



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Fairfield Department of Health

Board of Health 2015 Annual Report



HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

HEALTH COMMISSIONER / MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Dr. Mark Aebi

ADMINISTRATION

Larry Hanna
Kathie Whitlock

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT STAFF

Sheri Johnson
Rachél Martindale
Laura Schlabach

ENVIRONMENTAL

Kelly Spindler
Kevin Barlow
Steve Deeter

ENVIRONMENTAL cont.

Deb Kilbarger
Dennis Oliver
David Plummer
Cindy Sharpe
Madison Swackhammer
Jen Valentine

FISCAL

Paulette Tiller
Jamie Ehorn
Kelly Donley

NURSING

Gwen Shafer
Pat Garrett
Jenny Grove
Diana Stover

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (PHEP)

Merrilee Taylor

VITAL STATISTICS

Pauletta Krieger
Cindy Sharpe

WIC

Mary Smith
Erin Connolly
Amy Gabriel
Kay Higgins
Cheryl Hopkins
Lucinda Robinson
Deb Smith
Alison Stark
Angie Wentz

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2015 Fairfield County Health Department Funds

Funds	Revenue	Expenses	Balance
General Fund	787,837.22	772,885.65	14,951.57
Camps/Parks/Pools	25,716.54	28,233.89	(2,517.35)
Solid Waste (CFLP)	29,774.64	30,970.98	(1,196.34)
Food Service	204,019.61	227,454.20	(23,434.59)
C&DD/Landfills	199,980.62	157,319.55	42,661.07
Water	75,111.18	60,396.97	14,714.21
Plumbing	111,526.33	76,948.73	34,577.60
Sewage	97,674.00	116,172.64	(18,498.64)
Immunizations	125,894.91	133,398.72	(7,503.81)
IAP Grant	40,076.41	37,450.10	2,626.31
PHEP/CRI	126,892.37	133,335.68	(6,443.31)
CFHS Grant	32,710.80	30,170.03	2,540.77
Help Me Grow	27,574.87	38,959.94	(11,385.07)
WIC	353,175.47	391,305.31	(38,129.84)
Nuisance Abatement	53,077.71	-	53,077.71
Vital Statistics	234,367.97	193,117.54	41,250.43
BCMH	41,126.70	17,912.99	23,213.71
Grand Total	\$2,566,537.35	\$2,446,032.92	\$120,504.43
<i>All funds except "General" are restricted in use for specific programs</i>			



Dr. Aebi, Health Commissioner and Medical Director



Left to right: Kathie Whitlock, Administrative Assistant, and Larry Hanna, R.S., Administrator



Left to right: Jamie Ehorn (new Fiscal Officer), Paulette Tiller (retiring Fiscal Officer) and Kelly Donley (Account Specialist)

2015 Board of Health Members



Dave Petty, President



Jim Massey, President Pro-Tempore



Darryl Koop, MD



Tina Childers



Charlie Engen

FDH

From the Administrator...



2015 saw some very demanding issues in public health at the Fairfield Department of Health; the main one was the botulism outbreak. For everyone at the health department, 2015 will always be the year of the Botulism Outbreak; it was a great test for health department staff. During that time, staff called upon their education, experience and training in order to respond to the outbreak. I know I've said this before: While it was a tragedy for our community, it was a great learning experience for most of us at the health department. I think as a whole, the department's response to the outbreak was excellent. It was a collaborative effort with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Fairfield Medical Center (FMC). One has to acknowledge that FMC's quick recognition of the illness started the ball rolling in the right direction. ODH and CDC were both quick to offer their valuable assistance.

In 2015, staff at the Fairfield Department of Health spent an ever increasing amount of time on Public Health Accreditation. At present we are working on our Community Health Assessment (CHA), which will be completed the summer of 2016. When the CHA's finished, we'll then begin working with our partners on the Community Health Improvement Project (CHIP). The final Accreditation prerequisite, our departmental Strategic Plan, will be completed early 2017.

It is my goal to submit our letter of intent to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), along with our Accreditation Application fee of \$21,000.00, in the fall of 2017. Once the application has been submitted we'll spend several months uploading documents in the PHAB e-file website. PHAB Site Assessors will then make a pre-site and site visit to the department. Sometime in the first half of 2019, the PHAB will make its decision. Let me remind you how important Accreditation is to this department: As it stands right now, if a health department fails to become Accredited by July of 2020, that health department would not be eligible to apply for grants or receive state subsidy monies. For this department and the residents of this county, it could mean a loss of \$550,000.00 or close to one quarter of the current departmental budget. The department would then be mandated to combine with an Accredited Health Department from another county. Now that's the worst case scenario, and I don't believe that will happen. I think quite the opposite — that 2019 will be our year; it will be the year Fairfield Department of Health achieves "National Accreditation."

Larry Hanna

Administrative Support Staff



Administrative support staff work under the direction of the Administrative Assistant. They are highly composed professionals who greet and assist department visitors and customers as well as Division Directors and their staff. Our administrative support staff are frontline personnel. In that respect, they are the “voice” and “face” of the health department.

Left to right: Rachél Martindale, Sheri Johnson, Laura Schlabach



FDH Mission, Vision and Values

The backbone of the strategic plan is an organization's mission, vision and values statements. They communicate the overall purpose of the agency and a shared sense of inspirational direction. In its guide for strategic planning, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) define these terms as follows:

- Mission: The organization's purpose; what the organization does and why
- Vision: Futuristic view regarding the ideal state or conditions that the organization aspires to change or create
- Values: Principles, beliefs and underlying assumptions that guide the organization

FDH's mission, vision and values statements are as follows:

- **Mission:** The Fairfield Department of Health is committed to serving the Fairfield County community by preventing disease, protecting the environment, and promoting healthy lifestyles.
- **Vision:** The Fairfield Department of Health foresees the day when people realize that being healthy is a lifelong process involving personal choice, self-awareness, and a shared community responsibility.
- **Values:**
 - Service: Serve in a courteous, compassionate and responsive manner
 - Integrity: Adhere to a code of standards that includes honesty, fairness, openness, respect and sound judgment
 - Leadership: Inspire others toward excellence
 - Consistency: Uniformly apply policies and processes
 - Accountability: Accept responsibility for accuracy, efficiency and effectiveness of actions
 - Communication: Promote interactions with all stakeholders and continually share information in a timely fashion
 - Knowledge: Continually acquire new information to understand public health practices
 - Diversity: We value and respect diversity and recognize the benefit it brings in understanding and serving all people
 - Collaboration: We work collaboratively with partners and communities to improve health and support a strong public health system



In 2014, the Fairfield Department of Health developed a Strategic Plan, effective September 2014 through August 2017. With input from staff, the plan contains revised mission, vision and values statements and outlines Health Department goals and objectives.



Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB)

Accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) means that a health district meets a nationally adopted set of public health standards. The State of Ohio has required that all health districts in the state achieve Accreditation by 2020 as a prerequisite for receiving grants and state subsidy monies. The Fairfield Department of Health has been working toward Accreditation since early 2013. In 2014, as part of Accreditation, the Health Department completed the Strategic Plan. We are committed to achieving Accreditation and providing the highest standard of care and services for our community.



Jen Valentine
PHAB Coordinator



Social Media

Social media is enabling the Fairfield Department of Health to reach out to more people. Our newly designed website offers timely articles, forms and links to information. Facebook and Twitter accounts link people to stories on the website. The Fairfield Department of Health Social Media Coordinator, Angie Wentz, posts new articles throughout the month, discussing current issues the public is facing.

The Fairfield Department of Health Facebook page continues to grow, with stories reaching thousands of viewers. The public can “like” the health department on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FDHhealth>, which is then linked to our website at www.myfdh.org. They can also follow us through our Twitter account at @Fairfieldco1550, which notifies readers of updates and health department information.



Angie Wentz
Social Media Coordinator

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) / Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI)

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) activities address public health readiness for responding to public health emergencies or threats. These threats or emergencies could include biological, environmental, bioterrorism, weather, or outbreaks of infectious disease.

Supplemental funding is received through the Columbus Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI), which is a federally funded program to prepare major U.S. cities and metropolitan areas to effectively respond to large-scale public health emergencies by dispensing medications and medical supplies to their entire identified population.

PHEP programming focuses on meeting objectives in 15 public health target capabilities. Collaboration for planning and response activities occurs at the local, regional, state and federal levels. PHEP programming also supports Accreditation requirements in several domains. During 2015, PHEP program activities included routine activities - coordinated planning, training and surveillance - as well as the following highlights:

Botulism Outbreak Response (April) – This was the largest Botulism outbreak in 40 years and required a multi-agency, multi-level response. Following the outbreak, After Action Meetings and Reports (AARs) were completed with all participating agencies, and the health department participated in several speaking engagements to share the lessons learned.

Ebola Traveler Monitoring and Community Planning – As the Ebola outbreak continued in West Africa, the health department monitored several travelers in our county who had arrived from those countries. Supplemental funding was provided to develop integrated plans for Special and Emerging Pathogens (including Ebola). These plans continue to be developed on a local and regional level.

CRI Full Scale Exercise (June) – The health department participated in a regional full scale exercise in Columbus that tested a fully functioning Point of Dispensing (POD) and included several health departments and support agencies.



Merrilee Taylor
PHEP Coordinator

Environmental Division



Front row: Jen Valentine, Deb Kilbarger, Madison Swackhammer
 Back row: Dennis Oliver, Kelly Spindler, Kevin Barlow, David Plummer
 Not pictured: Cindy Sharpe

Part of protecting our county’s health is working to make sure that the water we drink, the food we eat, and the places we live won’t endanger our health now or the health of future generations. Restaurants and retail food establishments are inspected to prevent the occurrence of foodborne illnesses. Residential and commercial sewage treatment systems are inspected to protect public water supplies. Private water systems are inspected to ensure that residents have safe drinking water. Other programs include public swimming pools, school inspections, animal bite investigations, public health nuisances, campgrounds, solid waste investigations, tattoo and body-piercing facility inspections, and plumbing.

Sewage Program

Sanitarians inspect residential and commercial sewage systems to be sure that the waste these systems generate does not pollute our streams or the water supply that we count on for drinking. Sanitarians also review property lots and site plans developed prior to building so that the septic systems installed on these lots protect the environment.

Sewage Treatment System Permits	141
Lot Splits	34
Haulers/Pumpers Registered	28
STS Installers Registered	34
STS Service Providers Registered	23
Sewage Complaints	48
Number Abated	31

Private Water Systems

The Private Water Systems Program includes wells, springs, cisterns and ponds that are used as a potable water supply. Sanitarians collect a water sample from each permitted well to ensure a safe potable water supply. All well drillers are registered by the Ohio Department of Health and are inspected annually for renewal of licenses.

Private Water System Permits Issued	193
Private Water Systems Sampled	265

Camps

Sanitarians inspect campgrounds and day camps for health and safety.

Campgrounds Licensed	10
Resident Day Camps Licensed	6

Public Swimming Pools/Spas

The Fairfield Department of Health inspects public swimming pools, spas and special-use pools to prevent injury, minimize the potential for disease transmission, and provide a safe and healthy aquatic recreational environment.

Licensed Pools/Spas	45
Inspections Performed	93

Food Protection Program

The Food Protection Program works to ensure the safety of food prepared, served and sold in Fairfield County through education, monitoring and enforcement.

	Licenses	Routine Inspections*
Food Service and Retail Food	484	1033
Mobile Food	72	72
Temporary Food Licenses	130	130
Vending Food Licenses	50	30

*In addition, complaint, follow-up and pre-licensing inspections are also conducted.

Solid Waste Program

In Fairfield County, nuisances like tire dumps, garbage piles or other areas that could harbor rodents or disease-carrying insects are addressed through the Solid Waste Program. This program is funded by landfill user fees through the Solid Waste District and provides a major benefit for all residents through the cleanup of potential health hazards.

Public Health Nuisance Inspections	220
Open Dumping Complaints	41
Number Abated	34

Rabies Program

The Fairfield Department of Health investigates animal bites to make sure that those who have been bitten do not acquire rabies.

Animal Bite Reports Received	251
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Schools/Correctional Facilities

Schools and correctional facilities are inspected to ensure that they meet minimum health and safety standards.

School Inspections	87
Correctional Facilities Inspected	4

Plumbing Program

The Plumbing Program at the Fairfield Department of Health promotes sound public health practices through education and oversight of commercial and residential plumbing systems.

Residential/Commercial Contractors

Registered	67
Residential Permits Issued	184
Commercial Permits Issued	26
Inspections (39 comm./464 res.)	503

Vital Statistics

The Vital Statistics division houses the birth and death certificates for Fairfield County. Records from December 1908 to present comprise over 100 years of history of the people of Fairfield County. A birth certificate is used to prove citizenship. Without one, an individual could not obtain a social security number or a driver's license, enroll in school, or be entitled to any benefits from the U.S. government. This is why the primary function of the Vital Statistics division is to ensure that Fairfield County has a complete and accurate system of registration for birth and death records. Contact the Vital Statistics office at (740) 652-2836 for assistance in obtaining a vital record. Additional information is available on the health department's website: www.myfdh.org.



Left to right: Cindy Sharpe and Pauletta Krieger

Certified Copies Issued/Other	
Birth	3,049
Death	4,400
Burial Permit	717
Birth Affidavit	31
Death Affidavit	68
Paternity Affidavit	3

Certified Copies Issued/Other	
Supplementary Medical	44
Veteran Copies	139
Government Use Only	393
Certificate of Service	20
Home Birth	14
For Viewing Only	15

Records Filed	
Birth	988
Death	1,204
Fetal Death	6

Public Health Nursing



Left to right: Gwen Shafer, Pat Garrett, Diana Stover, Jenny Grove

Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh)

The BCMH nurse, Pat Garrett, RN, BSN, works part-time to coordinate and manage public health nurse services for Fairfield County children with identified special health care needs. The BCMH is a state-funded healthcare program that links families of children with special health care needs to a network of quality providers and helps families obtain payment for the services their children need.

Comparing the total number of children receiving BCMH services, the Fairfield Department of Health has seen an increase from 337 in 2013 to 501 in 2014 and 543 in 2015. After reviewing all BCMH data from 2015, the top three diagnoses for children receiving BCMH were the following: Type 1 Diabetes, cardiac issues (both anomalies and disease), and hearing (e.g., sensorineural hearing loss). Due to the high number of Type 1 Diabetes cases, the BCMH nurse made 15 referrals to the State BCMH nutritionist.

BCMh Home Visits	52
BCMh Coordination Activities	1,158
2015 Total Number of Children on BCMh	543

Help Me Grow

The Fairfield County Help Me Grow (HMG) program contracts with the Health Department to provide developmental evaluation services to children within Fairfield County. Public health nurse Pat Garrett, RN, BSN, works closely with HMG to ensure that families receive evaluation services that follow state mandates.

Developmental Evaluations Completed in 2015	178
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Tuberculosis (TB) Case Management

The Health Department is the appointed TB Unit for the county. As such, public health nurses provide county residents with TB screenings for work or school or due to contact with TB cases. The Fairfield Department of Health TB unit performed 157 single-step and 90 two-step TB tests in 2015. These tests included screening and contact testing. In 2015, the health department had two reported cases of TB. Both were suspect. The nurses investigated these cases and pro-

vided case management, which included home visits, patient education, direct

observational therapy and assurance of proper medical treatment and follow-up. In 2015, two referrals were received from the U.S. Department of Immigrations on foreign individuals who were at risk of bringing TB into the community. Both were seen by Dr. Aebi and had follow-up by the nurses. The Fairfield Department of Health also serves the community by providing Fairfield County Career Center Health Technologies students with TB testing. In 2015, 48 two-step tests were performed at the Career Center.

Perinatal Hepatitis B Program

The Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program is designed to help prevent exposure of newborns to maternal Hepatitis B virus during delivery. The transmission of perinatal Hepatitis B infection can be prevented in about 95% of cases. The Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program is a joint effort between the Fairfield Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Health. The nursing division provides the local case management for this program.

In 2015, the program followed four pregnant women and five infants. The program is designed to follow infants to a successful completion of the Hepatitis B vaccine series and Hepatitis B immunity.

Child and Family Health Service (CFHS) Grant

This Ohio Department of Health grant program has assisted the health department in the planning and organizational process for a county-wide community health assessment for 2016 and to address local perinatal health issues. In 2015, the CFHS grant enabled the health department to bring community agencies together to address the need to improve access to early prenatal care. The Fairfield County Perinatal Leadership Team is a focus group that meets regularly to discuss social and emotional health needs, including addiction issues, of pregnant women, with the goal of creating a community strategy to improve perinatal care for women who have substance abuse issues.

Infectious Disease Investigation and Control Program

The Ohio Revised Code (ORC) requires that all health care providers and laboratories report various infectious diseases to their local health departments in an effort to protect the community from disease outbreaks. Health department staff ensure proper investigation, education and follow-up on all mandated reportable diseases. In 2015, Fairfield County had 990 disease reports and 21 outbreaks. The various mandated reportable infectious disease cases include, but are not limited to, sexually transmitted diseases, foodborne illnesses, vaccine-preventable diseases, vector-borne illnesses and bloodborne illnesses. Staff work closely with county residents, schools, hospitals, physicians, community businesses and agencies to prevent the spread of these diseases by providing preventive education, monitoring the spread of the diseases and ensuring that treatment is obtained and completed.

Communicable Disease Report 2015		Total Cases	990
1. Botulism—wound	01	15. Legionellosis—Legionnaires	04
2. Botulism—foodborne	19	16. Listeriosis	01
3. Campylobacteriosis	11	17. Lyme Disease	05
4. Chlamydia	303	18. Meningitis—aseptic/viral	06
5. Coccidioidomycosis	01	19. Mycobacterial Disease other than TB	11
6. Ecoli, Shiga Toxin (0157:H7 NOT 01570)	03	20. Mycobacterial TB suspect case	02
7. Giardiasis	02	21. Pertussis	123
8. Gonococcal Infection	66	22. Streptococcal—GP B—in newborne	01
9. Hepatitis A	02	23. Streptococcus Pneumoniae	05
10. Hepatitis B—acute	26	24. Varicella	35
11. Hepatitis B—chronic	44	25. Salmonellosis	18
12. Hepatitis C—acute	04	26. Streptococcal Gp. A	03
13. Hepatitis C—chronic	269	27. West Nile Virus	02
14. Influenza-associated hospitalizations	22	28. Yersiniosis	01

2015 Annual Outbreaks	
Foodborne	6
Botulism	1
Hand, Foot, and Mouth	1
Norovirus Suspect <i>(Classic symptoms: i.e. nausea, vomiting and diarrhea)</i>	4
Pertussis	5 cells of outbreaks

Child Fatality Review Board

The purpose of the Child Fatality Review (CFR) Board is to reduce the incidence of preventable childhood deaths. ORC 307.621 mandates by law that counties in Ohio have a CFR

Board. The CFR Board's required members include the County Coroner, County Sheriff, Executive Director of Child Protective Services, the Executive Director of the ADAMH Board, a Public Health Official and a physician. In 2015, the CFR Board met on December 20th and reviewed 12 children deaths (newborn to 17 years of age). After reviewing the 2015 deaths and comparing them to 2013 and 2014, the top preventable cause of death in children was found to be asphyxia due to an unsafe sleep environment for infants. This was the second year for this issue to be made a priority, and a new strategy was created for 2016. The plan is to create a short educational video for first responders (EMS, Sheriff and Police) with the purpose of educating them on what a safe sleep environment looks like and on how to talk with parents about the importance of placing their infants in a safe environment for sleep.

Immunization Action Plan Grant

In 2015, the immunization nurse provided an Assessment, Feedback, Incentives and Exchange (AFIX) process to the health department immunization clinic and two community health clinics in Fairfield County. This is a confidential assessment of the children's immunization records which determines the practice immunization coverage levels. Upon completion, the nurse reviewed the data with the office immunization staff and then assisted them in identifying procedures that would increase their immunization rates and decrease "missed opportunities."

In 2015, the nurse completed two AFIX assessments at the health department, which is the vaccine coverage for children by 24 months of age for the 4-3-1-3-3-1-4 series (4 Dtap, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 HIB, 3 Hep B, 1 Varivax and 4 PCV). This data provided an immunization percentage rate. The Fairfield Department of Health increased its rates from 31 percent completed to 55 percent completed in 2015. Health Clinic #1 had 35 percent of their two-year-olds completely immunized, and Health Clinic #2 had 25 percent up-to-date and completed. The nurse worked with all clinics in establishing new procedures to improve their immunization rates. All data is reviewed locally and then submitted to the Ohio Department of Health. The nurse also provides four educational classes to physician offices that administer immunizations, through the Maximizing Office Based Immunizations (MOBI) program, which also assists in improving immunization rates.

Children's Immunization Clinics

Available to all Fairfield County children from birth through age 18, the goal of this clinic is to protect children from preventable childhood illness. The clinic obtains the majority of the vaccines from the Ohio Department of Health's Vaccines for Children Program. This enables the clinic to offer vaccines to all children, regardless of their family's ability to pay. In 2015, 5,909 immunizations were provided.

Adult Immunization Clinics

Adult Vaccines Given	192
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Flu Clinics

In 2015, the health department provided 876 seasonal flu shots at 13 off-site flu clinics throughout Fairfield County and at the health department.

Travel Immunizations

Each year more and more Fairfield County residents travel outside the United States. The Fairfield Department of Health is a U.S.-certified Yellow Fever vaccine provider; and the nursing staff have been CDC trained in providing the vaccine as well as providing education to travelers. In 2015, the travel clinic provided 571 travel immunizations, which included Yellow Fever, Typhoid, Polio, and Hepatitis A and B vaccines.

Botulism Outbreak Makes National News



In April 2015, the Fairfield Department of Health dealt with the largest Botulism (foodborne) outbreak in the United States in the past 40 years. On April 21st, 10 individuals were seen at the local hospital due to a food illness from a church potluck. Immediately the health department activated its Epi Team and opened the Incident Command System (ICS). Many of the ill were transported to six Columbus-area hospitals. The next day the health department received support from the Ohio Department of Health Outbreak Response & Bioterrorism Investigation Team (ORBIT) and a team of doctors from the US Center for Disease Control.

In total, the Botulism outbreak consisted of 21 confirmed cases (one death included) and 10 suspect cases. Twenty-five of the individuals received special antitoxin for treatment from the US National Stockpile. Of the 77 attendees, the health department completed investigations and food histories on 75. The health department completed follow-up health questionnaires on 18 individuals who attended the potluck and did not become ill or receive the antitoxin. Additionally, the health department collected 24 food specimens from the church trash for testing and analysis, with six specimens testing positive for botulinum neurotoxin type A. This type of Botulism is the deadliest of the eight types of Botulism. Foodborne Botulism is a paralytic illness resulting from consumption of improperly cooked or canned foods. The final test results determined that a homemade potato salad was the probable cause of the outbreak.

Public Health Nursing —WIC



Front row: Alison Stark, Amy Gabriel, Debbie Smith, Angela Wentz
Back row: Lucinda Robinson, Kay Higgins, Mary Smith, Cheryl Hopkins

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

WIC is a nutrition education program. WIC provides nutritious foods that promote good health for pregnant women, women who just had a baby, breastfeeding moms, infants and children up to age five. Some of the nutritious foods provided include cereal, eggs, milk, whole grain foods, peanut butter, beans, fruits and vegetables. WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion and support as well as referrals for obtaining specialty health care. In 2015, the Fairfield County WIC Program served a total of 18,681 participants.

In August 2014, staff started a WIC Satellite Clinic, two days per week (Wednesdays and Fridays) at the Government Services Building on Tussing Road in Pickerington. WIC is serving 290 participants at that site.

Breastfeeding Peer Helper Program

WIC participants are given the opportunity to work with breastfeeding (BF) peer helpers. The peer helper program was established in 2003. The peer helpers are women who received WIC services and breastfed their child or children for at least six months. The peer helpers offer support and education to pregnant and breastfeeding women.

In 2015, the peer helper program staff provided breastfeeding and infant feeding education to participants. During the year, our peer helpers made over 400 phone calls to pregnant and breastfeeding women in the community, offering support and education. This is a decrease from last year; however, the number of contacts through Facebook tripled to over 600. The peer helpers maintained a breast pump loan program, loaning out 28 breast pumps and 12 manual breast pumps during the year. The new healthcare laws allow women to get pumps through their insurance, which has decreased the number of pumps we give. The pump loan program allows mothers to continue breastfeeding after returning to work or school.

Our breastfeeding rates in Fairfield County have steadily increased since the peer helper program started in 2003. On average, 63% of the pregnant women on WIC decide to breastfeed. That number has remained consistent over the last year. Of the women that choose to breastfeed, almost half of them

continue to breastfeed for six months or longer. We attribute this success to the peer helper program and the support of all WIC staff members.

Facebook

The BF peer program maintained their Facebook page in 2015. The use of social media allows us to communicate with moms through a different venue. Many of our moms don't have talking "minutes" on their phones, but they can access social media. This provides an almost instantaneous way to communicate with our moms and has been quite popular.

Farmers Market Nutrition Program

This is a dual-purpose program which benefits both WIC participants and local farmers. WIC participants who are interested in increasing fruits, vegetables, and herbs can receive five \$3.00 coupons with which to purchase Ohio-grown fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs from WIC Authorized farmers, farmers' markets and farm stands.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, the Fairfield Department of Health WIC Program issued 63 coupons, 32 of which were redeemed, showing a 50.79% redemption rate. Seven WIC-authorized farmers participated in the local WIC Farmers Market Program in FY 2015.

Immunization Coordination

The local WIC Program works closely with the immunization clinic to ensure that all infants and children are up-to-date with their required immunizations. Staff enter immunization information into the Ohio Impact Statewide Immunization Information System. Those in need of immunizations can be referred to the health department's immunization program. The local WIC Program also serves as a voter registration assistance site, where applicants can register to vote or make necessary address changes.

WIC continued

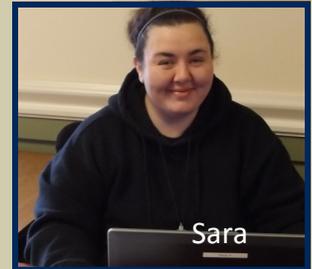
Smoking Cessation

In May 2015, the Fairfield Department of Health WIC Program ended its participation in a six-month “Smoke Free Families” project. On assigned dates, WIC staff members distributed surveys provided by the Smoke Free Families project to women participating in the WIC Program.

Results showed that of participants, 37.5 percent never smoked, 59.4 percent indicated that they smoked, and 3.1 percent were unsure. Approximately 60 percent had arranged to plan to quit smoking.

The local WIC staff of health professionals address the 5 A’s of Smoking Cessation to those who have indicated that they currently smoke, are thinking about quitting, or are exposed to secondhand smoke. If a woman has not yet utilized the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line and is ready to quit smoking, she is referred to the Quit Line during her visit – either by phone (1-800-QUIT-NOW) or by fax. The local WIC staff provides her with self-help materials about how to remain smoke free.

**Thank you to our volunteers -
We appreciate all you do!**



The 10 Essential Public Health Services

1. Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems.
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.
4. Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems.
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. Assure competent public and personal health care workforce.
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

