



PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

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NEWS

HAMILTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT OF TB PROGRAM SAVING TAXPAYERS MONEY

Savings total nearly \$800,000 in two years

HAMILTON COUNTY – Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH) has saved county taxpayers \$785,455 since taking over management of the county’s tuberculosis control program more than two years ago.

HCPH assumed control of the Hamilton County Tuberculosis Control program from the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners in May of 2008. The cost savings of nearly \$800,000 was achieved through the end of 2010. Total operating expenses for the TB control program in 2010 was \$942,109. The program’s annual operating cost, under Hamilton County Job and Family Services, was \$1.3 million in 2006 and \$1.2 million in 2007.

The majority of TB Control funding comes from a countywide Indigent Care Levy enacted by Hamilton County voters.

“The money we saved is direct savings to the Indigent Care Levy,” said Hamilton County Health Commissioner Tim Ingram. “Funds from the Indigent Care Levy allow us to provide services that are critical for the control and elimination of tuberculosis in our community.”

The Hamilton County Tuberculosis Control Unit exists to treat and prevent TB, a disease caused by bacteria that usually attacks the lungs. But other parts of the body – including the kidney, spine and brain – are also vulnerable. TB is the number one infectious disease in the world.

If not treated properly, TB can be fatal. It was once the leading cause of death in the United States.

Hamilton County Commissioner Greg Hartmann lauded HCPH for wisely using taxpayers’ dollars to provide vital services to the people of Hamilton County.

“Hamilton County Public Health is an example of how to manage a public health program that protects public health and taxpayers’ dollars,” Commissioner Hartmann said.

NEWS

In addition to prudently managing the TB program, HCPH has also been the recipient of federal grant money for the program. Since 2008, HCPH has received a total of \$207,237 in Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funds through an Ohio Department of Health grant. The funds partially fund the position of a Community Outreach worker.

Hamilton County has a long history and deep tradition of treating and controlling TB in the community.

In 1897 TB replaced smallpox as the leading cause of death in Hamilton County and Cincinnati. A 53-acre Price Hill farm that housed a smallpox hospital was remodeled and reopened as the first municipal-owned TB hospital in the nation. It was known as Dunham Hospital.

Dunham closed in 1971, the same year the TB control program was created.

Hamilton County Board of Health President Tracey Puthoff said management of the TB control program illustrates successful public policy combined with strong stewardship of the public's money.

"HCPH takes public accountability seriously without compromising the effectiveness of the TB control program," President Puthoff said.

For more information about TB in Hamilton County, please visit www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org.

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