Health Commissioner’s Comments:

As promised, 2013 provided more changes for public health. Funding cuts continue to shape the landscape of public health with federal sequester reductions in funds. The Defiance County General Health District is responding to these changes as efficiently as possible. The Ohio General Assembly attached within the biennial budget bill a requirement for health districts to seek accreditation by 2018.

Accreditation is an expensive, detailed process. The health district has completed the three basic, required documents to begin the accreditation process. These documents are the Community Health Assessment, the Community Health Improvement Plan, and just completed, the 2014-2016 Strategic Plan. Next will be reviewing the specific domains (there are twelve) to make sure all standards are accounted for and there is documentation to support how we comply with the standard. Usually, this is a two to three year process.

The Ohio legislature is developing public health quality indicators. The indicators are in draft format at this time and are currently twelve in number. A couple indicators included in the draft are:

Emergency Preparedness: measured by the ability to receive and respond to an emergency preparedness twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week on-call drill initiated by the department of health within one hour.

Information management and analysis: measured by expanding the use of electronic data management system(s) in the administration of public health programs (e.g., clinical, environmental and/or administration).

The public will be able to go to a website to see indicator information on a city or county health district.

New additions to the staff include: Director of Environmental Health, Oscar Hernandez III; Fiscal Manager, Martin Retcher; Clerk II/Deputy Registrar, Stacie Hummel; and WIC Clerk, Virginia Gutierrez.

As we work toward becoming an accredited health district, we will strive to continue with our mission to “prevent disease, promote and protect the health of the Defiance County community” with a vision of “a Healthy Defiance County” using the core values of accountability, collaboration, integrity, and respect.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Moss, MPH, BSN
Health Commissioner
Department Updates

Nursing Division

Immunizations

On October 1, 2012, the health department received word that federal funding for vaccines was eliminated and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) would no longer be providing vaccines for families with private health insurance. Since that time, ODH has reallocated funds in order to continue providing vaccines. ODH has recently released a statement informing providers that vaccines for those with private health insurance will be available through June 30, 2014. Immunizations remain one of public health’s most significant achievements of the 20th century and therefore will continue to be in the forefront of public health. In 2013, 1253 individuals received age-appropriate vaccinations from the health district.

School Nursing

Public Health Nurses provide visits to all schools in Defiance County. During these school visits, nurses provide the school staff with current health information, assist with health issues, and conduct vision and scoliosis screenings. Three nurses have completed the Ohio Department of Health Medication Administration in Ohio Schools training. This training fulfills the legal requirement that all school employees that administer prescription medication either be a licensed health professional or be trained by one. Two trainings have been completed for the schools. In 2013, public health nurses provided 108 visits to the schools.

Care Coordination

Public health nurses help individuals in completing applications for assistance from Defiance Area Society for the Handicapped (DASH), Lions Club and Sertoma. Financial assistance is available for eye examinations, eye glasses, hearing needs, medicine and medical equipment through these organizations. In 2013, 278 hours were devoted to assisting individuals with healthcare needs.

Car Seats

The health department strives to keep the children of Defiance County safe. In an effort to prevent childhood injury, the health department maintains a car seat program. Two public health nurses are certified child passenger safety technicians. Car seats are distributed to Defiance County parents/guardians who need a car seat and meet income guidelines. As part of the car seat program, the child passenger safety technicians perform car seat checks for individuals who want to assure their car seat is installed correctly and that their child is harnessed in correctly. In 2013, DCGHD distributed 32 car seats and checked 35 car seats.

BCMH 2013

The Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps assists families with children who have a suspected or diagnosed medical problem. Dealing with medical needs of an ill child can be a frightening and overwhelming experience. A Public Health Nurse is assigned to each client on the BCMH Program and helps the family with medical referrals, health education, navigating medical bills and determining the overall needs of the family. The nurse can be as involved with the family as much or as little as the family requests. In 2013, approximately 137 clients were assisted with the BCMH Program in Defiance County.

Help Me Grow/Ohio Children’s Trust Fund Home Visiting Program

Home visits through the Help Me Grow and Ohio Children’s Trust Fund programs provide parents with information, support and encouragement to understand and make the most of the early years of a child’s life. By supporting a positive interaction between parents and children in a stable and stimulating environment, the home visiting programs seek to create a sturdy foundation for future achievement. The home visiting program seeks to improve parenting confidence and competence; increase family connectedness to community and social supports; and improve child health, development, and readiness.
**Nursing Division**
- Immunizations 2915
- Flu Vaccine 978
- Tuberculosis Tests 141
- Blood Pressure Screenings 226
- Health Screenings 459
- Pediculosis Screenings 196
- Car Seats Distributed 32
- Car Seats Checked 35
- Help Me Grow Visits 12

**Know Your Health Numbers**
- Blood Pressures 226
- Health Screenings 459

**Health Care Training**
- CPR Participants 116

**School Screenings**
- Vision 3,153
- Vision Rescreening 409
- Scoliosis 1,585

**School Nursing Visits** 108

**Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps**
- Diagnostic 46
- Treatment 88
- Service Coordination 3
- Hemophilia 8
- Cystic Fibrosis 1

**Ohio Children's' Trust Fund Visits** 14

**Communicable Disease**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia</td>
<td>93</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salmonella</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis C Chronic</td>
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<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonorrhea</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza—confirmed</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>491</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LiveSmart Defiance County Health Partners**

LiveSmart Defiance County Health Partners (Health Partners) is a committee comprised of over 36 organizations that works towards improving the health of the community. The committee monitors, evaluates, and prioritizes the health needs of the Defiance County community enabling effective programming to improve delivery of services.

Health Partners meet quarterly to review progress on goals and objectives set as part of the Defiance County Community Health Improvement Plan established in 2013. The first progress report will be published in the spring of 2014. Priority areas include:

* Decrease obesity among adults and youth
* Decrease youth depression and suicide
* Decrease youth bullying
* Decrease youth alcohol use
* Increase access to transportation services
Elevated Lead Levels—Children

The health department provides follow-up for children with elevated blood lead levels. When a child’s blood test shows an elevated lead level, a registered nurse or an environmental health specialist provides education about stopping and preventing lead poisoning. As well, the child’s home will be checked by an investigator from the Ohio Department of Health to find the source of the lead poisoning. Once the source is identified, trained and licensed personnel can remove the lead source from the home according to federal and state regulations. Periodically, funds are available from a variety of sources to help abate lead from the home. Children’s blood lead levels are monitored until they return to a normal range.

PHEP/Emergency Response

During 2013, the focus of the Emergency Preparedness program was further development of the All-Hazards and Risk Communication Plans and the health department’s role and responsibility in protecting the health of the community during a hazardous event. The health department continues to work with the community partners to strengthen the community’s response capabilities. In October, the health department along with the EMA, Hospitals, Law Enforcement, Fire Department, and EMS conducted a functional exercise to test the county’s emergency Operations Center. Coordination, communication, and collaboration are the hallmarks for emergency preparedness and response.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

The Defiance County Medical Reserve Corps continues to serve the county with a corps of trained and prepared volunteers. In November 2013, the Defiance County MRC along with the MRC programs from the surrounding five counties sponsored a conference titled Understanding the Impact of Disasters with presentations from renowned and seasoned members of the National Disaster Mortuary Operational Response team. MRC volunteers also assisted the health department in the mass flu vaccination exercise held in October.

Schools United in Disease Surveillance - SUDS

In 2010, the health department launched the web-based school disease reporting system known as the SUDS program in collaboration with the five school districts in the county. Development and utilization of SUDS provides the health department with vital data of illnesses present in the schools which is typically mirrored in the community. This enables the health department to provide relevant prevention guidance to the community to prevent illness and promote wellness.

School staff enters the number of students calling in sick or leaving early due to illness and their symptoms. School staff may also enter additional comments or information into a comment section on the website reporting form. The SUDS website also employs an alert notification section for the health department to send important updates/alerts to the schools.

Through the utilization of the SUDS school-based disease reporting system, the health department enjoys a partnership with the schools and is better equipped to prevent, promote and protect the health of the community.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program

WIC is a special supplemental nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). WIC helps income-eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, women who recently had a baby, infants, and children up to five years of age who are at nutritional risk. WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding education and support; iron-fortified infant formula; and highly nutritious foods such as cereal, eggs, milk, whole grain foods, fruits and vegetables. A breastfeeding peer helper is available to help breastfeeding women and infants continue to breastfeed with education and support.

In 2013, $743,449.00 in federal food funding was brought into Defiance County; 823 women, 972 infants and 1,812 children benefited from nutrition education, information about healthy diets and referrals through the WIC program.
Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Division experienced a busy year in 2013. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has been in the process of reviewing regulations for the following programs: Household Sewage Treatment Systems, Recreation Vehicle Park Camps, and Tattoo & Body Piercing. The health district has taken an active role in reviewing proposed regulations and providing comments to the ODH Office of the General Counsel.

Swimming pool and spa license holders have contacted the health district for advice in complying with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). The United States Department of Justice is the regulatory agency with jurisdiction and aims to provide equal opportunity to people with disabilities to make swimming pools, wading pools and spas accessible for use. Although the health district does not have jurisdiction with ADA requirements, swimming pools and spas are required to submit Equipment Replacement Notifications (ERNs) to ODH for review when changes are made.

With the assistance of the Defiance County Commissioners, Defiance County Soil & Water Conservation District, and local farmer Nathan Guilford, the health district was able to host the 2013 Defiance County Soils Profile Workshop for Sanitarians. The soils profile workshop provides necessary training that maintains our sanitarians ability to identify soil characteristics that aid in the planning and design of sewage treatment systems.

The health district was awarded a grant amount of $95,000.00 to repair or replace failing or substandard sewage treatment systems in the Powell Creek Watershed from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). The Powell Creek Watershed was chosen based on a study that the OEPA conducted in 2009. The study showed that the water being tested does not meet minimum standards to support a warm water habitat. Six willing participants have been identified and plan to participate in the program in 2014.

### Permits

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Private Water—Sealing</td>
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<td>Sewage Permits—Alteration</td>
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### Other

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Water Samples</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animal Bites</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking Complaints</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewage Complaints</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Complaints</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Complaints</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mr. Neil Martin, NRCS Soil Scientist, explains the different soil profiles found in Defiance County to northwest Ohio sanitarians. Soils vary in texture, shape, and drainage ability from township to township and present unique challenges when sizing septic systems.
Vital Statistics

Births
Defiance Regional Medical Center 633
Community Memorial Hospital 83
Home Births 2
Births Registered 721
Certificates Issued 1930

Deaths
Deaths Registered 409
Fetal Deaths Registered 2
Certificates Issued 1763

Top 5 Causes of death reported for 2013:
- Heart Related 27%
- Cancer 21%
- Lung/Pulmonary 17.5%
- Stroke 6%
- Renal Failure 9%
- All Other 19.5%

Staff Members
Kimberly Moss, MPH, BSN—Health Commissioner

Nursing
Laura Coressel, MPH, BSN—Director of Nursing
Harriet Steel, RN
Cheryl Kehnast, LSW, RN
Stacy Lucas, BSN, RN
Jamie Gerken, BSN, RN
Debra Gilgenbach, BSN, RN
Tanna Ellert, BSN, RN
Janice Amoroso, BSN, RN
Christine Rettig, RN
Rachelle Hagarty, MPH

Environmental Health
Oscar Hernandez, III, BS, RS—Director
Craig Richards, BS, RS
Ronald Clinger, BS, RS

WIC
Carol Creps, RN, IBCLC—Director
Laura Walters, RN
Susan Clancy, MSEPH, RD, LD
Virginia Gutierrez
Beth Harbourt

2013 Revenue & Expenditure Report

Revenue
- Tax Levy $646,927 (43.5%)
- State Subsidy $7,292 (0.5%)
- Intergovernmental Revenue $139,617 (9.4%)
- Permits/Licenses $99,448 (6.7%)
- Fees for Services $176,765 (11.9%)
- Grant Funds $358,716 (24.1%)
- Other Receipts $59,932 (4.0%)
Total Revenue $1,458,697

Expenditures
- Salaries $833,753 (56.2%)
- Fringe Benefits $272,731 (18.4%)
- Travel $21,030 (1.4%)
- Equipment/Repairs $18,225 (1.2%)
- Contract Services $59,845 (4.0%)
- Supplies $52,535 (3.5%)
- State Fee Remittances $65,762 (4.3%)
- Insurance $5,622 (0.4%)
- Rent $93,271 (6.3%)
- Telephone $9,920 (0.6%)
- Other $52,961 (3.6%)
Total Expenditures $1,484,055