Top Stories & Statistics from 2007

Flood Brings Health, Environmental Concerns

The entire Health Department responded to the flooding that occurred in Mansfield and Shelby in August of 2007. The Nursing Division was called upon to assess what immunization shots would be needed for people in the affected areas. Tetanus vaccine was provided for free to those who sustained cuts as part of flood clean-up. Environmental Health responded by providing plumbing and sanitation services as well as information on food safety in areas without power. In addition, the flooding raised concerns about mosquito-borne diseases and mosquito sprayings were increased. While the administration worked with FEMA, Health Promotion/Education provided information to the media and the public through the Health Department website on flood clean-up and safety in flooded areas.

The Health Department took a personal hit with its WIC office in Shelby also flooded. Several local agencies and supply drivers were held at the Health Department to give aid to victims of the flooding.

Emergency Preparedness Drill

Testing its ability to rapidly distribute large supplies of medicine to local communities, the Health Department joined with community response partners and local volunteers in conducting an emergency preparedness drill in late October 2007. The drill tested the organization of patient flow and staffing levels for meeting the diverse needs of patients.

“In an emergency, we could safely dispense medicines or vaccines to the public,” said Mary Derr RN, Public Health Preparedness Coordinator. “The drill is part of our ongoing commitment to protect the health and safety of Richland County residents.”

Communicable Disease Program Stays Busy

The Communicable Disease program investigates and monitors more than 50 reportable diseases from “AIDS to West Nile Virus” on a yearly basis. This includes surveillance and investigation with a goal of prevention and control of public health problems.

In late 2007, 84 Pertussis (Whooping Cough) cases were reported in Richland County, compared to just two cases in the previous two years.

Public Health Day Awards

The Mansfield/Richland County Health Department recognized Duane Rader, Johnny Harris, Jack Spangler and Dave Pennell for contributions to public health at its annual celebration of Public Health Day, Wednesday, April 4.

Johnny Harris, head of maintenance operations at the Neighborhood Center since 1996, has been assisting the Health Department and Richland County Agencies for ten years with preparing the facility for the annual Minority Health Fair.

Jack Spangler, who assisted with the setup and event organization for the annual flu clinic, is an Events Coordinator Volunteer with the Richland County Fair Board.

Duane Rader, who assisted with the pandemic flu public forums, is a program assistant for Agriculture and Natural Resources at The Ohio State University Extension.

The 11th annual “Media Award” for coverage of health-related issues went to Dave Pennell of WMAN Radio in Mansfield.

Health Department Administration

Stan Saalman, MSEP7, JD, RS, Commissioner; Jerome E. Hurley, MD, Medical Director; Richard Bartelheim, Fiscal Operations Director; Selby Dorgan, LSW, Health Promotion/Education Director; Joe Evans, RS, MPH, Environmental Health Director; Tina Picman, MS, RDLD, WIC Director; Cathy Smith, Human Resource Manager; Amy Vincent, BSN, RN, Director of Nursing.

Funding & Management Structure - 2007

Board of Health

Mansfield: Robert Exten, MD; John F. Leech, DDS; Matthew Mayer, R.P.K.; Frank Rossie David Smith, Vice-Chair; Ontario: Barbara Cinar, RN; Roger Ronk.

County: Thelda Dillon; Carol Michaels; Steven Phillips, DVM, Chair; Angela Thompson; Jean Swartz; Violet Wetzel; Beauford T. Williams.

District Advisory Council

This council meets annually in March to bring health concerns and recommendations to the Board of Health and to appoint new members from the county. Members include the chairman of each township's board of trustees, village mayors, and the chair of the county commissioners.

Towships - Blooming Grove Danny Adkins • Butler: Marvin Stuart • Cass: Joseph Miller • Franklin: Kenneth Levering Jr. • Jackson: Dean Myers • Richland: Cynthia Burdick • Hurley: Mark Fry • Perry: Glenn Myers • Plymouth: Mark Fry • Sandusky: Thomas Glauer • Sharon: Dale Schroeder • Springfield: Robert Currens • Troy: Dean Strohminger • Washington: Bob Ennemann • Wellers: Thomas Osvalt • Wadsworth: Dale Pole.

Mayors - Bellville: Carolyn Studenmund • Butler: Don Gillespie • Lexington: Eugene Parkison • Lucas: John Finley • Mansfield: Lydia Reid • Ontario: Kenneth Bender • Plymouth: Keith Hebbe • Shiloh: Timothy Wiramian.

Chair, County Commissioners - Ed Olson.

Retail Licensing Conference

Steve Reed, Chair (Food Service); Gayle Meadows (Food Establishment); Angela Thompson (Manufactured Home Parks); Mike Kenyon (Swimming Pools, Spas & Special Use Pools); Terry Conrad (Campgrounds & Parks); Grant Milliron (Solid Waste Industries).

Protecting and Promoting Health with an Ounce of Prevention

An equal opportunity employer/provider of services

Colophon: Fonts are Condensed Sans (Health Department font); Montserrat and Watcher Pro: Layouts done using Adobe InDesign CS using a Mac Pro; Columns 1.5 using a Mac Personalizing Tiger. Preparing on a Rezch 3235 and final printing by the Mansfield News Journal. For additional copies or inquiries, contact Fred Richmond, Health Educator; 419-774-4564.
BCCP Gets Additional State Funding

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Project (BCCP) will, for the first time, be receiving state funding. The state funds will be in addition to the current federal funds that provide free breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services to an additional 9,000 women each year.

The Health Department’s BCCP program, which includes Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Seneca, Wyandot and Richland counties, served more than 800 women last year.

Individuals or health care professionals who know of potential clients are encouraged to contact the Health Department’s BCCP program to determine if they meet eligibility criteria. For more information call 419-774-4700 or 800-655-4707.

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 and improved pregnancy outcomes.

Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Services division directs a variety of programs that prevent, protect and educate our community about potentially harmful elements in our environment.

WIC Client Totals for 2007

- New Participants: 2,532
- Recertifications: 5,254
- Other Contacts: 5,453
- Total Contacts: 6,007

- The total number of WIC coupons issued in 2007 was 138,709. The value of the WIC coupons was $2,314,439.69, which greatly contributed to our Richland County economy. WIC participants served during 2007 averaged 1,428 per month.

Health Promotion

Health Promotion/Education works to help people in Richland County take more control over their personal health and well-being, of the community and the environment. This department is also in charge of the county wellness program, media relations, advertising and the Health Department’s web site.

Programs & Presentations in 2007

- Child Passenger Safety Seats Checks (includes classes): 88
- County Home Health Screenings: 80
- Fairs, Parades and Health Fair Booths: 17
- Fifth Grade Pbality Tests: 10
- Health Education/Informations: 6
- Seat Belt Use Surveys: 36
- Senior Driver Refresher Classes (4) Participants: 73
- Traffic Safety Presentations: 1

Cub Scouts Participate in Seat Belt Kickoff

Cub Scout Pack 152 and law enforcement officers throughout Richland County - seat belt safety was the message. The Beatty Public Health Clinic joined to promote seat belt use with a Pinewood Derby demonstration at the Richland Mall in May.

Ohio Smoking Ban Enforcement

Last year the Health Department became the lead agency in enforcing Ohio’s Smoking Ban. After considerable delays from the State in interpreting the rules, penalties, the Health Department began enforcement on May 3. In order for an investigation to begin, someone must report a violation to the State, which will request an investigation. The following are statistics for Richland County: reports taken since May 3, 2007

Vital Statistics

The Vital Statistics division maintains records of all births and deaths in Richland County since 1908 (excluding Shelby). For information on obtaining a birth or death certificate, contact the web site at www.richlandhealth.org or call 419-774-4500.

Environmental Health in 2007 ........................Total*

- Air Pollutants: 55
- Camps: 44
- Communicable Diseases: 26
- Foodborne Illness Outbreaks: 9
- Food Establishments (grocery stores): 483
- Food Services (all types & restaurants): 2,017
- Lead Contamination: 231
- Manufactured Homes Parked: 95
- Nuisance - food, sewage & other: 530
- Nuisance - grease: 464
- Rabies Control - dogs & cats: 32
- Rabies Control - wild & others: 38
- Plumbing - residential: 1,249
- Plumbing - commercial: 1,249
- Plumbing - other: 249
- Schools: 136
- Sewage Systems, all types: 979
- New residential sewage: 151
- Solid Waste: 215
- Swimming Pools: 250
- Vector Control (insects, rats): 520
- Water Supply: 273
- Vector control: 579
- All other types (non-cataloged): 579

- *Includes Infant & Child Health and Public Health

Ohio Smokin Ban Smoking Ban Enforcement Ohio Public Health Clinic

The purpose for the Beatty Public Health Clinic is to be of service to all people by providing health care, promoting wellness, providing education and treating illness. Health services are for people of all ages who are residents of Richland County.

Public Health Nursing

Public Health Nurses are a valuable community resource for information and medical assistance. They work in schools, homes and various community and county offices. The Public Health Nurses provide care to all ages, from newborns to senior citizens.

Public Health Clinic

Clinic Visits in 2007 ............................................Total

- Adult Medical Clinic: 108
- Breast & Cervical Health Screening (BCCP): 872
- Child Health Screening: 467
- Clinic Influenza Shots: 605
- General Health: 5,447
- HIV Testing (clinic visit): 1,161
- Immunizations: 1,384
- Satellite Immunizations: 454
- Travel Advisory: 596
- Nutrition Education: 35
- Preventa/OGIN: 716
- Reproductive Health: 1,013
- "Includes Women’s Health and STD testing and treatment."
2007 brought a number of changes to public health that had or will have dramatic effects on our communities’ health and welfare.

Implemeting Ohio’s smoking ban regulation was the biggest change. Passed by voters in November of 2006, it was not until May that the Health Department was designated by the state with enforcement in Richland County. In addition, we were directed by the state legislature to develop new temporary local sewage system rules. Last, we received a legislative directive that gave us new and more comprehensive regulations for school inspections.

We had several communicable disease outbreaks in our communities. Most notably, a staph infection called MRSA and Pertussis (commonly called Whooping Cough). They required us to spend extra time containing and limiting their outbreaks and educating the public about the diseases and their treatment.

We were required to write a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for the Health Department detailing how we will stay open in emergencies and an All Hazards Plan (one plan containing all previous emergency contingency plans) for emergency response.

We worked with area hospitals and the County Emergency Management staff to help local nursing homes and health clinics to start writing emergency operations plans. We also assisted with the development of an Emergency Medical Reserve Corps — volunteers with medical backgrounds willing to respond in emergencies — for Richland County emergency situations.

When the floods hit Mansfield and Shelby in August, we were there to provide free Tetanus shots, plumbing inspectors for damaged homes, and information on recovering from a flood, including information on subjects as varied as driving in flooded areas, food storage, sanitation, and controlling mold. We also provided extra mosquito spraying in flooded areas to control mosquito-spread illnesses.

We joined with the Area Agency on Aging to develop a new program on how seniors can prevent falls. We expanded on our Senior Health Screening program to start Community Health Screening clinics for all ages at satellite locations throughout Richland County. And we assisted with the Area YMCA to create a new program to help diabetics called “Activate Ohio.”

It’s important to note that all of these activities were in addition to our everyday delivery of more than sixty health and safety-related services to the citizens of our health districts.

We know that there will be challenges ahead but we look forward to meeting them with a progressive approach and a professional staff with a “can do” attitude. We are justifiably proud of our service to our communities and the commitment that the citizens, and especially the voters, of Richland County have shown to the Mansfield/Ontario/Richland County Health Department.

OUR MISSION

Our Mission

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 and chronic diseases
• 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.
**Disease prevention**

A key role of public health is to control the spread of infection and illness by:

**Promoting child immunization programs**

**Offering public flu shot clinics**

**Responding to infectious illnesses** such as meningitis, E. coli infections, salmonella, hepatitis and shingles (often caused by improper handling of food or poor sanitation)

**Monitoring disease outbreaks** including those caused by chemical or biological terrorism (such as smallpox).

**Promoting good health**

Our Health Department works to help people stay healthy through:

**Health screenings** for conditions such as cancer, lead poisoning and high blood pressure

**Prenatal care programs** to help assure that babies are born healthy — and stay healthy

**Wellness program** Blood work to assess cholesterol levels to get help before a serious problem arises

**Nutrition information** to help plan healthy diets, control cholesterol and prevent obesity, plus federal WIC nutrition program

**Health advisories** about community threats such as rabies, food poisoning outbreaks, epidemics, and air or water pollution

**Driver safety programs** to refresh driving skills among our seniors and programs to encourage the use of seat belts and child passenger seats.

**Providing a safe environment**

The Health Department protects the environment as it relates to public health by:

**Responding to health hazards** caused by harmful substances (such as lead, asbestos, toxic waste or biological or chemical weapons)

**Ensuring water quality** in drinking water and public swimming areas

**Ensuring sanitation** by inspecting restaurants and food services for code violations

**Monitoring waste disposal** to ensure proper disposal of sewage and trash

**Dealing with animal problems** to control pests (such as rats & mosquitoes) and vaccinate pets against rabies

**Fighting pollution** to help make sure the air we breathe and the water we drink are safe and clean

**Plumbing services** to assure residential and business plumbing meets code requirements.

**Making health care available to all**

Public health means increasing access to health care through:

**Partnerships with health-care providers** The Health Department teams with hospitals, health-care clinics and managed-care organizations to provide additional health-care options

**Satellite clinics** The Health Department brings health services directly to people with community health screenings, child & adult immunizations, and senior screenings throughout Richland County

**Referrals** The Health Department can link individuals to health-care providers who can help meet their specific health needs.