



# Health Commissioner / Medical Director Report

## Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County

**February 1, 2017**

This report provides a monthly update for the Board of Health, staff and the community. Our key activities are listed for the seven pillars that support our vision for improving the health of our community.

- Prevent the spread of disease
  - Protect against health threats
  - Promote healthy behaviors
  - Reach out to vulnerable populations
  - Mobilize community action through partnerships
  - Prepare for and respond to public health emergencies
  - Serve as a public health information resource
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## Special items

### Facilities Update

Reibold 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Clinic: On January 31, the Montgomery County Board of County Commissioners entered into agreements with the four contractors involved in the renovation work for the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor clinic. Environmental abatement work is ongoing and is scheduled to be completed by the middle of February. The general contractor plans to be on-site to commence work on February 22.

Elizabeth Place Addiction Services: Renovation work for our Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program is ongoing. Demolition work has been completed and the contractor is continuing with rough-in work activities for plumbing, electrical, and HVAC. The area should be ready for inspections around February 10 and the space is anticipated to be ready for use by mid-to late March.

### Quality Improvement: Sending Healthcare Provider Alerts

Public Health's Emergency Preparedness, Communicable Disease, and Immunization Action Program provide information regarding emerging health threats, public health policy changes, and other updates to best practice guidelines to healthcare providers. Performance data showed the fax process that was being used to distribute this information was inefficient. To improve the process, an eleven-member QI team was formed and met for one hour twice a month from May through November.

#### Process Improvement Goals:

- increase the percentage of first time successful transmissions to 99%
- decrease total time of message approval to less than one week
- decrease total message transmission time from 7 hours to less than 1 hour

The chart below shows the root causes that were identified, the solutions selected, and the outcomes of the test of the solutions.

Root Problem	Solution	Initial	Final	% Change
Inefficient Faxing	Right Fax server-based fax solution	7 hours	< 1 hour	86%
Approval Process	Message template and group email	> 7 days	< 3 days	57%
Poor List Management	Agency-wide list management procedure	N/A	N/A	N/A

The tested solutions have been adopted and an agency-wide Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) was created to describe the new process for sending mass faxes. The outcomes of the project were shared with the Executive Team and Administrative Staff and the SOG has been added to our Employee Portal. The QI Team recommended that a future committee be formed to create guidelines for maintaining contact lists of external/community partners.

Team members were:

Melissa Bullis	Nurse, Communicable Disease Reporting
Beth Carnes	Nurse, Immunization Action Program
Larry Cleek (Team Leader)	Coordinator, Emergency Preparedness
Joyce Close	Bureau Supervisor, Communicable Disease
Laura Hale	Office Support Specialist, Immunization Action Program
Barb Marsh (Sponsor)	Assistant to the Health Commissioner
Terri Parrot	Supervisor, Information Technology Services
John Steele (Timekeeper)	Public Information Specialist, Public Information
Matt Tyler (Quality Liaison)	Sanitarian, General Services
Tracey Waller (Quality Liaison)	Supervisor, WIC program
Donna Youtz	Nurse Coordinator, Immunization Clinic

Special thanks go to the entire Information Technology Services staff for their work in implementing the Right Fax server-based faxing solution agency-wide.

## Prevent the spread of diseases

### Local Investigations

Investigations of five cases of Pertussis (ages 3 to 15 years) revealed no connections other than its occurrence in two youth in the same family. All cases had received a Pertussis vaccine. Contacts received appropriate prophylaxis. No further transmission of Pertussis related to these cases has been identified. Other reportable diseases during the month include giardiasis (two unrelated cases) and one case each of Legionnaire's Disease, Varicella, and Shigella. Outbreak investigations included a Norovirus outbreak at a long-term care facility involving more than 20 residents and staff. Norovirus was confirmed in two cases. The facility received instructions for the interruption of transmission

and for environmental cleaning, and no new cases have occurred during the past several weeks. Two ongoing investigations involve Norovirus at another long-term care facility and the occurrence of Scabies at a health care facility.

### **Two Additional Syringe Services Sites Opened in the Dayton Area**

Public Health continues to expand harm reduction programming within Montgomery County. Our CarePoint program began at the Life Enrichment Center in April 2015. Two additional locations were opened in January. The CarePoint program provides comprehensive services to individuals who inject drugs to reduce the chances that they will do additional harm to themselves and others. The program includes exchange of used syringes and testing and referrals for substance abuse treatment. At each visit, clients are offered:

- referrals for drug treatment
- referrals for medical and dental care to include wound care
- referrals for mental health care
- on-site medical testing (Hepatitis C, HIV, and pregnancy)
- on-site Medicaid enrollment assistance
- referrals for social services (clothing, food, and housing assistance)

<b>CarePoint</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Life Enrichment Center	425 N. Findlay Street	Friday 9 am – 3:30 pm
Mt. Olive Baptist Church	502 Pontiac Street	Thursday 9 am - 3:30 pm
Vogel Health Center	6175 West Third Street	Tuesday 12 – 5 pm

## **Protect against health threats**

### **Ongoing Odor Issues at Stony Hollow Landfill**

Two bureaus of the Office of Environmental Health - RAPCA and Solid Waste - remain involved with the ongoing issues at the Stony Hollow Landfill (SHL). On November 28, 2016, with input from RAPCA, the Director of Ohio EPA issued Interim Findings and Orders to SHL to address the ongoing odor issue resulting from the subsurface heating event. RAPCA and Solid Waste Program staff have performed inspections and verified that SHL has met each of the interim orders. Most importantly, SHL has covered 13.5 acres of the landfill with a temporary landfill cap and installed a larger flare to assist with controlling the landfill gas. While it is too soon to know the true impacts these actions will have on the odor levels, the number of complaints received by Stony Hollow Landfill has decreased since January 1, 2017 and Public Health staff is observing less intense odors in the community.

As part of the Director’s Interim Orders to SHL, air monitoring is required at two places on the SHL property line. This air monitoring activity has been conducted by a SHL contractor and began on December 14, 2016. The contractor follows the U.S. EPA standard 1 in 6 day sampling schedule and uses U.S. EPA standard techniques for collecting and analyzing the air samples. Each sample is collected for 24 hours. So far 12 air samples have been collected and analyzed.

Previous to December, SHL collected 10 air samples and RAPCA collected 7 air samples. These results are public information and are available upon request. All air monitoring results are reviewed by the Ohio EPA toxicologist in Columbus, who has reported to RAPCA that all of the chemical

concentrations measured remain below risk-based levels of concern for human health impacts. While the odors may not be causing human health impacts, the odors are a quality of life concern for the community. As such, RAPCA and Solid Waste Program are currently working with Ohio EPA to draft final Director's Findings and Orders, which will outline more comprehensive long-term measures SHL will be required to implement to control odors.

## Promote healthy behaviors

### **Violence Prevention Program Presents “A Teen Day Celebration”**

On January 16, Public Health's Violence Prevention Program presented the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual “A Teen Day Celebration” in observance of non-violence on the national Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. The event was held at the Neon Movies in Dayton and featured the movie *RACE*, based on the incredible true story of superstar Jesse Owens and his quest to become the greatest track and field athlete in history. The movie chronicles the challenges Owens had to overcome leading to the 1936 Olympics, where he faced off against Adolf Hitler's vision of Aryan supremacy.

Two hundred and twenty-five people attended the event, which was free and open to the public. Those in attendance received a free McDonald's lunch provided by locally owned and operated franchise, Debbie Wright, Inc. The program brought awareness of the struggle for racial equality and of methods to diffuse and manage violent behaviors, building upon the beliefs of Dr. King and his use of non-violence.

### **“We the Fathers...” Banquet**

On January 20, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “We the Fathers of Montgomery County” Banquet was held at Sinclair Community College. The event supports the Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services' Fatherhood Initiative, and was sponsored by many community partners. Speakers included representatives from Job and Family Services, Public Health, the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood, and the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio. The purpose of the banquet was to promote the important role men and fathers play in their families lives. All speakers stressed the importance of serving as a role model and assuming an active role in teaching our children to adopt positive behaviors, resist negative influences and value education.

### **Sinclair Community College Becoming Tobacco-Free Campus**

Sinclair Community College, one of the oldest and most prestigious community colleges in the nation, is joining other institutions of higher education in becoming a tobacco-free campus. The college employs 2,300 faculty/staff and serves 32,000 students each year, making Sinclair the third largest community college in Ohio. In the past, administrators had been reluctant to modernize their tobacco policy due to concerns regarding infrastructure needs and confrontation from faculty, alumni, and students.

Administrators began discussing how to implement a tobacco-free campus policy following support from students after a survey was completed in 2015. Several of Sinclair's Board Members and top administration indicated it was necessary to provide faculty, staff, students and visitors an environment that was conducive to good health, safety and well-being. During the fall of 2016, the Sinclair Board moved forward with passing a policy to make Sinclair Community College a tobacco-free campus.

Public Health has been providing technical support throughout the development of the tobacco-free policy. Public Health assisted in the survey assessment of students, offered sample policies, provided educational materials, participated on the leadership committee, and is supplying promotional materials - including signage - for the each of Sinclair's campuses. Additionally, Public Health will be providing evidence-based smoking cessation programming to encourage and assist faculty, staff, and students who are looking to quit smoking and improve their health.

### **Dayton Metro Libraries Make All Campuses Tobacco-Free**

Dayton Metro Libraries saw becoming tobacco-free as part of their mission. "We care about the health of all our visitors and staff alike," said Rachel Gut, Library Deputy Director. "We can better achieve our mission to provide convenient, comfortable spaces for learning and exploration by becoming a smoke-free campus. Especially as we open our new and renovated Library buildings, we want them to be safe, comfortable destinations for everyone."

In advance of the new policy, the Dayton Metro Library partnered with Public Health to provide cessation resources to both staff and community members. Dayton Metro Library and Public Health made a joint appearance on "Living Dayton" to discuss the new policy and share more about the cessation resource. Dayton Metro Library has also communicated the policy change by newsletter, bookmarks, and social media.

"It is our goal to protect Library visitors from unwanted and involuntary exposure to tobacco and passive smoke and to encourage tobacco users to quit," said Gut. "Considering the health risks and high cost of health care related to smoking, we feel this is a positive step for the Library to take."

### **Not a Single Pound Challenge**

This year Public Health had 171 employees and 27 spouses participate and complete the Not a Single Pound Challenge (NASP). Of those employees, 116 (68%) maintained or lost weight. In addition, 36 external organizations with a total of 1,415 employees participated in the NASP challenge. Of the employees who participated, 1,165 (82%) maintained or lost weight.

For the second year, Public Health conducted the Golden Scale Competition – an additional challenge for the external organizations participating in NASP. The Golden Scale trophy is awarded to the organization with the highest percentage of employees who maintained or lost weight during the challenge.

In 2016 the award went to Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton. This year's competition resulted in a tie between two organizations that each had 100% of their employees maintain or lose weight – Montgomery County Law Library and Montgomery County Public Defender's Office. Congratulations to all who participated in this year's challenge.

## **Reach out to vulnerable populations**

### **Home Care Program Medicare Recertification Survey**

On November 28, 2016, a nurse with the Ohio Department of Health arrived to begin a three-day audit of the Home Care program. During this time, the health care facility surveyor reviewed patient

charts, policies and procedures, and shared five visits with the field staff. The Home Care program was found to be compliant with all applicable Medicare Program requirements at the time of the recertification survey which was completed on December 1, 2016.

A deficiency-free recertification survey requires a significant effort on the part of the administration and staff. It is an accomplishment for which the Home Care staff can be proud.

## Mobilize community action through partnerships

### **Infant Mortality Roundtable**

On January 6, Public Health participated in a roundtable discussion with community partners and representatives from the Governor's Cabinet (Department of Health, Department of Medicaid, and Department of Job and Family Services) at Sinclair Community College to discuss reducing the infant mortality racial disparity in Montgomery County. Similar meetings are being conducted in each of the nine Ohio Equity Institute communities. Local participants included the Board of County Commissioners, County Administrator, Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services, Premier Health, Kettering Health Network, Dayton Children's Hospital, Federally Qualified Health Centers, March of Dimes, and Help Me Grow Brighter Futures.

The discussion centered on our Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for improving birth outcomes, the progress of the Infant Mortality Coalition, the status of Ohio Department of Medicaid funded projects, Ohio Department of Health Maternal Child Health grant-funded initiatives, and other activities currently implemented by partners including grass roots organizations. We also discussed existing issues, challenges and opportunities to improve collaboration to achieve collective impact within Montgomery County.

All participants recognized the need to better work together to reduce our infant mortality racial disparity. Specific recommendations from the Governor's Cabinet representatives were to:

- improve alignment among the Board of County Commissioners, Public Health, hospital systems and other executive-level decision-makers
- encourage and establish more partnerships and collaboration with local grass-roots organizations to address social determinants of health and health equity
- enhance public awareness and education, and community involvement in the decision-making process

Subsequent to the meeting, Public Health has been evaluating the overall structure currently in place within our county to reduce the infant mortality racial disparity. We are also performing an objective review of our internal infrastructure. We value the work that has been accomplished to date and will emphasize the need to be more inclusive and action-oriented. Key changes will include enhancing membership on our CHIP committees and the Infant Mortality Coalition, active participation by the Board of County Commissioners to elevate the issue, and alignment with the hospital systems. We are redefining how we move forward as a system of partners to strengthen our collective efforts. We will continue to communicate with representatives from the Governor's Cabinet to inform them of our progress and to share information with the other Ohio Equity Institute communities.

## Community Overdose Action Team Update

In September 2016, Public Health, along with the Board of County Commissioners and Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) convened a forum of community leaders, stakeholders and those in addiction recovery to work together to address the opioid epidemic. The forum addressed the need for a coordinated and committed effort to address the epidemic.

Public Health and ADAMHS have taken the lead to coordinate these community-wide efforts. Under this leadership, community partners have come together to form the Community Overdose Action Team (COAT). COAT's goal is to stabilize the number of people dying from drug overdoses; reduce the number of fatal overdoses and finally, reduce the number of people addicted.

Over 200 individuals throughout Montgomery County are members of the COAT. These members are guiding the work activities. Operationally, eight branches have been created for a system-wide response to the crisis:

- Illegal Opioid Supply Control
- Education and Information
- Harm Reduction
- Response
- Prevention
- Prescription Opioids
- Treatment and Recovery
- Criminal Justice Services

Through this framework, the COAT will identify what services are being offered, look for any existing gaps in services and explore potential new or expanded ways to combat the drug overdose problem. The branches began meeting on November 9 and each branch has met to develop specific action steps and timelines. Some of the highlights of the branches are as follows:

- increasing collaboration across law enforcement agencies and jurisdictions to combat illegal drug supply
- planning for an internet public service campaign to expand the current "Think Again" public awareness campaign through ADAMHS
- increasing distribution of naloxone through Project Dawn to over 100 kits per month and expanding the CarePoint syringe services program to West Dayton
- aligning all major groups that are working on community prevention efforts to implement education programs in schools as well as a medication safety campaign
- planning dissemination of the "Think Twice" Emergency Room physician opioid alternative prescribing toolkit for individuals with chronic pain

A Data Unit is supporting each branch and a Joint Information Center is disseminating information to COAT members and the public. It is the team's hope that this collaborative, community-wide approach will make an impact in combating the problem of rising deaths from drug overdoses in our community.

## Prepare for and respond to PH emergencies

### **Influenza Activity**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), influenza activity is now widespread across Ohio, 28 other states, and Puerto Rico. Ohio has shown minimal influenza-like illness (ILI) activity levels and the number of recent identified influenza cases has remained stable locally. Indiana has also had minimal ILI levels and Kentucky has low ILI levels. The CDC has determined that the circulating influenza virus is a good match to this year's vaccine.

## Serve as a public health information resource

### **Governor's Executive Budget**

On January 30, Governor Kasich unveiled his proposed budget for his final two years in office. The first step in the state budget process is for the Governor to present the blueprint of priorities for the next two year state spending plan (State Fiscal Years 2018-19) to the Ohio House of Representatives. Over the next several months, members of the Ohio House Finance committee will study the issues presented in the Governor's plan and make their changes to areas that reflect the priorities of their members before sending it to the Ohio Senate, where the review process starts over with committee and subcommittee reviews. The package will be altered by the Senate, sent back to the House for their consideration and then back to the Governor where the final package will be adopted by June 30.

The budget includes proposals to continue to improve the health of Ohioans. Examples include the following:

- funding to support local evidence-based infant mortality initiatives to help more Ohio babies reach their first birthdays
- funding for Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided With Naloxone) programs
- authorizing county or regional Drug Overdose Fatality Review Committees to allow local experts to review data sources containing confidential information that provides insight into overdose deaths
- increasing the tobacco tax to deter smoking
- creating a Lead-Safe Housing Registry to make it easier for families to identify lead-safe homes when looking for a place to live
- funding for lead hazard abatement in homes where children live
- improving population health outcomes through aligned public health services that meet national standards

### **Public Health Advocacy**

Public continues its advocacy efforts to improve the health of Montgomery County residents. Recently, Public Health helped author a letter sent by the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners to Senator Sherrod Brown and Senator Rob Portman regarding the positive public health impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA):



- Medicaid expansion
- prevention funding to support work to reduce smoking, promote breastfeeding, provide immunizations, diabetes prevention, lead poisoning prevention, critical laboratory response capacity, and clinical/community health services
- funding for Community Health Centers, the Maternal and Child Health Nurse Home Visiting Program, and the State Children's Health Insurance Program

The letter, signed by forty local health departments, highlights the fact that almost one million Ohioans receive coverage through the law, and emphasizes that the ACA supports important local public health prevention infrastructure.

### **Mass Media Interactions**

During the past few weeks, we have had numerous contacts with TV, radio, and print.

The following are a few examples:

- DDN on Stony Hollow Landfill
- Living Dayton on smoking cessation
- Soft Rock 92.9 and Channel 22/45 on MLK celebration and violence prevention
- DDN on tattoo inspections
- DDN on Community Overdose Action Team and EpiCenter Overdose Data
- DDN on dog bites
- DATV program on Community Overdose Action Team
- Channel 22/45 on radon
- Stats News on EpiCenter
- Public News Service on MLK celebration
- Channel 2 and DDN on flu
- Channel 22/45 on overdose deaths
- Channel 2 - Living Dayton on obesity

Jeff Cooper and Michael Dohn, M.D.