From the Commissioner

This past year was another bust one at the Mansfield/Ontario/Richland County Health Department. New services were added and major improvements were made to existing services all while not disturbing our existing 70 different programs. And, oh yes, thank you for once again approving a health department levy initiative so we can continue those services.

New services added were a Medical Gas-Plumbing Inspection program, the addition of free Community Health Screenings at satellite locations, and a county employee Healthy Living Skills program. Major improvements were made to our WIC program, school health Nursing, Help in the Home Visits, and Beatty Public Health Clinic services.

Public Health Nursing reorganized to improve both the quality and production of services offered. Nurses there organize the flu clinics, child immunizations, school nursing, and senior health assessments and now run our Community Health Programs doing free health assessments for all ages at locations throughout Richland County. We also changed our focus in our Help in the Home Visits to assure that more babies in our county are off a healthy start in life.

Importantly, we entered into service provider contracts with three Medicaid Managed Care Providers for Richland County, allowing the Health Department’s Beatty Clinic to continue to provide care to Medicaid Clients.

The Health Department continued to help our county prepare for health emergencies by developing a plan to respond in the event of a pandemic flu outbreak. In addition to forums for public education, the Health Department formed a collaborative of county agencies to share and initiate plans for emergency response, trained staff in the use of the National Incident Management System, and participated in agency, county and community health. The Health Department’s Beatty Clinic to continue to provide care to Medicaid Clients.

The primary mission of the Mansfield/Ontario/Richland County Health Department is to provide citizens of all ages with quality public health services and programs. These programs are designed to prevent disease and disability, prolong life, and promote health and individual well-being. This mission is to be achieved through organized community programs that:

- Prevent and control the spread of communicable disease
- Maintain and improve a healthy, safe environment
- Deliver preventative health services and follow-up care to high-risk people and groups
- Inform and educate about individual wellness and community health
- Provide bio-terrorism and emergency-related leadership and services to the public.

Our Mission Statement

The keynote speaker was Bonnie Hoppel, Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease. The keynote theme was "If you don't stop and smell the roses, how will you know when they bloom?" This theme was chosen to reinforce the importance of health promotion and disease prevention initiatives. The keynote speaker highlighted the importance of promoting healthy behaviors and lifestyles through various programs and initiatives. She emphasized the role of health departments in preventing chronic diseases and promoting overall well-being.

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**Our 2006 Annual Report**

**Public Health Day Awards**

"Friends of Public Health" awards, recognizing outstanding contributions to the Health Department’s programs or public health within the community, were awarded to three groups during Public Health Day in Richland County, April 5.

Awards went to the "Knotty Ladies" and the MedCentral Health System Command Team, while WVNO Radio was presented with the tenth annual "Media Award" for coverage of health-related issues.

The Knotty Ladies, a quilting circle from the United Methodist Church of the Cross in Lexington, Ohio, have sewn and knotted baby quilts for the baby showers for the Richland County WIC clients.

The MedCentral Health System Command Team helped save thousands of dollars worth of vaccine for the Health Department when a power failure during the 2005 ice storm left the facility without electricity.

The tenth annual "Media Award" was presented to WVNO. Throughout the snow and ice storms of 2005, WVNO provided continuous round-the-clock coverage and information to the residents of Richland County and North Central Ohio.

The keynote speaker was Bonnie Hoppel, Director of Health Promotion and Risk Reduction at the Ohio Department of Health.
Vital Statistics Vital to Residents

The Vital Statistics division of the Mansfield/Virginia/Richland County Health Department maintains records of all births and deaths in Richland County since 1908. Statistics are kept on Richland County births and deaths from time to time through the years. This information assists in planning health programs and services that meet the needs of our community.

Heather Wilson, Deputy Registrar, helps people obtain the birth and death certificates they need. Last year, the Health Department’s Vital Statistics office filed 1,532 birth certificates and 1,188 death certificates. But the same office issued 6,883 birth certificates and just under 4,200 death certificates. Why the difference in the numbers?

You need a birth certificate if you ever have to go to a doctor, to insurance company, for proof of age, to obtain a driver’s license, and for a number of other things. You might need it and have to get a new one.

The Vital Statistics office, the bulk of which are acquired by funeral homes as services for their clients. “You have to have one for proof in claiming life insurance, pension plans, social security, for wills or estates, veteran services, and closing bank accounts,” Heather says. “Some utility companies may even require one to turn off services at the house of the deceased. “

Births

Vital Statistics Birth Certificate 2005

Births (excludes Shelby) 1,094... 117... 1,108... 1,138

Male 533... 584... 542... 543

Female 561... 533... 566... 595

Causes of Death 2005

Heart Related 399... 402... 399... 386

Cancer 211... 256... 168... 238

Lung Diseases 89... 99... 102

Strokes/CVA 63... 63... 63

Fib/Pneumonia 43... 42... 63... 52

Renal/Kidney Disease 31... 29... 24... 94

Accidents 31... 23... 23

Alzheimers 12... 27... 21... 57

Suicide 22... 9... 13... 14

Homicides 7... 4... 4... 5

Data show that 20% of Richland County drivers are not wearing seat belts and that people are driving at higher speeds and not slowing down when they are a danger to themselves and others at risk.

While the Health Department doesn’t enforce traffic laws, the data being gathered is used for educational purposes and shared with Richland County law enforcement agencies.

Traffic crashes are the ninth leading cause of death in the United States and the number one cause of death for ages four to 20. Safe Community is helping educators to teach the public that they are potentially putting their lives and the lives of others at risk.

Vital Statistics Vital to Residents

Health Promotion Services County Wellness Program: 692 cholesterol screenings at local worksite and county agencies in 2006

Safe Communities Grant: Child Car Seat Safety Checks; Seat Belt Education; DUI Awareness Education; Senior Driver Education Courses; Brochures and Videos; Health Presentations

Maintain Health Department Web Site

Safe Communities Targets Driving Safety

Through a grant from the Ohio Department of Public Safety, the Health Department formed the Safe Communities Coalition to make a difference in traffic crashes with education, engineering, and enforcement.

Part of his job is reaching out to drivers throughout Richland County. “It’s a great experience because it is helping people,” says Dana Weiss, a Child Passenger Safety Technician.

Safe Communities trains drivers in using the Governor’s Car Seat Program, including coordinating with the Health Department’s Car Seat Program, including coordinating with the Health Department’s Car Seat Program.

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Making House Calls

Newborn Home Visits, a preventative program that has been shown to improve infant health, is one of those programs that helps the Health Department motivate “An ounce of prevention.”

Public Health Nurses call to schedule visits with any baby residing in Richland County during the critical first days of life. By arranging their clients’ baby’s development, Home Visit Nurses provide counseling to mothers on any health questions they might have concerning the baby or their own postnatal health.

One of the biggest benefits is offering education to the parents. Often a mother needs is the reassurance that her baby is growing and developing properly and she is informed, providing proper care and feeding. For new mothers there can be a lot of questions and the Home Visit offers an opportunity to reassure the mother and answer their questions. The nurse also offers a unique opportunity to work with the entire family, something that only a Home Visit can accomplish.

If a problem is discovered, nurses can assist in providing referrals to the Health Department’s BCMH Program (see below) or other agencies that can provide help.

Most home visits are with healthy, happy babies. But when the home visit nurse does see a problem they have the resources to step in quickly and help both the baby and the parents.

Tackling Care of Our Most Vulnerable

The Health Department’s Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMH) is a program that helps to provide medical care to eligible children. A small percentage of clients may require services from other agencies assisted in the exercise. This is a three-step process: Sanitarian Supervisor conducts a lead analyser test. Testing involves taking a soil sample. Sanitarian check the soil for lead and if found will have the home retested. If the paint is intact we normally conduct a lead analyser test. If the paint is not intact we will do a full evaluation of the home.

Last year, Sanitarians at the Health Department performed 612 new residential septic system inspections and 626 re-inspections. That’s a three-step process. Last year, Sanitarians at the Health Department performed 612 new and 626 re-inspections. That’s a three-step process. The community partners involved in the health department were nurses and key management personnel.曼斯菲尔德警察局官员管理交通流量。曼斯菲尔德警察局官员管理交通流量的路线。曼斯菲尔德警察局官员管理交通流量。

Lead Testing Coordinating with Nurses

Lead poisoning, although preventable, can be deadly or have long-lasting health affects in children. Joy Gieb, a Public Health Nurse, helps coordinate child testing for the Health Department. "When we get a high level result for lead in a child, either through our testing at 9 a.m. or through the mass clinic exercise, we need to determine where they are exposed to lead. Usually that means their environment."

That’s when a nurse calls Environmental Health to have the home tested, using a portable lead analyser (which looks something like a laser gun) to ray painted surfaces in the house. "If the paint is intact we normally don't have a problem," says Andy Barnes, a Sanitarian with the City of Mansfield. "If the paint is not intact, the paint is flaking off of surfaces, particularly in older houses, we have the potential for children breathing in the lead dust or in ingesting the lead paint. Andy warns that while lead-based paint is a leading culprit, other factors, such as occupational exposure, can be contributors. If a problem is discovered, Environmental Health will work with the homeowner to remove the potential lead exposure. Meanwhile, a nurse will be arranging medical care for the child."

"Young children are more at risk because their body systems are still developing. "Like any health condition, the greater the chances for recovery.”

Sanitarian Jennifer Freazer conducts a lead analyser test.
It's All About Nutrition

Point out that every dollar spent on pregnant women in WIC produces $1.92 to $4.15 in Medicaid savings for newborns and their mothers. More importantly, it provides infants and children with a healthy start in life by combating poor or inadequate diets.

"That's really what it's about," says Nutritionist Emily Mann. "We provide nutrition education and assist in planning healthy meals."

Karen Charuk adds that the WIC program can address multiple nutritional risks and encourage solutions. "We see a lot of diets low in vegetables and high in junk," she says.

The program also encourages breastfeeding of newborns and the Nutritionalist are there to help. "We conduct breastfeeding classes and address breastfeeding issues a client may have," says Bethany Haring. "We can also issue breastfeeding supplies.

Potential WIC clients are closely appointed and must provide completed WIC forms and proof of household income as part of the eligibility criteria. The Nutritionist ensures weight and measures progress of women and children and also do a finger stick for a blood iron test.

"It's really pretty hectic when you are dealing with multiple family members," says Bernie Kaniecki. "Sometimes a little history is needed to get the kids to cooperate.

Other services provided by WIC include on-site voter registration, Farmer’s Market coupons for locally-grown fresh fruits and vegetables, and review of vaccine shot records.

"We keep up with their immunization records and can refer them to our Clinic for adult or child shots," says Nutritionist Marie Driann.

Since the WIC Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, many federal fiscal policies need to be followed along with detailed accountancy. The Agency needs to bill, handle fiscal duties and designs nutrition education and outreach materials.

WIC participants are enrolled every six months. Children can qualify for WIC services up to age 5. WIC coupons are printed during each WIC appointment and are redeemable at locally-approved grocery stores for nutritious foods such as milk, eggs, iron-fortified cereals and infant formulas.

The WIC Team strives to provide top-notch nutrition services to young women in Richland County every day of the year.

Pandemic Flu Forums in 2006

Pandemic flu preparedness was the subject of two community forums as well as many small and large group presentations throughout the year. The forums addressed how the community agencies would work together to protect the community in the event of a pandemic flu outbreak. Richland County residents and members of the Richland County Health Department in these forums, which were attended by approximately 100 citizens. The forums emphasized the importance of emergency preparedness as it related to Richland County’s ability to respond to pandemic flu possibilities. One forum participant wrote, “The information was educational and practical. The planning of the various local organizations that have already been done needs to continue.”

Flu preparedness materials and handouts are available at the Health Department.

WIC: Women, Infants & Children

"WIC (Women, Infants, Children) is the nation’s premier public health nutrition program. With nutritious foods, nutrition counseling and referral to health care, WIC has helped to decrease anemia among pre-school children, decrease low birth weight outcomes, and increase breastfeeding.

Thousands of Richland County families have benefited from WIC and its team for nearly 30 years. I am proud to be a part of the WIC team.

Other members of the WIC team include an Administrative Specialist, Nutritional Assistance and a WIC Clerk. All are great advocates for WIC and are always eager to cheer about the WIC Program." – Tina Pulman, WIC Director

WIC Client Totals for 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Participants</th>
<th>2,223</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other Participants</td>
<td>5,557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Contacts</td>
<td>12,762</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total number of WIC coupons issued for 2006 was 133,347. The value of these coupons was $2,178,037.20, which greatly contributed to our Richland County economy.

WIC participants served during 2006 averaged 3,324 per month.

Communicable Disease Team Kept Busy

The Health Department Communicable Disease Program serves to prevent and control the spread of communicable diseases through investigation, providing immunization, education and sometimes treatment. Receiving reports on more than 80 different reportable diseases are nurses and an epidemiologist.

"The Health Department has a major role in investigating communicable diseases and attempting to prevent further spread or epidemic (or a wildfire)," says Mary Derr, an epidemiologist. "Our primary focus is prevention. Many diseases can be prevented with immunizations, proper hand washing and proper cooking of food."

One of the jobs of the communicable disease nurse is follow-up on a report. Once an illness or infection is reported to the Health Department, the nurse will contact the client for more information.

More information is gathered on the type of disease in order to determine when, where, and how it is spread. This can include such things as having a woman on a closed set in order to avoid a further spread of the disease.

The Communicable Disease Nurse investigates more than 1,000 reports of suspected and confirmed communicable disease each year. After diagnosis is confirmed, the team ensures that the patient understands the disease and the next steps in the care process.

Public Health Clinic

The Clinic Staff developed this purpose statement in August 2005: “The purpose for the Public Health Clinic is to be of service to all people by providing health care, promoting wellness, providing education and treating illness.”

Loretta Cornell, Clinic Nursing Supervisor

Clinic Visits in 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Health</td>
<td>522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Medical Clinic</td>
<td>1,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast &amp; Cervical Health Screening (BCCP)</td>
<td>586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV Testing (clinic tests)</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunizations</td>
<td>3,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satellite Immunizations</td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Immunizations</td>
<td>846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition Education</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prenatal/OB/GYN</td>
<td>695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproductive Health</td>
<td>1,026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TB Testing</td>
<td>1,432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12,477</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Includes Women’s Health and STD testing and treatment.

Taking the Clinic on the Road

Public Health nurses who work satellite immunizations are true believers when it comes to preventative medicine. The Health Department goes to communities throughout Richland County with its Child Immunization Clinics. Scattered throughout the area are Mobile Immunization Clinics.

There are many reasons why someone can’t get to the Public Health Clinic, so the satellite clinics are making access to health care easier.

Child immunizations, available at 12 satellite locations, start at birth and go through age 18, but recommendations for vaccines can change. For example, Varicella (Chickenpox) is now required before kindergarten and Meningococcal (Meningitis) is recommended before college attendance.

"Nine shots are recommended before children are 15 months old. One nice addition is that the Health Department now has combination shots so several immunizations can be done with one shot. Senior Health Screenings check on the health of these 60 and over with a variety of free check-ups. Community Health Screenings were an outgrowth of that program. It offers people who need routine health screenings such as those with no health care coverage have not seen a doctor for an annual check-up the opportunity to get ‘age appropriate’ health screenings, the majority of which are done free of charge. This is also made to the Health Department clinic to see a doctor when appropriate.

The satellite clinics are a wonderful educational opportunity allowing the nurses to preach the preventative message.

Just a Normal Day in the Clinic

On any given day, the Beatty Public Health Clinic is a hive of activity and the workers there are busy bees.

Up front, Clinic Clerks are checking people in, scheduling appointments and handing them forms.

Behind the doors, Clinic Nurses may be juggling prenatal appointments, handling health issues for expecting parents, focusing on health cases, and reproductive health issues. That means they may be called on to do physicals, call the hospital for records and tests, consult with doctors, find out what medications a client is taking and how to get them the medications they need, do developmental screening, create child health, and administer immunizations, and for test and treat a few secretions.

Time spent with a client can vary depending on his or her needs. Sometimes a nurse will spend an entire morning with a child in the WIC program going through the many formulas, back-to-school shots, where a nurse may see 30 clients in one morning.

Because of the range of health cases they’ll see during a day, it’s important for Clinic Nurses to have a good breadth of knowledge regarding immunizations and health issues. For example, in the recently expanded prenatal program, nurses can handle general prenatal care and route contributors to the OB/GYN nurse in our own clinic.

Other workers in the clinic, however, may be specializing in certain areas such as TB testing, HIV testing and counseling, diet counseling and immunization.

The travel immunization program is a great example of the Health Department providing help to the community. The program makes sure that international travelers are up-to-date with routine immunizations, recommended vaccines, and required vaccines for their destination countries. This program is also responsible for the annual Colorado and Ohio influenza boosters.

Social worker in the clinic may be called in when a client has a situation and doesn’t know what to do.

Often that means helping the client through what can be a wide-hodge of problems that can be overwhelming or confusing. This past year, many senior citizens got help transitioning to Medicare Part D through the Clinic’s Social worker.

A major part of the Social Worker’s job involves helping qualifying clients apply for patient assistance programs through pharmaceutical companies to obtain needed medications. Often that means working with agencies that can provide them with the services they need.

Social workers may also see clients with issues such as domestic violence, substance abuse or sub-standard housing. The Social worker works with other health care professionals and agencies that can provide them with the services they need.

Social workers are also essential to the clinic in coordinated activity and more like the steel ball in a pinball machine, bouncing from one client to the next or from one assignment to the next. However, despite the chaotic course, a lot of work is getting done.

www.richlandhealth.org