HEALTH COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2014

The Defiance County General Health District continued its quest for national accreditation in 2014. Jamie Gerken, BSN, RN took over as coordinator of the accreditation effort. The Health District completed a 2014-2016 Strategic Plan and received training and completed a Quality Improvement Plan. The goal remains to be accredited by 2018. Four staff members completed LEANOhio Boot Camp to assist in making the health district a culture of quality which is a cornerstone of accreditation.

The health district has become leaner in staffing this year. Janie Haver, Harriet Steel and Carol Creps retired in 2014. We are now staffed with sixteen fulltime and two part-time employees. Funding sources continue to shrink even as Ohio ranks among the least healthy states in America.

Another area of activity in the health district was in the communicable disease department where preparations for an Ebola outbreak were made locally as well as statewide and nationally. Influenza activity spiked as the influenza virus mutated from the one which was used in the vaccine.

The six most northwest health districts (known as the Six-Pact, Williams, Fulton, Defiance, Henry, Paulding, and Putnam) have been working together through a Local Government Innovation Grant (LGIF) to explore ways to become more efficient by sharing services. 2015 will complete the project with a report to present to the respective boards of health with decisions to be made on proceeding from there on sharing services.

Activities will continue in 2015 to move toward a healthier Defiance County. The fifth Community Health Assessment will be conducted with an additional component added for children, birth through eleven years of age. This is a new component never before surveyed in Defiance County. Live Smart Defiance County Health Partners decided that decision makers need better data to be better able to serve this population. We are excited to have raised enough money to pay for the extra assessment and will certainly utilize the data to achieve a healthier Defiance County.

Once again the voters approved a renewal levy for the operation of the health district. Thank you to all who support our efforts. We will strive to give you our very best effort for the vision of “A Healthy Defiance County”.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly Moss, MPH, BSN
Health Commissioner
Nursing and WIC

Public Health Nurse Harriet Steel, RN retired in 2014 after 30 years of service. Madelen Bergman, BSN, RN was hired as a public health nurse.

2014 proved to be a prime example of how vitally important Emergency Preparedness is. The winter proved to be one of the toughest in history with record snow fall and frigid temperatures. Ebola also became a household discussion in Ohio this fall. These two situations allowed DCGHD to practice emergency preparedness protocols and reiterated why it is important for every family to have an emergency preparedness plan. Behind the scenes DCGHD worked to assure messages were getting out to the residents of Defiance County in a timely manner. No matter the reason DCGHD is committed to helping residents of Defiance County be prepared should a disaster strike.

Community partners worked together to acquire funding for the 2015 Community Health Assessment. This assessment will incorporate a child assessment for the first time. This new component will allow Defiance County access to statistics related to children from birth through eleven years of age. The assessment will also include an adult and youth survey as in the past.

In the fall, four staff members were trained in LEAN through scholarships offered by the state. These employees have brought back the skills learned to assure DCGHD is operating in the most efficient, effective manner. Evaluating a process that has been done the same way for years can be difficult but DCGHD is committed to being good stewards of the tax dollars afforded by the Defiance County residents.

WIC 2014

WIC director Carol Creps retired in 2014. Kayla Schmiedebusch, BS, RD, LD, was hired as the WIC director. WIC implemented walk in clinics one day a month in October. These walk in clinics are part of a continued effort at trying to make services more accessible to residents of Defiance County. WIC learned that in 2015 EBT cards will be used in place of printed vouchers.
Environmental Health 2014

Food inspections have been placed on our website for many years to keep the public informed of how restaurants perform in food safety. The environmental health division developed a program to recognize food service operations and retail food establishments who excel in food safety called The Gold Star Award. The program is based on statistics to provide an objective way to categorize restaurants on how well they perform. The Gold Star Award is being launched on March 1, 2015 and all recipients will be placed on our website for recognition.

The environmental health division wrapped up the Powell Creek Watershed Grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). We are very pleased to announce that the project resulted in the repair of one and replacement of four household sewage treatment systems in Highland Township. In total, the OEPA reimbursed property owners with $53,262.00 to repair or replace failing or substandard household sewage treatment systems.

Household Sewage Treatment System legislation became effective on January 1, 2015 in the State of Ohio. The most notable change is that local health districts are now required to launch an Operation and Maintenance Management Program for systems located within its jurisdiction. The environmental health division is working with adjacent health districts to develop a program that will be most relevant to the Defiance County community. For more information on the Operation and Maintenance program or the new legislation in general, please contact the environmental health division.

Department staff spent many hours participating with state agencies and industry representatives to revise Ohio’s Regulations and Technical Guidance for Sealing Unused Water Wells and Boreholes. The revision was needed to provide guidance to protect Ohio’s groundwater resources.
Births
Defiance Regional Medical Center- 623
Community Memorial Hospital- 89
Home Births- 7
Births Registered- 719
Certificates Issued- 1947

Deaths
Deaths Registered- 435
Fetal Deaths Registered- 6
Certificates Issued- 1,837

Top 5 Causes of death reported for 2014
Heart Related 22%
Lung/Pulmonary 18%
Cancer 7.4%
Stroke 6%
Dementia 5.6%
OTHERS:
Accidents 4%
Suicides 1%
All Others 36%

Health Department Hours of Operation:
Monday-Friday
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
1300 East Second Street
Suite 100
Defiance, Ohio 43512
Phone: 419-784-3818
Fax: 419-782-4979

Administrative Staff
Kimberly Moss, MPH, BSN- Health Commissioner
Martin Retcher- BA- Fiscal Manager
Dawn Eckert
Stacie Hummel

Board of Health:
William Richter, M.D. - President
Kelly Roach- Vice President
Daniel Michel
Colleen Richter
Karl Kissner
Tricia Vandehey, D.O.- Medical Director

Administrative 2014
Janie Haver retired after 23 years of service.

Thanks to the residents of Defiance County for passing a levy in fall 2014. DCGHD will continue to work hard to carry out our mission to prevent disease and to promote and protect the health of the Defiance County Community.

FY 2014 REVENUE & EXPENDITURE REPORT

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| Tax Levy     | $652,981 | 42.5%
| State Subsidy| $10,534  | 0.7%
| Intergovernmental Revenue | $140,049 | 9.1%
| Permits/Licenses | $90,236  | 5.9%
| Fees for Services | $164,756  | 10.7%
| Grant Funds | $314,394  | 20.4%
| OEPA Grant | $53,210   | 3.5%
| Other Receipts | $111,787  | 7.3%
| **Total Revenue** | **$1,537,946** | |

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| Salaries     | $832,318 | 53.5%
| Fringe Benefits | $266,141 | 17.1%
| Travel       | $19,288  | 1.2%
| Equipment/Repairs | $15,842  | 1.0%
| Contract Services | $93,490  | 6.0%
| Supplies     | $54,888  | 3.5%
| State Fee Remittances | $62,276  | 4.0%
| Insurance    | $6,668   | 0.4%
| Rent         | $93,272  | 6.0%
| Telephone    | $9,312   | 0.6%
| OEPA Grant   | $53,262  | 3.4%
| Other        | $48,239  | 3.1%
| **Total Expenditures** | **$1,555,446** | |