



PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

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## NEWS

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### **Hamilton County Public Health Sanitarian's Work With Hoarders Recognized With Prestigious Award**

HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO – Hamilton County Public Health inspector Mandy Bartel of Wyoming, OH was recognized by the Ohio Environmental Health Association as Sanitarian of the Year. The prestigious title was awarded this week at the Association's annual conference.

Bartel, a five-plus year veteran in Hamilton County Public Health's Environmental Health division is a generalist working in food service, nuisance and housing, mobile home parks, campgrounds, swimming pools, schools and public accommodation facilities. Her interest in working with hoarders led her to develop a partnership with mental health professionals, while completing extensive training to better understand hoarding behavior. The training and partnerships allow her to expand the role of sanitarian and work with hoarders to not only clean their properties, but to also access mental health providers to work on the core of the problem.

“Mandy's interest in providing sustainable, long-term solutions to hoarding led her, of her own volition, to establish partnerships with regional mental health professionals,” says Hamilton County Health Commissioner Tim Ingram. “She has completed training to provide her with significant background in understanding

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hoarding behavior and how to implement her understanding when working with the public to remediate hoarding episodes.

“Mandy is not a person who rests on her laurels,” Ingram adds. “She leveraged her training and experience to develop programs to work with her peers in accessing mental health providers to work on the core causes of hoarding. As such, her cases often represent significantly more sustainable outcomes in terms of working with people to understand and subsequently change their behavior. I’m particularly pleased with her grasp of our agency mantra of *education over enforcement* in tackling a difficult mental health issue as it relates to public health,” Ingram says.

*Hamilton County Public Health works to assure the 460,000 citizens living outside the cities of Cincinnati, Norwood, Sharonville and Springdale are safe from disease, injury and contamination.*

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