth](https://www.youtube.com/HamCoHealth)

WeTHRIVE!<sup>SM</sup>  
[www.WatchUsThrive.org](http://www.WatchUsThrive.org)



### **Hamilton County Public Health Mission**

Hamilton County Public Health educates, serves and protects our community for a healthier future.

### **Hamilton County Public Health Vision**

Healthy choices. Healthy lives. Healthy communities.

### **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	Gwen McFarlin
Secretary	Lawanda Corman

### **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	Neil Ramsey

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

### **Health Commissioner and Staff**

Health Commissioner	Timothy Ingram
Assistant Health Commissioner	Craig Davidson, 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	David Carlson, Director
Health Promotion and Education	Rebecca Stowe, Director
Plumbing	Lisa Humble, Director
Waste Management	Chuck DeJonckheere, Director
Water Quality	Chris Griffith, Director

