

## HCPH Earns National Accreditation



This has been a monumental year as Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH) became the first health department in Southwest Ohio to receive accreditation from the national Public Health Accreditation Board.

The accreditation process raises the bar so that public health

departments across the US can continuously improve the quality of their services and performance. To receive accreditation, a health department must undergo a multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of quality standards and measures.

For HCPH, the process began more than three years ago with the development of a Community Health Assessment. Findings from this process led to a Community Health Improvement Plan and a strategic plan for the agency, both of which served as the foundation for moving through accreditation.

The State of Ohio announced that all local health departments are to achieve accreditation by year 2020. Not only does accreditation further elevate the performance of protecting public health throughout the State, but also serves as a precedent to receiving increased funding from Ohio and national public health resources.

Needless to say, we are thrilled with the designation. However, this will not allow us to rest on our laurels. Accreditation is renewed every five years and we are already underway shoring up all areas for our next review.

### **The Opioid Epidemic**

By now, it should come as no surprise that Hamilton County remains in the grip of a heroin and opioid epidemic. This year saw us considerably ramp up our efforts to attack this epidemic on several fronts. The Board of Health created a dedicated Harm Reduction Program and charged the team with hitting the streets to mitigate the consequences of the opioid epidemic.

For the past two years, we have produced a seven-day-a-week compilation of overdose activity throughout the County. This report allows first responders, hospitals and law enforcement to get a snapshot of overdose activity to target “hot spots.”

We partnered with Adapt Pharma, the manufacturer of the overdose-reversing drug, Narcan<sup>®</sup>, as well as with TriHealth, Mercy Health, Christ, Cincinnati Children’s and UC Hospitals, and the BrightView Foundation to make doses of the drug available to anyone in the County to use in lifesaving measures. With more than 25,000 doses committed, the team has developed a full-court-press strategy to make sure everyone has a second (and third.....) chance at life.

Going forward, we will continue to ramp up the services available through our Harm Reduction Program – a partnership with the Cincinnati Health Department, Interact for Health and the UC College of Medicine. These include education about overdose and communicable disease prevention and injection safety; testing and referral to treatment for communicable disease such as hepatitis, HIV and sexually-transmitted infections and for pregnancy; vaccination; referral to substance abuse, medical, mental health and social service programs; access to sterile injection equipment to fight the spread of disease; and access to naloxone. This is an all-out public health approach, which is exactly where the disease of addiction belongs.

### **FIMR**

Hamilton County has an unfortunate distinction in that our infant mortality rate is higher than the national average. The Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) is operated out of Hamilton County Public Health and works to understand social, environmental and health conditions impacting these rates.

The FIMR program is modeled after the national program. The process begins when a fetal or infant death is recorded. Review teams move into action to gather information through health records and interviews with parents. The Case Review Team, made up of health, social service and other experts from the community review case information, identify issues and make recommendations for community change, if appropriate. The Community Action Team, a group of community leaders, review Case Review Team recommendations, prioritize identified issues, then design and implement interventions to improve service systems and resources.

During 2017, teams identified cultural competency as an area for attention. The group implemented a program aimed at nurses and doctors to inform them of the importance of pre-conception health care and how it ultimately affects birth outcomes.

There is an important side benefit to the information gathered. When case review teams visit parents for often sad and difficult discussions, they are often able to provide comfort and learning to help bereaved parents get through a difficult time.

**WeTHRIVE!**

This popular initiative, which helps make healthy living easier, has expanded to 22 communities throughout the County.

WeTHRIVE! creates powerful partnerships between communities and Hamilton County Public Health to build healthy environments where residents live, work, learn and play. The WeTHRIVE! model breaks paradigms and develops long-lasting change through creation and adoption of community health and wellness policies.

WeTHRIVE! communities establish teams consisting of council members and trustees, administration and citizens collectively responsible for working with our staff to improve the overall health and well-being of your community. We can work with you to reduce chronic disease; develop top-notch emergency preparedness plans; create access to healthy food and physical activity choices; and a myriad of other initiatives to help your community to become the best it can be!

The WeTHRIVE! initiative was recognized in 2017 as a “model practice” by the National Association of County and City Health Officials. The award celebrates local health departments for developing programs that demonstrate best practices in response to a critical local public health need.

If your community has not yet joined the 22 WeTHRIVE! communities in Hamilton County, why not? Give us a call and our professional team can jump right in with your community leadership to custom design the best program for your residents.

**Doing Business With Us – Online**

Have you had an opportunity to visit our new website? Hopefully, you have found it provides easy-to-access information, data and reports you can use to develop healthy practices. You can access inspection reports from our

programs, including restaurants, hotels/motels, tattoo and piercing facilities, swimming pools, and plumbing. Inspection reports are updated daily, so you can use them with confidence in gathering information.

If you are out in the community and see something concerning at a restaurant, hotel or other business that we license, you can file a complaint online. Public health nuisance complaints are able to be filed on our website. We monitor those complaints seven-days-a-week.

Home sewage treatment systems are now mapped and available on our website. You can quickly access your own system, as well as all of those in your community – or in the County, for that matter. From the map, you can access inspection reports, informational videos about system operation and care, streams affected by sewage systems and a wealth of time and money-saving information.

In addition, you can use the site to do business with us in a number of ways. Do you have a permit or license to pay for? Perhaps you need vital records like birth and death certificates. All of our permits are now able to be accessed via the internet, saving you time, money and providing convenient payment alternatives.

**Visit us at [www.hcph.org](http://www.hcph.org).**

**Conclusion**

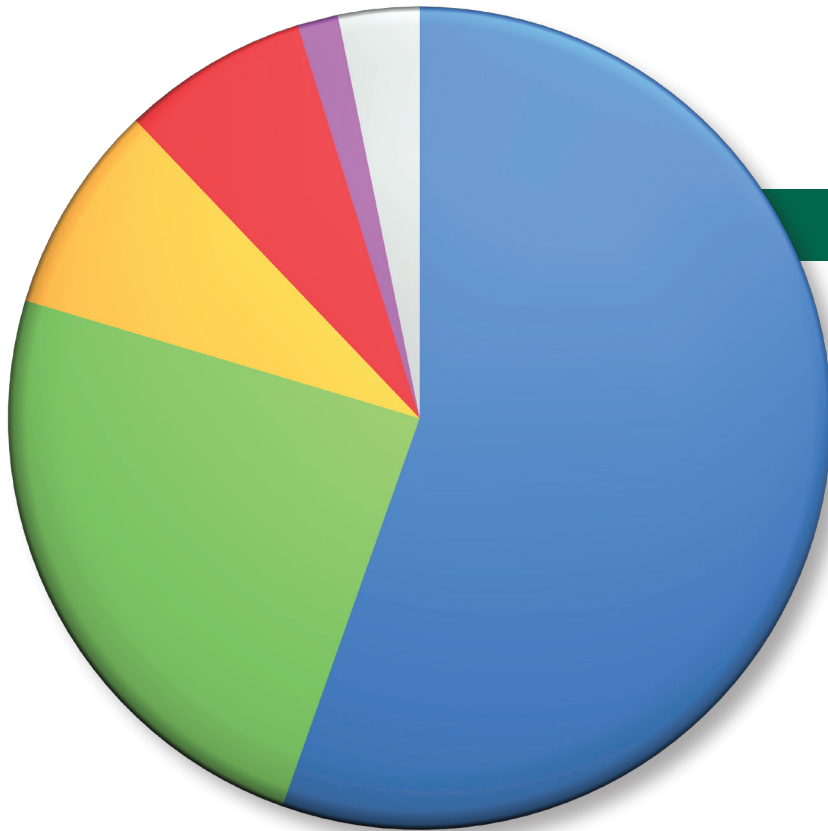
2017 was a year of accomplishments and change. In public health, we must remain flexible in order to deal with emerging issues, such as the opioid epidemic and its resulting peripheral diseases. However, backed by accreditation and a laser-like focus on the health and wellness issues that are of most importance to the citizens of Hamilton County, I am confident that we will continue to see improved health outcomes.

Stay Healthy!  
 Tim Ingram  
 Hamilton County Health Commissioner

**2017 Program Highlights**

Birth Records Issued . . . . .	14,193	Waste Facility Inspections . . . . .	345
Death Records Issued . . . . .	26,140	Plumbing Permits Issued . . . . .	4,302
Communicable Diseases Reported . . . . .	12,128	WeTHRIVE! Communities . . . . .	22
Communicable Disease Outbreaks . . . . .	35	Food Service Inspections . . . . .	5,966
Tuberculosis Screenings . . . . .	1,463	Food Safety Training – Individuals Trained . . . . .	1,892
Active Cases of Tuberculosis . . . . .	22	School Inspections . . . . .	338
People immunized at Clinics . . . . .	745	Swimming Pool/Spa Inspections . . . . .	1,592
Public Health Nuisance Complaints . . . . .	2,276	Sewage Treatment System (STS) Inspections/Re-inspections . . . . .	17,176
Tattoo/Piercing Facility Inspections . . . . .	50	Community Preparedness Points of Dispensing Sites . . . . .	88

# 2017 Revenues & Expenditures

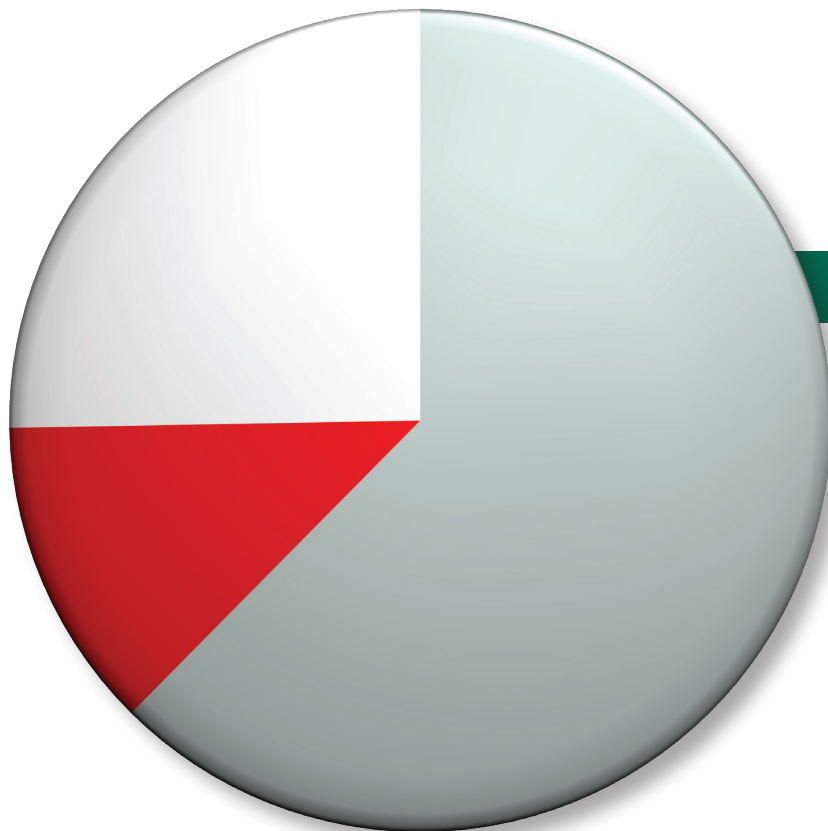


## REVENUES

● Fees & Permits	\$5,953,537
● Grants & Contracts	\$2,600,041
● TB Control-Indigent Care Levy	\$888,000
● Cities, Townships, Villages	\$787,068
● State Subsidies	\$171,915
● Other Revenue	\$342,889

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**Total Revenues** **\$10,743,450**



## EXPENDITURES

● Personnel Services	\$6,380,659
● State & Other Agency Fees	1,257,377
● Operating Expenses	2,584,742

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**Total Expenditures** **\$10,222,778**



**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

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

**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

**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  
Join us on Facebook [www.fb.com/HamCoHealth](http://www.fb.com/HamCoHealth)  
YouTube [www.youtube.com/HamCoHealth](http://www.youtube.com/HamCoHealth)  
WeTHRIVE!™ [www.WatchUsThrive.org](http://www.WatchUsThrive.org)