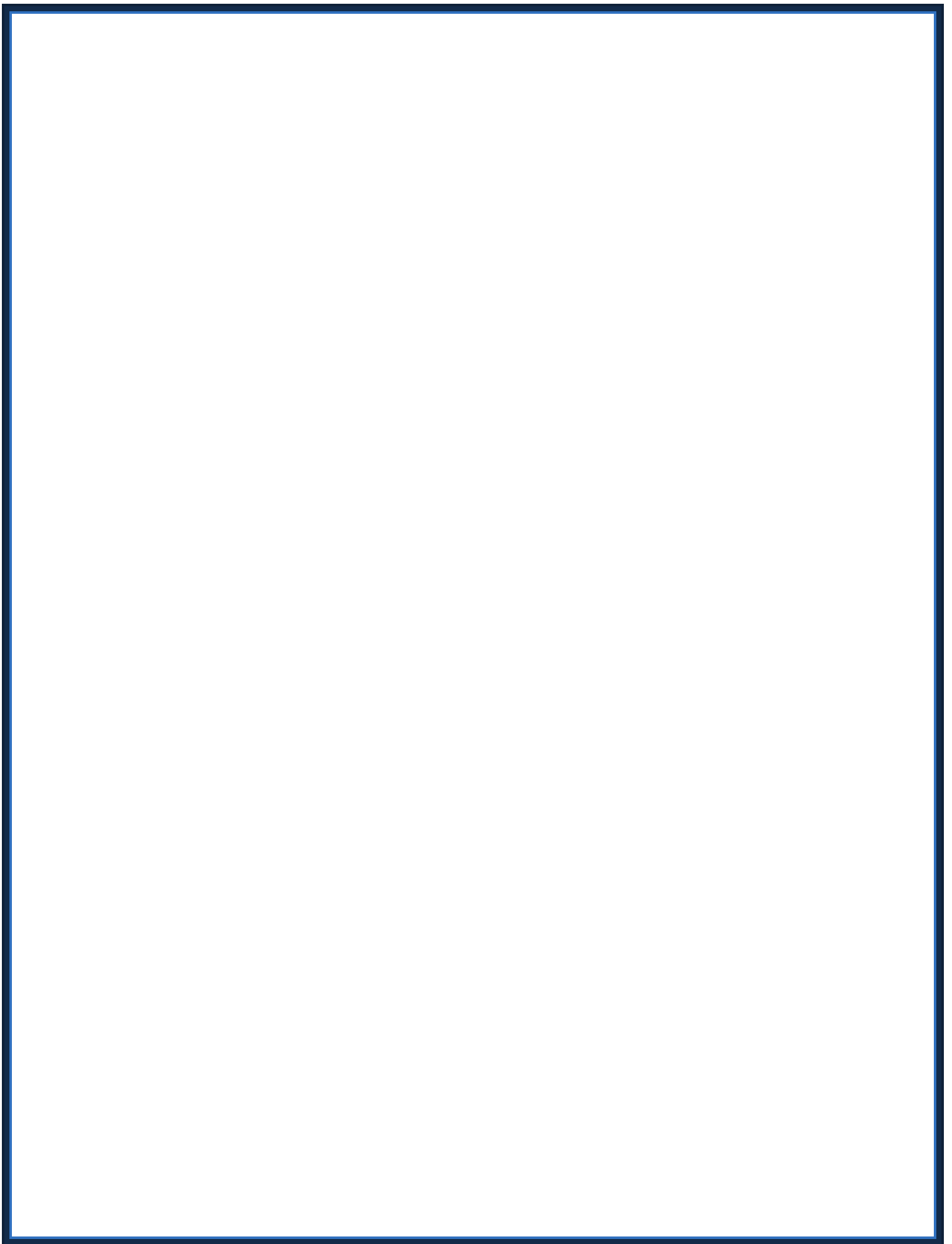




*Van Wert County*  
*General Health District*

**2017**

***YEARLY REPORT OF THE  
HEALTH COMMISSIONER  
PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES  
SANITARIAN  
REGISTRAR  
AND  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR VAN WERT COUNTY  
GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT  
TO THE  
VAN WERT COUNTY DISTRICT  
ADVISORY COUNCIL***



# **HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF**

## **HEALTH COMMISSIONER/MEDICAL DIRECTOR**

Paul A. Kalogerou, MD

## **PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES**

Leslie Bailey, RN, DON

Linda Bissonette, RN

Traci Milligan, RN

Nicole Greve, RN

## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR**

Ruth Gerding, RN, MPH

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

Britt Menchofer, RS

Kelly Dues, SIT

## **VITAL STATISTICS/ADMINISTRATIVE**

Marylou Smith, Office Manager/Registrar

Kristen Hallfeldt, Clerk

Susie Isenbarger, Clerk

Angie Wolfrum, Billing Clerk/ Accreditation Coordinator

# **VAN WERT COUNTY DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS**

## **Paul Svabik, President**

1098 Shawnee Drive, Van Wert, Ohio 45891

Appointed February 1988 ♦ Term Expires April 2022

## **Randy Myers, Vice-President**

4121 Kreischer Road, Van Wert, Ohio 45891

Appointed April 2009 ♦ Term Expires April 2021

## **Brian Greve**

1007 Champaign Drive, Van Wert, Ohio 45891

Appointed April 2013 ♦ Term Expires April 2018

## **Dr. Thomas Conte**

140 Fox Road, Suite 401, Van Wert, Ohio 45891

Appointed April 2016 ♦ Term Expires April 2019

## **Alice Schaufelberger**

1041 Mockingbird Lane, Van Wert, Ohio 45891

Appointed April 1995 ♦ Term Expires April 2020

From The Health Commissioner.....

Our Van Wert County Health Department and Board of Health welcome the District Advisory Council and appreciate your attendance. We understand the privilege and responsibility we have to protect our citizens from disease, to empower the public to make responsible healthcare decisions, to keep our environment safe, and to remain prepared for any public health threat.

Our department is composed of our Nursing Division, Public Health Preparedness/Emergency Response Division, Environmental Health Division, Vital Statistics Division, and our Administrative Staff Division.

Our Nursing Division is dedicated to ensuring the health and safety of Van Wert County. Our department recently welcomed Kathy Will, RN, as the new Director of Nursing. She brings ten years of public health experience to our department. Our nurses immunize and educate the public regarding health issues, identify health concerns, monitor health status, and develop partnerships to identify and to solve problems.

The nurses collaborate with the Van Wert County Hospital and other community agencies to address the county's health needs. Our department continues to participate in a grant with area law enforcement officials to provide reversal medication for drug overdose cases.

Nursing collaborates with our Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and many community partners for preparing against catastrophic occurrences.

Our Nursing Division has participated with other community partners to create a Community Health Improvement Plan and Strategic Plan. Nursing also provides services for Children with Medical Disabilities, Child Passenger Safety, LEAD case investigations, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome counseling, Child Fatality Review, CPR and First Aid, Nicotine Dependence, and Obesity.

Our Public Health Preparedness/Emergency Response Division prepares our department in collaboration with community partners against potential infectious disease outbreaks, bio-terrorism, and any other public health threats. Emergency Response Plans, including Pandemic Influenza and County Mass Fatalities Plans, are regularly updated. Our department, along with community partners, participates in drills to remain prepared.

Our Environmental Health Division monitors and inspects food establishments, solid waste disposal facilities, manufactured home parks, campgrounds, schools, public pools, and body piercing and tattoo facilities. The sanitarians provide permits for and inspect private water systems and household sewage treatment systems along with addressing nuisance and sewage cases. The sanitarians also perform rabies investigations.

Our Administrative Staff Division facilitates effective communication between the clerical and nursing divisions. The clerical staff continues to compassionately and professionally greet the public. Making a client's visit remains a productive and satisfying experience and is a priority for the clerical and clinical teams. By accepting private insurance for the past four years, in addition to Medicare/Medicaid billing, our department has expanded the community's access to our clinics for their immunization needs.

The Ohio Department of Health is requiring all Local Health Departments to become accredited. The Accreditation status ensures that Health Department standards maintain consistency with nationally recognized guidelines, including continuous quality improvement. Our department has begun the process of Accreditation and has an active Quality Improvement Plan. Our department has had a major role in the Van Wert County Health Collaborative group in planning and presenting the Community Health Assessment. Three strategic health priorities including obesity, behavioral health, and access to health care were identified for the Community Health Improvement Plan. Our goal for Accreditation is to improve the health outcomes of our community.

We encourage you to review the 2017 yearly report of our health department contribution to Van Wert County. The goals of our department remain the prevention of disease and the promotion and protection of the health of our community.

Public health funding continues to be limited and our local health department has been affected. The Van Wert County District Advisory Council's continued support is very much appreciated.

Our department remains keenly aware that we are public servants. We continue to work closely with the Board of Health to maintain a fiscally responsible budget to ensure that our tax dollars remain efficiently and effectively utilized.

Respectfully,

Paul A. Kalogerou, MD  
Health Commissioner/Medical Director

## ANNUAL REPORT UPDATES

### SCHOOL HEALTH

Part of the school health program is the screening of students in the school setting. Crestview, Lincolnview and Van Wert school systems employ school nurses within their respective systems who complete their screenings. The health department nurses still provide services to St. Mary of the Assumption School and Lincolnview Marsh School. We made a total of 4 visits to these schools in 2017. The Ohio Department of Health and Department of Education have established guidelines to be followed by our local health department in the schools. The guidelines mandate that we complete an initial screening on all children required to be screened. Any child that does not pass the initial screening will be rescreened 4-6 weeks following the initial screening. Our nurses completed a total of 82 initial screenings and 9 rescreens. These services are provided to area schools at no cost to the school systems.

SCREENING TYPE	# SCREENED	# RESCREENED	# REFERRED
Vision	82	7	5
Hearing	82	6	4
Pediculosis	83	0	0
Height/Weight	83	0	0

We maintain close contact with the school nurses and/or administrators in all of the area schools. They phone us on a regular basis for information and guidance about immunizations, infectious diseases, Pediculosis (head lice), referrals to Children with Medical Handicaps, etc. We send out information to them whenever there is an update in any of these areas, as well.

Immunization requirements for students are always a concern. Due to state laws, parents need to be constantly advised regarding state requirements for school admission. Letters are sent to all area schools to be distributed at kindergarten registration and to parents of all current 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students detailing what vaccines are needed and the days and hours of clinics at the health department. We were able to accommodate families who needed school required immunizations this year with additional vaccination clinics.

### IMMUNIZATION SERVICES

Our nurses administered a total of 4877 doses of vaccine and tuberculin skin tests in 2017 to all ages. Thirteen of the 51 immunization clinics were afternoon/evening appointment times to accommodate clients who cannot bring their children during day clinic hours. We schedule appointment times, but walk-in appointments are available on clinic days and throughout the week during business hours but are subject to the availability of personnel.

Vaccine Type	Total Doses Administered
Influenza	1,156
DTaP	442
HIB	332
HPV	444
Hepatitis A	737

Hepatitis B	372
IPV	372
Meningitis	337
Meningitis B	63
MMR	212
PCV13	348
PPSV23	16
Rotavirus	145
Tuberculin Skin Test	225
Typhoid	25
Td	3
Tdap	333
Varicella	224
Zoster	37

We receive VFC (Vaccines for Children) vaccine from ODH to use for children who have no health insurance, who have Medicaid coverage, who are American Indian or Alaskan native, and for those children whose insurance has a cap on well child benefits or does not cover certain vaccines. We charge a \$15.00 per dose administration fee for these vaccines which covers the nurse's time, gloves, syringes, alcohol wipes and band aids, and we accept Medicaid. No child is ever refused a state supplied vaccine for their inability to pay the administration fee.

We are contracted with most of the commercial insurances that are prevalent in Van Wert County, so we purchase vaccine for those children who have insurance coverage and then bill their insurance company for the service. The families really appreciate this service.

Unduplicated services were provided to children in the following categories:

2016	< 1 Year	1 - 6 Years	7 - 18 Years	Total
Medicaid	48	92	239	379 (27%)
No Health Ins.	5	23	53	81 (6%)
Underinsured	0	0	0	1 (1%)
Privately Insured	56	218	647	921 (66%)
Total Clients	109	333	979	1,421 (100%)

The health department purchases the vaccines that we provide to adults with insurance who need immunizations. We can bill Medicaid and many of the commercial insurances for adult vaccines. For those clients who do not have medical coverage, we now have adult vaccination provided by the Ohio Department of Health and charge them a \$15.00 administration fee. We also are contracted with Medicare to provide influenza and pneumonia vaccine. This year we did 1461 adult vaccinations.

## FLU SHOTS

Our department administered 1,156 doses of flu vaccine to Children 6 months of age through adult. We administered the flu vaccine during our regular childhood clinics, scheduled daily appointments, as walk-in services and to various companies and agencies. We administered flu vaccine to employees at Central Mutual Insurance Company, Van Wert County and City Employees, GKN, ODOT, Thomas Edison Adult Center, Continental Structural Plastics, Council On Aging, Van Wert Federal, Greve Chrysler Dodge, Lee Kinstle, Statewide Ford, Universal Lettering, Vantage Vocational Medical Students, And Wannemacher Logistics.

## IMMUNIZATION ACTION PLAN GRANT (IAP)

We received the IAP grant for April 1,2017 to June 30, 2018 in the amount of \$16,287.75 The goal of this project is that 90% of children will be up-to-date on immunizations by two years of age. This goal is accomplished primarily through immunization assessment and education activities and secondarily through reminder and recall activities. This money is used to pay salaries and benefits of employees working under this grant.

The table shows what our up-to-date immunization rate at the health department's immunization clinic is compared to the IAP grant's goal rate.

Vaccine Type	2017 Van Wert Co. Rate	2017-2018 IAP Grant Goal
DTaP #4	75.36%	75%
Polio #3	92.75%	92%
MMR #1	91.30%	90%
Hib #3	92.75%	90%
Hepatitis B #3	91.30%	97%
Varicella #1	91.30%	88%
PCV #4	89.86%	82%

## OHIO BUCKLES BUCKEYES CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY PROGRAM

Through this program, the Van Wert County Health Department provides child safety seats and booster seats (which we obtain from the Ohio Department of Health and from donations) to eligible low income families in Van Wert County. The overall goal of this program is to increase the availability of child safety seats for families who could not otherwise afford them and to increase correct installation and proper use of child safety seats. In order to receive an OBB seat, income eligible families must attend an educational class provided by trained local Child Passenger Safety staff. In this session, the parent/caregiver receives important education on how to properly use the car seat for their child, and they are instructed on how to correctly install the seat in their vehicle. We held 51 classes in 2017 through which we distributed 59 seats. The education and installations are currently being done at the health department. We have the option of partnering with our county sheriff's office to provide installation of the child safety seats for this program if needed.

## Medicaid Administrative Claiming/MAC

This past year the health department began participating in MAC Billing. The jobs we do that are payable by Medicaid can be submitted and the health department can be reimbursed for them. Payment is based on the hours of Medicaid payable services each employee completes. For the spring quarter of 2017 we generated \$11,546.68 from the program.

## HEALTH EDUCATION

We consider health education as classes of instruction presented to schools, individuals, groups or agencies.



We also provide education to individuals who may call us or stop by concerning issues such as head lice, scabies, communicable diseases, and other issues.

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF CLASSES	ENROLLMENT
Car Passenger Safety Class-Health Dept.	51	51
Leadership Class-Health Dept.	1	4
Child Passenger Safety and Immunization Education Class Head Start Program	1	10
Immunization Education Class *Head Start Program *Van Wert Family Physicians *Pregnancy Life Center Parents *Head Start Parents Vantage MA Adult Class	1 1 1 2 1	15 8 13 10
Maximizing Office Based Immunizations (MOBI)	1	9
Teen Immunization Education Session-(TIES)	2	15
Tobacco Cessation information distributed at Apple Festival	2 days	-
Kids health fairs	4	2 <sup>nd</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> grade students
Communicable Disease Reporting Education	2	53
School Absence Reporting System Training at Van Wert	1	13
Naloxone Administration Training	2	18

### COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

An essential component of Public Health Nursing is the reporting and tracking of communicable diseases in the county. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, GA, as well as each state health department has established reporting guidelines to follow defining which diseases are reportable by law and who is to report them. Some diseases require an epidemiology form to be completed. Many require contact investigation which may entail many phone calls and/or visits. Along with the investigation of confirmed cases, follow up is required on suspected diseases reported from day care centers, schools, parents or disease report forms to rule out a possible case. Depending on the disease, suspected contacts to the individual case, the family of the case, physicians, hospital infection control, other health departments, schools contacts of the case, places of employment, etc. will have to be contacted to determine if they are ill and/or need treatment. Each individual case may require many hours of investigation. However, some are very simple to investigate and may be resolved with only an electronic report being filed with ODH with a phone call follow up.

Chlamydia	104	Mumps-suspect	1
Cryptosporidium	8	Outbreaks	4
E-Coli-Shigatoxin Producing	3	Pertussis	26
Giardia	1	Salmonella	5
Gonorrhea	9	Shigella	2
Hepatitis B	3	Spotted Fever	2
Hepatitis C	30	Strep A-Invasive	4
Hospitalized Influenza	17	Strep pneumonia	1
Haemophilus Influenzae	1	Varicella	7
Lyme	2	West Nile	1
Meningitis-Aseptic	2	<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>

Only hospitalized cases of influenza or pediatric deaths from influenza were to be reported to the state. We had 17 hospitalized cases of influenza from Van Wert County in 2017.

Our department does tuberculin skin tests for individuals who are required to have them for employment, medical students, or to begin or continue treatment for certain medical conditions. We also test any contacts of clients who have diagnosed tuberculosis. We administered 225 skin tests in 2017. We have had two TB investigations due to positive skin test or blood test done during hospitalization or symptomatic. None of these this year were TB but another mycobacterium or false positive. These investigations are lengthy and take many hours to investigate.

#### STD CLINIC

We had 48 clients attend the clinic in 2017 with 8 testing positive for Chlamydia and 3 testing positive for Gonorrhea. We are providing services for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and HIV. We did 30 HIV tests in 2017 with one false positive. We have been seeing clients housed in the Van Wert County Correctional Facility from other counties and we found disease and 1 syphilis who was turned over to the county Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS). Clients must meet the state requirements for STD and HIV grant to be tested and treated. The state provides all the testing materials and our health department ask client for donation fee for nursing time and other supplies that the state does not provide on a sliding fee scale set by the Ohio Department of Health with the maximum fee of \$25.00. This fee is waived if they have no means to pay.

#### LEAD CASE INVESTIGATION

We have a signed MOU with ODH that we will do an assessment on any child who has an elevated blood lead level of 5ug/dL or greater. If a home visit is done, a medical and developmental assessment is completed on the child as well as a home inspection. Educational material is given to the parent on ways to reduce the child's exposure to lead in the environment. We also have safe home kits obtained through a grant from ODH that includes cleaning supplies, a smoke detector, fire extinguisher and some other miscellaneous safety items that we provide them with. They also can use the vacuum cleaner with a HEPA filter when they do their through cleaning. We must follow the child until the blood lead level remains below 5ug/dL for two consecutive testings. The level which is considered elevated was dropped from 10ug/dl to 5ug/dl by the state in August. We had 4I ead investigations which have not all been resolved.

#### OTHER COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

\*We are partnering with Van Wert County Hospital to provide Tobacco Treatment Cessation classes as needed for the community. This could be in in a group or individual setting as well as over the phone counseling.

This in addition to a Diabetes prevention program called Group Lifestyle Balance (GLB). This is a 12 month program that teaches not only how to start eating healthier but to make a lifestyle change for over all good

health.

\*We had several students from Northwest State Community College shadow and complete their community experience externship at our agency.

\*We participated in Kids Health Fairs at Van Wert, Crestview, Lincolnview and St Mary's of the Assumption schools teaching Hands Only CPR to the students.

\*Our nurses attended the Van Wert County Apple Festival. We were able to offer free adult blood pressure readings, as well as public health program information.

\*We have implemented our Naloxone Distribution and Education Program with the Van Wert Sheriff's Office, Ohio Highway State Patrol and Van Wert Fire Department with the grant we have received from Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services to provide free doses of Naloxone in the form of Nasal Atomizers to be used in overdose cases that they are the first person to respond to. Van Wert City Police are to be trained in the future.

#### **BOARDS AND COUNCILS NURSES SERVE ON**

Local Disaster Task Force  
Family & Children First Advisory Council (FCF)  
Child Fatality Review Board  
Health Aware Fair Planning Committee  
Van Wert County Health Collaborative  
Ohio Action for Healthy Kids Collaborative  
Accreditation Team  
Strategic Planning Team  
Performance Management Team

#### **NURSES ATTENDED SEMINARS IN VARIOUS CATEGORIES**

Incident Command System Training  
Ohio Public Health Communication System Training  
Nursing Law  
Immunization Trainings/Conference  
FEMA PIO Training  
MOBI/TIES Training  
AFIX Training  
Performance Management Training  
Ohio Public Health Association Conference  
STD Updates  
Tuberculosis Updates  
CMH Training Sessions  
Epidemiological Response Training  
Fit Test Train the Trainer  
N95 Mask -Fit Testing  
Human Trafficking  
LIFT (Live Independent From Tobacco) Tobacco Cessation training  
DEEP (Diabetes Empowerment Education Program) training  
Packing and shipping specimen training  
Grand Lake Algae Bloom training  
Epi-Center Training

**Children with Medical Handicaps Program**  
**Traci Milligan, RN**

The Children with Medical Handicaps is an ODH program serving as a safety net for families of children with chronic medical diagnoses. The CMH program brought in revenues of \$33,420.00 from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. The program is billed every 4 weeks to promote a steady revenue. At the end of 2017 there were 94 children active on CMH programs.

There are three different services within the CMH program. The first is the Diagnostic Program where a child is referred to CMH. Generally a specialist participating in the program will submit a referral for a diagnostic. However, with our involvement in the community and immunization clinics I can submit referrals as well. As of December 31, 2017, there were 6 children in our county on the diagnostic program. As public health nurses for CMH, specific to the diagnostic program, we make home visits to assist the parents with the required paperwork. We also make referrals to the appropriate pediatric specialists. Another requirement of the public health nurse is to complete a detailed comprehensive assessment. This allows us to get to know the condition, as well as the specific needs for this child. The diagnostic program pays for any diagnostic testing that is required to diagnose the child or rule out disease. There are no income restrictions to this portion of the program because the state believes that if the child is diagnosed early in the disease process, the child will be referred to the specialists early and get the appropriate care they need. We are service coordinators between the families and our county's resources. We make appropriate referrals linking these families with resources in our county, including Medicaid, WIC, DJFS, Early Intervention, Help Me Grow, Immunizations, Early Head Start, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy, durable medical equipment, medical supplies, etc.

The second portion of this program is called the treatment portion. The treatment program is when the child is diagnosed with a disease or condition. As of December 31, 2017 there were 83 children on the treatment program. The treatment program has two portions in which the families must qualify. First is medically, meaning the diagnosis is one that is covered by CMH and the other portion is financially. The treatment needs renewed annually. The doctor submits clinic notes and treatment plans, the public health nurse submits a case note and assists the family with completing the financial paperwork. This includes a Combined Program Application, financial, and insurance information. Once the required paperwork is completed, it is submitted to CMH for review by a nurse case manager and financial representative. If the family meets the financial requirements as well as the qualifying medical condition, the treatment program is approved. Annually, we make home visits to help the families renew the treatment portion. We complete a detailed comprehensive assessment annually for these families. This keeps us in touch with the needs of their child. New referrals are then made to resources in our county when appropriate. A family may qualify one year and be over the income guidelines the next. CMH offers to these families an option of cost share. As public health nurses, we help the families enroll and understand the cost share portion of this program. A child may be newly diagnosed with a condition, and many times we serve as an educator to the families for this new disease or condition that their child has been diagnosed with. Many families need additional support when it comes to the coordination of their child's care. We serve these families by being a resource to all of the services available to them when they need the services the most. We are able to set appointments and find doctors while they spend their time caring for their sick child.

The third portion of the CMH program is the public health nursing consultative program. This allows the public health nurse to work with premature infants through age 3. As public health nurses, we make referrals to Help Me Grow and CMH with a symptom that is observed in the child. The program is approved rapidly allowing us to see the family to make early interventions and appropriate referrals to resources available to them in our county. There is currently one child enrolled in the consultative services program.

## Public Health Preparedness/Emergency Response

The health department continues to receive funds from the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant. In 2017, Van Wert County received more than \$69,000.00 for preparedness efforts

2017-2018 starts a new 5-year cycle and the grant deliverables address 14 Target Capabilities as defined by the Department of Homeland Security. Those areas include Community Preparedness, Community Recovery, Emergency Operations Coordination, Emergency Public Information and Warning, Fatality Management, Information Sharing, Mass Care, Medical Countermeasures, Medical Surge, Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions, Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigation, Responder Safety and Health, and Volunteer Management. We are currently working with local EMA, County Coroner and additional partners to develop a county Mass Fatality Response Plan. We are in the last year of the 5-year cycle. In December, we began the process of applying for the new cycle of preparedness efforts. The anticipated grant amount is the same as this past year.

The health department continues to address pandemic influenza planning with special emphasis on Medical Countermeasures and Distribution, which includes Closed Point of Dispensing planning. This will be the primary responsibility for public health. One change this year in the PHEP grant is that ODH reimburses local health departments based on completed deliverables and not on costs. Thus, this means, your health department will be able to support other costs in the health department that works on preparedness besides the planner.

The health department continues to work and meet regularly with the local disaster task force, which includes members from a large variety of local agencies. In addition, regular meetings are being held with the 18 local health departments' planners in NW Ohio on a monthly basis. There is continuous communication with the Ohio Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control. Our office continues to work closely with the local Emergency Management Agency in developing emergency operations plans and consolidating training. The health department maintains an up-to-date website, rotates a staff member on-call 24/7/365 for public health emergencies and tests communications systems on a weekly basis.

This year Van Wert County Health Department contracted with the epidemiologist that serves the counties of Fulton, Williams, Henry, Defiance, Paulding and Putnam, (commonly known as the Six-pact). This person is full-time and functions only as an epidemiologist, thus we have constant contact with him. He also meets the requirement of having a Master's in Public Health. In addition, the contract was for a much lesser amount than in the past. Van Wert continues to collaborate for communicable disease investigation with the other Fab 4 counties of Allen, Auglaize, and Mercer.

One epidemiologist is required for areas of approximately 300,000 populations. Surveillance databases such as Epicenter, the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS), National Retail Data Monitor (NRDM), Epi-X, Ohio Public Health Communications System (OPHCS), and the National Outbreak Reporting System (NORS) are monitored on a daily basis. This position also provides epidemiologic analysis of infectious disease data and coordination of outbreak investigations for the area served, with the support and assistance of staff members Van Wert County.

Finally, it is a privilege for me to continue serve as your Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. Planning continues to evolve and your health department is up to the task of being prepared to minimize and protect the citizens of Van Wert County if needed. I look forward to continuing the cooperative work of being part of the Van Wert coalitions, Fab-4 region, Six-pact region and NW Ohio region and with statewide planning.

Ruth Gerding MPH RN

## Environmental Health

Britt Menchhofer, R.S.  
Environmental Health Director

Kelly Freewalt, SIT  
Sanitarian in Training

## Duties

The Environmental Health staff issues licenses and permits, conducts inspections and investigations, and provides education and technical information in a wide variety of program areas which impact public health. Statistics for activities conducted within our state-mandated environmental health programs are listed at the conclusion of this narrative.

## Current Events

The Van Wert County Health Department is still working to meet the challenges of the Ohio Sewage Treatment System rules. Each local health department is now required to develop an operation and maintenance (O&M) management program for its jurisdiction. This will eventually result in every household sewage treatment system in the county being placed under an operation permit.

The Van Wert County Health Department has been approved for funding from the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) in the form of principal forgiveness subsidies. This funding is being provided to counties and local health districts to assist low-to-moderate income homeowners with the repair or replacement of failing household sewage treatment systems (HSTS).

The environmental division continues to work on the abatement of outstanding nuisance and sewage cases. There is currently 1 case in the court system. Public health nuisances are investigated on a complaint basis only, and complaints may be submitted by phone, e-mail, mail or in person at the Health Department. During 2017, our department's efforts resulted in the abatement of approximately 17 nuisances. Four nuisance cases are still pending at the Law Director's Office. In addition, multiple other property owners were contacted regarding conditions on their properties which could present a health hazard, but are not actual violations of nuisance code, such as bed bugs or mold and moisture problems in a home.

## Continuing Education and Professional Organization Participation

Each Sanitarian in Ohio must complete at least 18 hours of continuing education each year in order to maintain his or her registration. In 2017, Britt Menchhofer completed 27 hours of continuing education to be applied toward sanitarian registration renewal and 20 hours of education which applied to accreditation, and 5 hours toward Emergency Preparedness. Kelly Freewalt completed 35 hours of continuing education toward sanitarian registration and 29 hours toward Emergency Preparedness. Many quality opportunities for continuing education are available each year through state agencies and professional organizations.

## 2017 Environmental Health Program Statistics

Licensing Programs	Licenses	Inspections
Food Service Operation/Retail Food Establishments	240	496
Schools		20
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	9	53



Manufactured Home Parks		8
Campgrounds	2	2
Tattoo & Body Piercing Facilities	5	4
Solid Waste Facilities	3	12
Infectious Waste Facilities		1
<b>Permit Programs</b>	<b>Permits</b>	<b>Inspections</b>
Private Water Systems	27	23
Sewage System Installation	21	
Sewage System Operation	63	64
Septage Hauler Vehicles	9	3
<b>Registration Programs</b>	<b>Registrations</b>	
Sewage System Installers	13	
Septage Haulers	9	
Sewage System Service Providers	4	
<b>Miscellaneous Programs and Services</b>	<b>Totals</b>	
Nuisance Complaint Investigations/Re-inspections	60	
Animal Bite Investigations	47	
Real Estate Well & Septic Inspections	38	
Water Samples	118	

### ADMINISTRATIVE

#### OFFICE MANAGER

The responsibilities of the office manager include overseeing the front office clerks and Accreditation Coordinator. Other significant fundamentals of the position includes supporting the Health Commissioner in daily work duties, working on the Health Department budget, reporting any IT problems, preparing payroll, doing daily pay-ins for Nursing, Environmental and the Vital Statistic division, preparing end of the quarter state reports, and taking minutes for the Board of Health meetings. Other responsibilities consist of human resource preparation for new employees along with being a liaison between the Health Department and the Van Wert County Court House. Every two years the health department is audited by the State of Ohio which is a key responsibility.

Two major tasks are making sure the Annual Financial Report is prepared and finished in a timely manner and sent into state by March 1<sup>st</sup> and making sure that the District Advisory Meeting is set up and all appropriate information is sent out to the DAC board members before the yearly meeting in March.

On other significant part of the position is taking part in Accreditation and compiling documentation for Domain 11.

#### REGISTRAR

All birth records generated from the Van Wert County Hospital and are filed with the State of Ohio into IPHIS (Integrated Perinatal Health Information System). Once the birth records are filed, customers can obtain a birth record from any health department in the State of Ohio for any birth occurring in Ohio.

When a funeral home needs a burial permit for Van Wert County or the State of Ohio, the permit is done immediately. A burial permit can be done over the phone; whereas a cremation permit must be done at the Health Department with documentation of the death record being signed by the physician. The death record is filed into the IPHIS system. A death record has to be purchased in the county the death occurred in.

The registrar is on call on week-ends and holidays for funeral home burial permits and death certificate needs.

If a customer comes in for a certified birth or death record, the vital statistic division attempts to complete the record for the client immediately. All certified birth and death records are currently \$25.00.

The registrar compiles all Vital Statistic reports and sends them to the state quarterly. Burial Permit reports are sent into the state on a monthly basis.

CLERKS

The clerical division is an essential part of the Health Department. The clerk's duties include general office tasks, meeting with the public, scheduling patients, assisting the nurses when needed, and answering phones. The billing clerk files all private insurance claims, Medicare, and Medicaid, orders vaccine for immunization clinics, along with preparing client statements and responding to insurance claim denials.

VITAL STATISTICS

2017

BIRTHS RECORDED.....	160
CERTIFIED BIRTH RECORDS ISSUED.....	1138
DEATHS RECORDED.....	301
CERTIFIED DEATH RECORDS ISSUED.....	1117
BURIAL PERMITS ISSUED.....	269
STILLBIRTHS RECORDED.....	0
HOME BIRTHS RECORDED.....	0
TOTAL CERTIFIED BIRTH, & DEATH - 2017 .....	2,255 = \$56,375.00
<b>MANDATED STATE FEES:</b>	
CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT FUND AND BIRTH AND DEATH—EXTRA CERTIFIED COPY FEE.....	\$30,126.80
STATE REMITTANCE 266 BURIAL PERMITS @ 2.50 EACH.....	\$672.50
TOTAL FORWARDED TO STATE.....	\$30,799.30



## ACCREDITATION

Van Wert County General Health District continues to strive toward accreditation. We are required to file our application with the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) by the end of July 2018.

All employees at the health department are involved in the Accreditation process. In 2017, we updated the agency's Quality Improvement Plan. A quality improvement plan guides the health department in efforts to achieve continuous measurable improvements in the effectiveness, efficiency, accountability, outcomes and performance of public health services. The nursing division conducted a very beneficial QI project aimed at increasing awareness of our public health programs and information related to healthy habits. The Board of Health adopted the revision of our Quality Improvement Plan in April, 2017.

The Board of Health also adopted the Performance Management Plan in September, 2017. Performance management is a systematic process by which an organization involves its employees in improving the effectiveness of the organization and achieving the organization's mission and strategic goals (*The Public Health Performance Management System Framework*, [www.phf.org](http://www.phf.org)). By using performance measurement data, VWCGHD will be able to be more efficient, effective, transparent and accountable in delivering public health services. When done well, performance management will reduce duplicated efforts and waste, give us a better understanding of public health accomplishments and priorities among our staff, partners and the public, improve our problem-solving capabilities, and increase accountability for funding and the public's trust.

The Van Wert County General Health District has also recently adopted a new Strategic Plan. This plan outlines the priorities for the next three years. The VWGHD will continue efforts toward accreditation in 2018.

## VAN WERT COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

### MISSION STATEMENT

*The overall mission of the Van Wert County General Health District is to promote and to protect the health and well-being of the community.*

### VISION STATEMENT

*The Van Wert County General Health District will lead the way in protecting and improving the health of the residents of our community by serving as the most reliable source of public health services and information.*