

Sandusky County Health Department 2015 Annual Report



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Medical DirectorDr. Francis K. Aona, MD

A Letter from the Health Commissioner



A word that encompasses what the Sandusky County Health Department has experienced in 2015 is *Change*. In August, David Pollick, Health Commissioner, retired after 15 years of service to Sandusky County residents. The Board of Health and staff would like to thank Mr. Pollick for his service to our community. At that time, I was hired as the new Health Commissioner. I come to you with a Master of Science in Nursing and 11 years of experience in public health; all at the Sandusky County Health Department. I am a lifelong resident of Sandusky County and am committed to continue to carry on the *Always Choose Health* vision of the Sandusky County Health Department.

Sandusky County Health Department continues to work with community partners, community members, faith-based organizations, and business to address the Community Health Improvement Plan priorities which are: Obesity/Wellness, Mental Health, Infant Mortality; and Risky Behaviors related to prescription drug misuse and abuse. During 2015, we successfully received new grants to target these priorities. The Creating Healthy Communities grant, funded by the Ohio Department of Health, began in January upon which a new coalition was formed to address obesity and encourage residents to lead healthier lifestyles. This grant also allowed for the making of improvements to the North Coast Inland Bike Trail and the installation of water bottle filling stations in local schools, recreation centers, hospitals, and YMCA.

In 2015, the health department has made significant strides in the pursuit of National Accreditation. The staff has risen to the challenge and made this process a priority throughout the entire year. The twelve domain groups have worked diligently to collect documentation in preparation to apply to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) by the end of 2016. This process ensures that the Sandusky County Health Department is providing the highest caliber of public health services to our community.

Throughout all the changes that have occurred in 2015, the Sandusky County Health Department staff has kept the highest standards possible for all programs and services that are provided to the county. By embracing the concept of collective impact, we continue on the path of making our community healthy and safe for all of our residents.

Bethany Brown, RN and MSN

Bothary Brown (x)

Health Commissioner

2015 Board of Health Funds

Revenue			Expenses		
Levy	586,333.35	22.261%			
State Subsidy	10,428.23	0.396%	Personnel	2,003,866.62	73.124%
Vital Stats	95,123.05	3.611%	Equipment	34,287.02	1.251%
Permits, Fees	153,024.11	5.810%	Supplies	256,159.62	9.347%
Subdivisions	37,025.00	1.406%	Travel	67,094.09	2.448%
Contracts	101,135.43	3.840%	Utilities/Maint.	49,543.88	1.808%
Patient Fees	56,567.25	2.149%	Other Expenses	161,405.97	5.890%
Medicare	3,585.66	0.136%	Contract Services	168,033.50	6.132%
Private Insurance	263,880.31	10.018%			
Local Projects	101,397.25	3.850%		2,740,410.70	100.00%
Federal Projects	98,321.92	3.733%			
State Projects	938,305.43	35.624%			
Medicaid	168,162.28	6.384%			
Other	20,614.05	0.783%			

2,633,933.32 100.000%

Drug Free Communities

Grants

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STATE	
Women Infants and Children	299,509.43
Public Health Emergency Preparedness	78,100.16
Reproductive Health and Wellness	112,362.00
Immunization Action Plan	64,520.49
CFHS	56,845.43
Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps	34,810.00
Prevention Partnership	30,278.90
SPF-SIG	
Help Me Grow	168,599.64
Creating Healthy Communities	72,080.32
OTSO – Safe	21,199.06

98,321.92

Public Health Accreditation

The Sandusky County Health Department is working to achieve national public health department accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). With this achievement, the health department will become one of the first county health departments in Ohio to reach this status. To receive accreditation, a health department must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of quality standards and measures.



The goal of accreditation is to improve and protect the health of the public performance of state and local public health departments.

Some of the many benefits of accreditation include:

- Increased credibility, accountability, and visibility in our community, in Ohio, and in our nation
- Valuable, measureable feedback to continuously improve the quality of work
- Evidence that public dollars are being spent on effective and useful programs
- Enhanced services that lead to healthier people and a healthier community
- Recognition of excellence
- Possible funding advantages

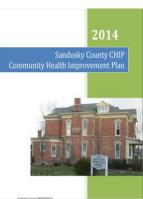
Community Health Assessment



The 2013-2014 Sandusky County Community Health Assessment is the result of the continued support, commitment and dedication of our community partners to work together to improve the health and well-being of the citizens of Sandusky County. The findings of the 2013-2014 Community Health assessment were presented to the public and the community partners at Terra State College on April 7, 2014. This data allow stakeholders to formulate strong strategic plans, evaluate current practices, write better grants and answer a call to action. The result will be a community that focuses on wellness, improving general health status, increasing access to services and addressing unmet needs.

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Sandusky County has been involved in community health assessment since 1993 through a group known as Health Partners. These assessments have allowed Sandusky County to identify priority areas of concern. A number of issues have been identified as important to the community and the constituent groups who use the health assessment.



During the spring of 2013, a process was undertaken to further this work and more formally articulate ways to address community issues as part of a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) process. The four priority areas of concern are:

- 1. Obesity and Wellness
- 2. Risky Behaviors with an emphasis on Prescription Drug Abuse and Misuse
- 3. Mental Health and Wellness
- 4. Infant Mortality

Coalitions, committees and task forces meet on-going basis throughout the year implementing the strategies set forth in the 2013 Sandusky County CHIP.

Strategic Plan



The Sandusky County Health Department completed an organizational strategic plan in December 2013. That work was accomplished in tandem with completion of a community health improvement plan (CHIP) in partnership with the community in June 2013.



The plan envisions a series of activities to address measurable objectives framed by three strategic directions:

- Health Education and Promotion: Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues
- Improve and Build upon Community Relationships: Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
- Workforce Development: Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce

Implementation activities continued throughout 2015 and are integral to moving the organization into ongoing quality improvement activities. The many attributes of the health department suggest that the plan will result in a strengthened department, broader collaboration with community partners, and will contribute to improved health status among county residents.

Vital Statistics



In 2015, there were 288 births and 449 deaths and 6 fetal deaths in Sandusky County. An individual may obtain his/her birth certificate at the Health Department, if born anywhere in Ohio. Certified copies of death certificates, however, must be

obtained in the county where the individual died. The cost for a certified copy of a birth/death certificate is twenty-two (\$22.00) dollars. Credit cards are accepted with a three (3%) percent convenience fee charged, or a minimum of one (\$1.50) dollar. As always, cash or check is accepted. Issuance of certified birth and death certificates is done on demand during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), or requests may be made by phone or mail.

Public Health Nursing

Programs include: Child and Family Health Services, Immunization Clinics, Mass Vaccination Clinics, Bureau of Children with Medical Handicaps, Communicable Disease, Reproductive Health and Wellness Program (Family Planning), Emergency Preparedness, Immunization Action Plan Grant, Pediatric Cardiac Clinics, SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) program and Child Fatality Review and Infant Safe Sleep Campaign.



Homemaker

The Sandusky County Homemaker Program provided bathing and personal care services to Sandusky County residents over 60 years of age who do not qualify for Home Health services, but need intermittent personal care to maintain their independence in their home. These seniors desire to maintain their independent living status, but due to advanced age, disease, and disabilities are unable to provide self care safely without help, thus increasing the risk of injury, hospitalization and potential nursing home placement. In July 2015, The Board of Health decided that it was no longer feasible to continue providing Homemaker services within the Sandusky County community. The program was no longer able to support staffing and the expenses necessary to continue operations. The Homemaker staff is to be commended for years of their dedication to provide high quality compassionate care to Sandusky County residents. The Sandusky County Homemaker program would like to thank all the patients it has had the privilege to serve over the years and the community for its loyalty and appreciation of the program during our years of providing these services in Sandusky County. A special thank you goes to the United Way of Sandusky County for its years of providing funding to this program.

Bureau of Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMH)

The Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMH) is a health care program in the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). BCMH links families of children with special health care needs to a network of quality providers and helps families obtain payment for the needed services.

Major components of the program include: conducting quality assurance activities to establish standards of care and to determine unmet needs of children with handicaps and their families; funding services for the diagnosis and treatment of medically eligible conditions; collaborating with public health nurses at the Sandusky County Health Department to assist in increasing access to care; supporting service coordination for children with selected diagnoses; and assisting families to access and utilize appropriate sources of payment for services for their child. In 2015 there are 242 children active on the BCMH diagnostic, treatment, and/or service coordination program.

Immunization Clinic

The Sandusky County Health Department is one of the main providers in the county that administer vaccinations to children and adults. The goal of the immunization program at the is to reduce and eliminate vaccine-preventable diseases among the county's children, adolescents and adults. The nursing staff provided services for 2,739 clients with 6,844 immunizations administered. The Sandusky County Health Department participates in:

- Vaccine for Children Program, provided by the Ohio Department of Health
- The statewide immunization registry IMPACT SIIS
- The Immunization Action Plan Grant which allows nurses to assess immunization rates and provide education on immunizations to local providers
- Works with local providers to prevent the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases and improve immunization rates for the county
- Has obtained some contracts.

Tuberculosis Testing and Follow Up

Public Health Nurses administered 221 tuberculosis skin tests and read 220 of them. There were no positive tuberculosis skin tests.

Flu Clinic

In 2015, the Health Department provided flu clinics throughout Sandusky County to increase access to vaccinations. A mass clinic was held at the Sandusky County Health Department, September 23, 2015. This tests the staff skills on incident command and administering vaccines with a large amount of people. At this clinic flu vaccines were administered. Smaller



groups of Health Department staff went to area churches and small businesses, throughout the county, to provide flu vaccinations. These clinics were successful and will continue next flu season. A total of **1,022** flu vaccines were administered.

Pediatric Cardiac Clinic

The Sandusky County Health Department works together with ProMedica Memorial Hospital and Pediatric Cardiologist Dr. William Suarez to provide a Pediatric Cardiology Clinic on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. The clinic is held at ProMedica Memorial Hospital, and has provided care to 1,817 children from Sandusky and surrounding counties since it first began in 1986. One of our Public Health Nurses attends the clinic every month to provide Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMH) assistance and ongoing case management. BCMH is a program through the Ohio Department of Health that links families of children with special health care needs to a network of quality providers. The program also helps families obtain payment for these necessary services.

2015 Cardiac Clinic

New clients	30
Returnees	106
No-shows	4
Cancelations	6
Sandusky County residents	117
Seneca County residents	10
Ottawa County residents	6
Huron County residents	1
Out-of-state residents	2
Total Clients Seen	<u>134</u>



Child and Family Health Services (CFHS)



The Child and Family Health Services (CFHS) Program is designed as an organized community effort to eliminate health disparities, improve birth outcomes and improve the health status of women, infants, and children in Ohio.

This goal is addressed by the Public Health Nurses at the Sandusky County Health Department. The Public Health Nurses provide case coordination, education, and follow-up to patients in an effort to eliminate health disparities. This is accomplished by the nurses assessing and monitoring maternal and child health status to identify

and address problems, informing and educating the public about health issues, linking women, children, and youth to health and other community programs, and evaluating the effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal health and population-based maternal and child health services. This year, the Public Health Nurses have continued the program for childhood obesity. The nurses have been providing the following evidence-based curriculums; My Plate, Veggie U, and Let's Move. These curriculums encourage children to exercise, and eat different fruits and vegetables. The nurses have also provided school children with information on nutrition and exercise from My Plate and Let's Move curriculums.

Received education on nutrition and exercise: Schools (2) and Children (1,113).

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)

Through the Child and Family Health Services grant it allows for a Public Health Nurse to provide consultation and coordination for families that have dealt with loss due to SIDS. Additionally, the nurses promote community awareness about SIDS and conduct educational events. This year, there were two (2) billboards with a SIDS message that were placed in the county to bring awareness of the Back to Sleep message. The Public Health Nurses have also provided education to the Department of Jobs and Family Services daycare providers, Heartbeat, GRAD program at local high schools, service organization, community organization, and Sandusky County Health Department staff.

Infant Safe Sleep Campaign

The Sandusky County Health Department is committed to promoting optimal health and safety for all Sandusky County infants

Infant Safe Sleep







Baby sleeps safest alone, on their back, in a crib.

and to reducing infant mortality. Sleep related deaths happen suddenly and unexpectedly in a sleep environment. The causes include sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), accidental suffocation, positional asphyxia, overlay, and undetermined causes. The distinction between the causes of these sleep-related deaths is challenging and many risk factors are similar. Sleep-related deaths are the leading cause of death between one month and one year of age. In 2010 more than three Ohio infant deaths each week were sleep-related. Infant sleep-related deaths outnumber deaths of children of all ages (0-17 years) from vehicular crashes. According to the Ohio Child Fatality Review for 2010 deaths, more than half of the sleep-related deaths likely could have been prevented by placing the baby on his/her back in a safe sleep environment. Sixty percent of the deaths occurred in beds not intended for infants, on couches or on chairs. Sixty-two percent occurred when the infant was sharing a sleep surface with another person. Forty-two percent of the infants had been exposed to tobacco smoke either in utero or after birth. The Sandusky County Health Department reached 1,269 families and 8 professional organizations regarding infant safe sleep strategies

Child Fatality Review Board (CFR)

The Sandusky County Child Fatality Board meets to decrease the incidence of preventable deaths in children less than 18 years of age. This is done by doing all the following:

- Promoting cooperation, collaboration and communication between all groups, professions, agencies, or entities that serve families and children
- Maintaining a comprehensive database of all child deaths that occur in the county or region by the CFR board in order to develop an understanding of the causes and incidences of those deaths
- Recommending and developing plans for implementing local service and program changes to the groups, professions, agencies or entities that serve families and children that might prevent child deaths
- Advising the Ohio Department of Health of aggregate data, trends, and patterns concerning child deaths

Communicable Disease

Ohio Revised Code requires that certain diseases of public health concern be reported to the local health department. Health department personnel then investigate and follow up on all reports of communicable diseases in an effort to prevent the spread of those diseases. In 2015, 109 individual reports for 18 diseases or conditions were received and investigated. Additionally, two community disease outbreaks were investigated and resolved.

Emergency Preparedness

A public health emergency is any event or situation demanding immediate action on the part of the public health system in order to prevent disease and injury or maintain public health within the community of service. Emergencies can be natural or man-made. The Sandusky County Health Department creates and maintains plans for all types of emergencies, and works closely with the Sandusky County Emergency Management Agency, the Red Cross, hospitals, law enforcement, and other local partners. The Sandusky County Healthcare Coalition and Sandusky County Local Emergency Planning Committee are two preparedness groups that the health department participates in. The health department conducted emergency preparedness exercises in 2015 that addressed opening and operating an alternate care facility and the restoration of healthcare systems after a tornado. Each year, the health department holds a mass flu vaccination clinic, which assists in maintaining preparedness for events that could require providing pharmaceuticals to a large number of county residents. In 2015, the average time for persons receiving a flu vaccine was 9.8 minutes, from clinic entry to exit.

Reproductive Health and Wellness Program



The Reproductive Health and Wellness Program provides contraceptive options, pregnancy testing, STD testing, free and confidential HIV testing and reproductive education for Sandusky and Seneca Counties. We accepts all forms of insurance and Medicaid. Fees are based on income for those who do not have insurance.

Communicable Disease	Reported Cases
Gonorrhea	16
Chlamydia	104
Syphilis	0
HIV	0

Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)

The Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) of Sandusky County is a nutrition education program that provides nutritious foods that promote good health for pregnant women, women who just had a baby, breastfeeding women, infants and children up to age 5. In 2015, the WIC staff served 780 new participants. The



average caseload per month was 1,214 participants. A total of 2,148 participants were referred to other services. On a monthly average 63 moms were exclusively or partially breastfeeding their babies.

This year, Ohio WIC successfully implemented the Women Infants and Children Electronic Benefits Transfer (WIC EBT) card! Ohio is one of only 11 states in the country to implement WIC EBT. Sandusky County WIC made this transition in July. EBT provides an improved shopping experience for participants and makes checking out at the register much faster. Using an EBT card also has much less stigma attached than when using paper coupons. The cards have been well received by participants and WIC staff alike!

2015 was a year of staff transitions and additions in Sandusky County. This fall, many of the WIC staff assumed new positions! Angie Ruth, DTR, CLC became the Director of WIC, Tanya Halbeisen, RN is now the Breastfeeding Coordinator, and April Ratliff is now a WIC support staff clerk, along with Chonita Cruz. Our newest staff members include WIC Health Professional, Kate Brinker, DTR, and Breastfeeding Peer Helper, Megan Sweeney. Our staff has a combined 38 years of WIC service, and look forward to continuing to help Sandusky County Mom's successfully breastfeed, and families make nutritious food choices for their children.

Help Me Grow (HMG)



Help Me Grow is a program for Ohio's expectant parents, newborns, infants and toddlers up to the age of 3 years. An integral part of Ohio's prenatal to age three system supports; the services equip parents with the means to help their child acquire the early building blocks necessary for long term

success. These initial achievements last a lifetime, as scientific evidence strongly suggests that a child's success is significantly determined by the quality of nurturing in the first three years of life. In 2015, Sandusky County Help Me Grow received 240 referrals and provided services to 236 children. A total of 786 home visits were made to families who reside in Sandusky County.

Environmental Health



Retail Food Establishments/Food Service Operations

Through the food program regulations, a contract for commercial plumbing plan review and inspections was developed with Erie County. This gives Sandusky County businesses local access to quality plumbing inspections, in a timely manner and keeps the project fee money local. During the 2015 licensing period, the environmental staff conducted 806 inspections of food facilities, conducted plan review for 16 facilities, licensed and inspected 41 mobile food services, and 52 temporary food events.

Approved Program Surveys

The solid waste program was reviewed by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the program was placed on the approved list. This program includes inspections of composting facilities, infectious waste generators, and scrap tire facilities. The Ohio Department of Agriculture reviewed the retail food establishment program, which includes 85 facilities, and placed it on the approved list. The food service operation inspection program, which includes 208 facilities, was reviewed by the Ohio Department of Health and placed on the approved list.



Household Sewage Treatment Systems

The Sandusky County Health Department applied for and received a \$150,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Health to assist homeowners in repairing or replacing failing household sewage treatment systems. Depending on the homeowner's finances, they may receive 100%, 85%, or 50% funding for the repair or replacement of their system. Anyone interested in the program please contact Martha Bowen, Director of Environmental Health at 419-334-6373.



Picture to the left is an aeration tank and dosing chamber for a household sewage treatment system.

Health Planning and Education

The Health Planning and Education Division strive to engage and empower individuals, family and the community to make positive changes towards a healthy and active lifestyle. Division goals are driven by the Community Health Improvement Plan Priorities and strategies selected through a network of collaborative partnerships. Funding for programming comes from a variety



of sources including state and federal grants, program allocations and local levy dollars.

Substance Abuse Prevention

The Sandusky County Health Department and Prevention Partnership Coalition is dedicated to



building a healthier community by preventing and reducing substance abuse in Sandusky County. Members of the coalition include health department officials, law enforcement, parents, youth, school personnel, faith

leaders, and juvenile court officials. The coalition focuses on environmental prevention strategies aimed at changing or influencing community conditions, systems and policies which lead to long-term outcomes.



The Sandusky County Prevention Partnership Coalition was the first Ohio coalition to receive the Ohio Coalition of Excellence Award. This award is sponsored by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and is designed to recognize excellence for coalitions who work in the behavioral health or a related prevention field.

The Coalition continues to provide community education and awareness on the impact of marijuana in our community. Marijuana is a dangerous, addictive drug that has consequences for users that are many times irreversible. This dangerous Schedule I drug also is highly addictive with 1 of 11 adults who smoke marijuana becoming addicted and 1 in 6 youth marijuana smokers under the age of 15 becoming marijuana addicts.

Prescription drug abuse and heroin use in on the rise across the nation and our county is not

immune from this issue; locally, claiming the lives of over 40 county residents in the past 5 years. The Prevention Partnership was instrumental in placing 6 permanent drop locations for unwanted, unused and expired medications throughout the county for the safety and well-being of community members.



Medication Drop Box Locations:

Bellevue Police Department Clyde Police Department Fremont Police Station Gibsonburg Police Department Sandusky County Sheriff's Office Woodville Police Department



Gambling Prevention

In 2015, the Prevention partnership was awarded \$12,399 from the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties to target Gambling Prevention. The Prevention Partnership Coalition's successful approach and extensive knowledge of gauging Community Readiness, the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF), and

Community Engagement have led to changing community conditions and measureable outcomes in reducing alcohol and tobacco rates. These successes in the substance abuse prevention field have prepared our coalition partners to extend our efforts into other prevention areas, such as gambling prevention.

Safe Communities

Safe Communities is a program under the Ohio Dept. of Public Safety. The goal is to work with local groups and law enforcement to reduce traffic fatalities and focus on seven initiatives that serve to advance projects in specific traffic safety areas. Initiatives include:

- Traffic Fatalities-all fatal crashes occurring in Sandusky County are reviewed.
 Countermeasure recommendations are developed to prevent future crashes of a similar manner.
- Impaired Driving-works to prevent motorists from driving distracted or alcohol impaired through innovative programs, awareness campaigns, education and enforcement.
- Motorcycle Safety-increase awareness of motorcycle safety issues among motorcyclists and general motorists through education, awareness campaigns, and promotion.
- Seat belt use-to increase seat belt use in Sandusky County from 89% to 92% through education and enforcement.
- Safe Communities Coalition receives funding from the Ohio Department of Public Safety and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.





lealthy communities

Creating Healthy Communities

The Sandusky County Health Department was awarded 2015-2019
Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) funding from the Ohio Department
of Health. The award, which totals \$95,000 each year, is being used in our
community to prevent and reduce chronic diseases by creating environments

that support healthy behaviors. In March of 2015, representatives from various sectors came



together to form the Creating Healthy Communities Coalition. The coalition works to improve access to and affordability of healthy foods, increase opportunities for physical activity, and assure tobacco-free living where Sandusky County residence live, work, and play.

2015 Successes:

- Established a salad bar program at Gibsonburg Middle/High School.
- Placed 18 water bottle refilling stations throughout schools, hospitals, and community organizations.
- Enhanced infrastructure along the North Coast Inland Trail.
- 1 out of every 3 students are eating from the salad bar three or more times per week
- 1/3 of the students have tried at least one new vegetable since the salad bar first became available





Health Partners

The Sandusky County Health Department has been a leader in assessing the health of the community for over 15 years. Health Partners' mission is to monitor and improve the health status of Sandusky County residents. The group has made a commitment to follow the Community Health Improvement Cycle, with Health Assessment a primary focus of



this group. Members contribute to ensure that Health Assessments occur on a regular basis. Adults (ages 19-75) are assessed every four years, youth (ages 12-18) are assessed every two years, and children (ages 0-11) are assessed every four years. Results of the 2013-2014, Sandusky County Youth Health Assessment are available on the Health Department website at www.alwayschoosehealth.com.

Health Partner Members include:

- Bellevue Hospital
- Community Health Services
- Firelands Counseling & Recovery Services
- Fremont City School District
- Memorial Health Care System
- Mental Health & Recovery Service Board of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties
- Francis Aona, M.D., Physician
- Sandusky County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- Sandusky County Health Department
- Sandusky County Family and Children First Council
- United Way of Sandusky County
- WSOS Community Action Commission