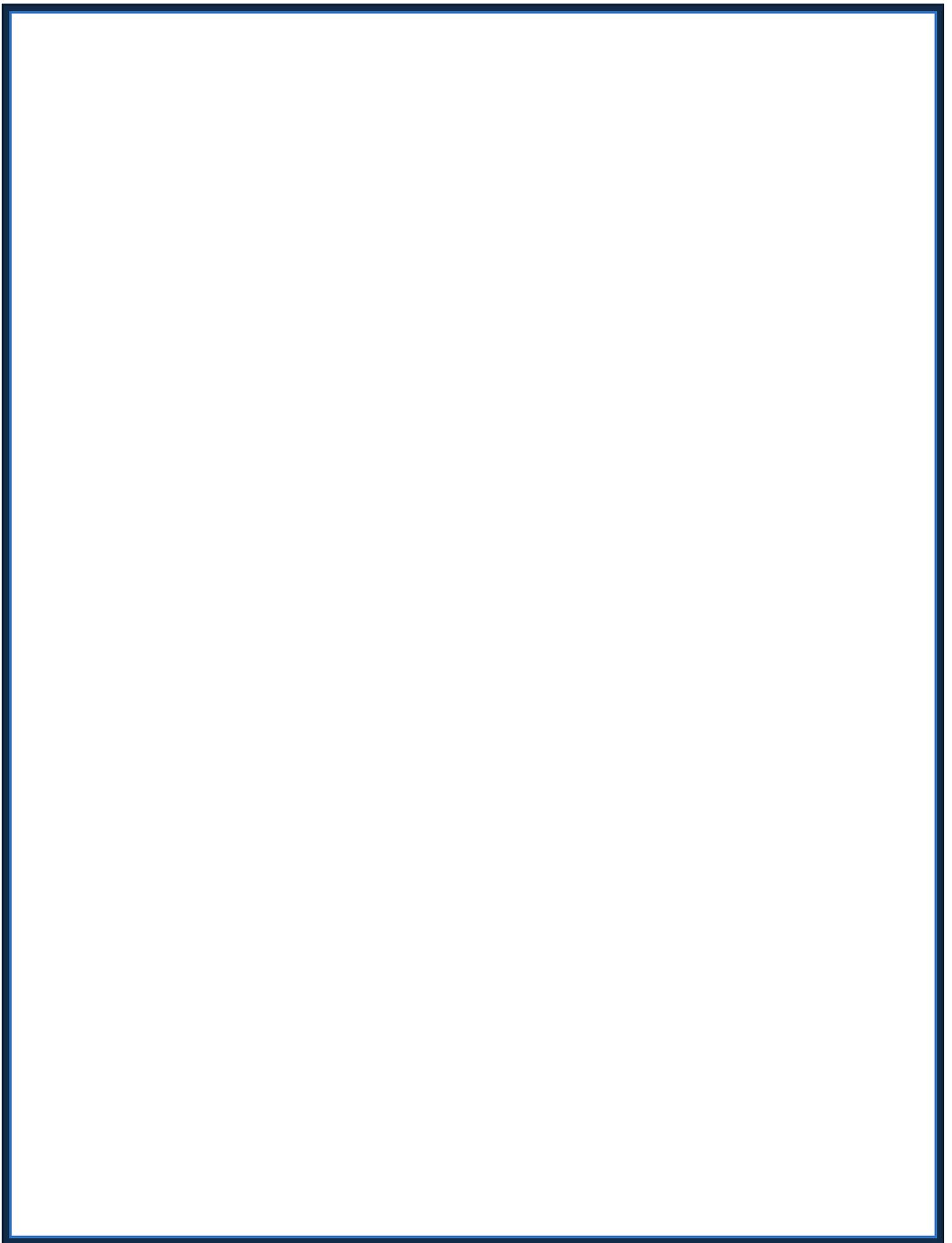




Van Wert County
General Health District

2016

***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 truly understand the privilege and responsibility we have to protect our citizens from disease, to remain prepared for any public health threat, to keep our environment safe, and to keep the public informed and empowered to make responsible health care decisions.

Our nursing department is managed by Director of Nursing Mrs. Leslie Bailey, RN. Mrs. Kim Haas, RN, DON, former director, retired in 2016 after 28 years of public health service. The division provides services to immunize the public, monitor health status, identify health problems, educate the public regarding health issues, and develop partnerships to identify and to solve problems. The nursing division is dedicated to ensuring the health and safety of Van Wert County. The nurses collaborate with Van Wert County Hospital and other community agencies to address the county's health needs. Our department is participating in a grant with area law enforcement officials to provide reversal medicine for drug overdose cases. Nursing Director Mrs. Bailey, RN writes and manages the Immunization Action Plan. She is the coordinator of the Child Fatality Review Board and collaborates with our Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for planning catastrophic occurrences with many community partners. Director Bailey, RN, also participates in community health collaborative leadership, Community Health Improvement Plan/Strategic Plan Development and Implementation, the Behavioral Health committee, and provides back up for infectious disease and Children with Medical Handicaps. Long-time employee Linda Bissonette, RN, manages infectious disease investigations, STD Clinics, monitors our school illnesses along with school screenings, and helps with immunization and industrial influenza clinics. Mrs. Traci Milligan, RN, coordinates the Children with Medical Handicaps Program and helps with the immunization clinics. Mrs. Nikki Greve, RN, manages the Child Passenger Safety Education program and Lead case management investigations, is our primary nurse educator, and participates in the immunization clinics. Mrs. Greve, RN, also works closely with community partners to address the needs related to nicotine dependence and obesity.

The Emergency Preparedness Division of our health department saw change in 2016 with the retirement of Emergency Response Coordinator Leesa Brown. Her successor, Mrs. Ruth Gerding, MPH, RN, hired in December 2016, brings her 15 years of Public Health experience and has provided an immediate and sustained contribution to our department. The coordinator continues to update Emergency Response Plans, is helping to develop a County Mass Fatality Response Plan, addresses the Pandemic Influenza Plan, and prepares our department against bio-terroism, infectious disease outbreaks, and other public health threats.

Our Environmental Director, Britt Menchhofer, RS and Sanitarian-In-Training Kelly Dues, screen and inspect food establishments, solid waste disposal, infectious waste generating facilities, manufactured home parks, campgrounds, schools, public pools, and body piercing and tattoo facilities. The sanitarians also perform rabies and West Nile surveillance and ground and water surface monitoring. The sanitarians provide information and technical assistance and continue to address nuisance and sewage cases.

Our administrative staff is comprised of Marylou Smith, Office Manager/Registrar, Susan Isenbarger, Deputy Registrar/Clerk, Angela Wolfrum, Billing Clerk/Accreditation Coordinator, and Kristen Hallfeldt, Receptionist/Clerk. Office Manager/Registrar Mrs. Smith manages the Clerical and Clinical staff to ensure effective communication and efficiency between both divisions. The clerical staff compassionately and professionally greets the public. Making a client's visit a satisfying and productive encounter remains a priority for the clerical and clinical teams. Angela Wolfrum, Billing Clerk, continues with her diligent approach to billing. Bea Alvarado, former Receptionist/Clerk, left the department in August 2016 to pursue a clerical position at an insurance company. By accepting private insurance for the past three years, in addition to Medicare/ Medicaid billing, our department has expanded the community's ability to access our clinics for their immunization needs

The Ohio Department of Health is requiring 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 taken a serious, team approach with this responsibility. Mrs. Wolfrum, Accreditation Coordinator, has been conscientiously pursuing the requirements of our department's needs for Accreditation. Our department has enacted a Quality Improvement Plan in April 2016 and had a major role in the Van Wert County Health Collaborative in planning and presenting the 2015 Community Health Assessment. Three strategic health priorities, weight management, behavioral health, and access to healthcare, were identified for the Community Health Improvement Plan. Our goal through Accreditation is to improve the health outcomes of our community.

We encourage you to review the 2016 yearly report of our health department's contribution to Van Wert County. The goals of our health 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 District Advisory Council's continued support is very much appreciated.

In closing, our department is keenly aware that we remain 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, Lincolnview Marsh School, and Western Buckeye Resource Center School. We made a total of 6 visits to these schools in 2016. 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 105 initial screenings and 15 rescreens. These services are provided to area schools at no cost to the school systems.

SCREENING TYPE	# SCREENED	# RESCREENED	# REFERRED
Vision	105	7	4
Hearing	103	8	2
Tympanometer	0	0	0
Pediculosis	105	0	0
Height/Weight	105	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 6th and 11th 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 8,001 doses of vaccine in 2016. Sixteen of the 52 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 subject to the availability of personnel.

Vaccine Type	Total Doses Administered
Influenza	1,136
DTaP	658
HIB	493
HPV	803
Hepatitis A	1,049

Hepatitis B	560
IPV	532
Meningitis	536
Meningitis B	79
MMR	293
PCV13	538
PPSV23	27
Rotavirus	288
Tuberculin Skin Test	218
Typhoid	29
Td	8
Tdap	382
Varicella	334
Zoster	38

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	51	183	240	474 (34%)
No Health Ins.	3	30	37	70 (5%)
Underinsured	1	1	3	5 (.003%)
Privately Insured	53	229	551	833 (59%)
Total Clients	108	445	833	1,402 (100%)

The health department purchases the vaccines that we provide to adults needing immunizations. We can bill Medicaid and many of the commercial insurances for adult vaccines. For those clients who do not have medical coverage, we charge them the cost of the vaccine plus a \$15.00 administration fee. We also are contracted with Medicare to provide influenza and pneumonia vaccine.

FLU SHOTS

Our department administered **1,136** doses of flu vaccine to Children 6 months of age through adult. We administered the flu vaccine during our regular childhood clinics, as walk-in service, at four evening clinics held at the health department, and around the community to various companies and agencies. We administered flu vaccine to employees at Central Mutual Insurance Company, Van Wert County and City Employees, GKN, Tecumseh, ODOT, Thomas Edison Adult Center, and Continental Structural Plastics.

IMMUNIZATION ACTION PLAN GRANT (IAP)

We received the IAP grant for 2016 in the amount of \$13,247.75 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	2015 Van Wert Co. Rate	2015 IAP Grant Goal
DTaP #4	80%	90%
Polio #3	93%	90%
MMR #1	88%	90%
Hib #3	93%	90%
Hepatitis B #3	94%	90%
Varicella #1	84%	90%
PCV #4	83%	90%

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 38 classes in 2016 through which we distributed 52 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.

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.	38	41
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	1 1 1 2	15 8 13
Maximizing Office Based Immunizations (MOBI)	1	9
Teen Immunization Education Session-(TIES)	2	15
Tobacco Cessation information distributed at Apple Festival	2 days	-
Poisoning and Tobacco Education at VWCS kids health fair	1	3 rd - 5 th 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.

Reported Diseases for 2016

Campylobacter	8	Mumps-suspect	1
Chlamydia	77	Mycobacterial disease- non TB (MOTT)	2
Coccidioides/histoplasmosis	1	Outbreaks	2
E-Coli	1	Q-Fever	0
Giardia	1	Pertussis	3
Gonorrhea	11	Salmonella	2
Hepatitis C	27	Shigella	7
Hospitalized Influenza A	7	Strep A-Invasive	2
Hospitalized Influenza B	1	Strep pneumonia	1
Haemophilus Influenzae	3	TB	0
Legionella	1	Varicella	4
Lyme	2	Yersiniosis	1
Meningitis-Bacterial	1	Total	165
Meningitis-Aseptic	2		

Only hospitalized cases of influenza or pediatric deaths from influenza were to be reported to the state. We had 8 hospitalized cases of influenza from Van Wert County in 2016. Several Diseases this year were removed from the reporting list from the state in September of 2016. Mycobacterium other than TB is one that is no longer reportable so we will no longer be tracking these diseases.

This year we also had to investigate two pregnant women, who may have been exposed to Zika, due to travel. Neither had Zika but the CDC has a register for tracking those who are pregnant to see if baby when born has any side effects of Zika.

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 218 skin tests this past year. We have had three 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 that can cause tests to be positive. These investigations are lengthy and take many hours to investigate.

STD CLINIC

We had 60 clients attend the clinic in 2016 with 9 testing positive for Chlamydia and 2 testing positive for Gonorrhea. We are providing services for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and HIV. We did 41 HIV tests in 2016 with no positives. 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 a home visit on any child who has an elevated blood lead level of 5ug/dL or greater. During the home visit, 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 cleaning supplies that we can give them as well as a vacuum cleaner with a HEPA filter that can be lent to them. 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 7 lead 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 the Van Wert Middle School Kids Health Fair in September, focusing on poison and tobacco prevention. We had two booths with activities for the kids to participate in.

*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 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.

*In September Traci went to Vantage's Early Childhood classes of juniors and seniors to discuss the CMH Program.

BOARDS AND COUNCILS NURSES SERVE ON

Local Disaster Task Force
Family & Children First Advisory Council (FCF)
Child Fatality Review Board
Van Wert County Hospital Infection Control Committee
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
Child Passenger Safety Conference
Lead Case Management Training
Tobacco treatment Specialist (TTS) Training
Group Lifestyle Balance (GLB) Training - Diabetes Prevention Program
Parenting at Mealtime and Playtime Conference
FEMA Trainings
MOBI/TIES Training
AFIX Training
Performance Management Training
Ohio Public Health Association Conference
STD Updates
Tuberculosis Updates
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Training
BCMH Training Sessions
Epidemiological Response Training
Strategic National Stockpile
N95 Mask -Fit Testing

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

The Children with Medical Handicaps is a state agency which serves as a type of insurance for children with many diagnoses. The CMH program brought in revenues of \$34,920.00 from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. The program is billed every 4 weeks to promote a steady revenue. During the year there were 111 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, 2016, there were 5 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, 2016 there were 90 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. 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. This year Van Wert County will receive more than \$66,000.00 for preparedness efforts

During the five-year cycle, 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 what is exercised this year and beyond.

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 held with the 18 local health departments' planners in NW Ohio on a monthly basis. Constant communications and advisories are maintained with the Ohio Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, and the Ohio Public Health Communications System. Our office continues to work closely with the local Emergency Management Agency in developing emergency operations plans, consolidate training efforts and utilize additional grant funds as/if available. 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.

The counties of Auglaize, Mercer and Van Wert share in funding a 0.5 Disease Surveillance Coordinator/Epidemiologist (Epi) who is based from Mercer County Health Department. Allen County provides the other 0.5 Epi to equal one full-time equivalent. This position, which is a PHEP standard and grant mandate, assists the local health department(s) to rapidly identify diseases and initiate prevention and control activities for response to bioterrorism, other outbreaks of infectious diseases, and other public health threats and emergencies. 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 of Allen, Auglaize, Mercer, and Van Wert Health Districts.

Finally, it is a privilege for me to serve as your new Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. I have 15 years' experience working in public health, with most being an Emergency Planner. 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, NW Ohio region and with statewide planning.

Ruth Gerding MPH RN

Environmental Health

Britt Menchhofer, R.S.
Environmental Health Director

Kelly Dues, 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

2016 brought more changes into the Environmental Division, with the addition of Kelly Dues as Sanitarian-in-Training. Kelly has been fully trained to work in the Food Program, the Public Swimming Pool/Spa Program, and the Animal Bite Response Program.

The Van Wert County Health Department is still working to meet the challenges of implementation of the new sewage rule package. As was mentioned last year, 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 meeting with six other counties to determine the best way to approach this requirement and potentially apply for grant funding to help implement the program.

The environmental division continues to work on the abatement of outstanding nuisance and sewage cases. There are currently 3 cases that have reached the court system. There are 7 pending nuisance cases. 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 2016, our department's efforts resulted in the abatement of approximately 9 nuisances. Nine 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 mold and moisture problems in a home.

In 2017, the environmental division plans to continue to work on updating records and gaining education in the sewage program.

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 2016, Britt Menchhofer completed 24 hours of continuing education to be applied toward sanitarian registration renewal. Kelly Dues completed a significant amount of continuing education as part of her training and application to be a Sanitarian-In-Training. Many quality opportunities for continuing education are available each year through state agencies and professional organizations.

2016 Environmental Health Program Statistics

Licensing Programs	Licenses	Inspections
Food Service Operation/Retail Food Establishments	228	468
Schools		20
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	10	40
Manufactured Home Parks		8
Campgrounds	2	3
Tattoo & Body Piercing Facilities	3	3
Solid Waste Facilities	3	13
Infectious Waste Facilities		1
Permit Programs	Permits	Inspections
Private Water Systems	28	23
Sewage System Installation	16	17
Sewage System Operation	61	63
Septage Hauler Vehicle	13	2
Registration Programs	Registrations	
Sewage System Installers	8	
Septage Haulers	9	
Sewage System Service Providers	3	
Miscellaneous Programs and Services	Totals	
Nuisance Complaint Investigations/Re-inspections	80	
Animal Bite Investigations	50	
Real Estate Well & Septic Inspections	25	
Water Samples	115	

ADMINISTRATIVE

OFFICE MANAGER

The responsibilities of the office manager include overseeing the front office clerks, the billing clerk 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. One undertaking that is more extensive is to make sure everything is ready for the state auditors who come every two years to check the records.

Two major responsibilities are making sure the Annual Financial Report is prepared and finished in a timely manner and sent into state by March 1st 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.

Another vital role 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

2016

BIRTHS RECORDED	151
CERTIFIED BIRTH RECORDS ISSUED	1,008
DEATHS RECORDED	324
CERTIFIED DEATH RECORDS ISSUED	1,233
BURIAL PERMITS ISSUED	266
STILLBIRTHS RECORDED	3
HOME BIRTHS RECORDED	0
PATERNITY ENHANCEMENT	0
TOTAL CERTIFIED BIRTH, & DEATH - 2016	2,241 = \$56,025 income
MANDATED STATE FEES:	
CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT FUND AND BIRTH AND DEATH—EXTRA CERTIFIED COPY FEE	\$29,979.84
STATE REMITTANCE 266 BURIAL PERMITS @ 2.50 EACH	665.00
TOTAL FORWARDED TO STATE	\$30,644.84

ACCREDITATION

Van Wert County General Health District had a very eventful 2016 on our path to accreditation. We made such significant strides that we plan to file our application with the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) by the end of this year (2017).

This past year began with the development and writing of our 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. Not only is a Quality Improvement Plan an important document required by the Accreditation Board, our agency has also been asked by insurance companies to provide a copy of it when considering contract renewals for healthcare reimbursement. The Board of Health adopted our Quality Improvement Plan in April, 2016. Immediately following board approval our plan was implemented with agency-wide quality improvement training through the Ohio State University Center for Public Health Practice's cost free, learning website. The health department, including one board of health member, learned the fundamentals of continuous quality improvement as well as the tools to use in conducting quality improvement projects to improve programs and services in our individual divisions.

As one of the lead agencies in the Van Wert County Health Collaborative, the Van Wert County General Health District took an active role in both the planning of our 2015 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and the Community Event held April 27, 2016. This event informed the Van Wert community of the results of the assessment survey and collected qualitative feedback to assist in the development of our 2017-2019 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). As a result of the CHNA, the focus group session conducted during the Community Event, and planning meetings held in the fall of 2016, three health issues were identified as strategic priorities on the 2017-2019 CHIP: 1) Weight Status, 2) Behavioral Health, and 3) Access to Healthcare. The Van Wert County Health Collaborative broke into three sub-teams to effectively address these issues through the implementation of the Community Health Improvement Plan. Leslie Bailey, DON, serves on the Behavioral Health Team, Nikki Greve, PHN, serves on the Weight Status Team, and Traci Milligan, PHN, serves on the Access to Care Team. All of these activities directly correlate to the Public Health Accreditation Board Standards and Measures and will improve the health outcomes of the Van Wert county community.

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.