

PORTAGE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT: WHAT WE DO FOR YOU!

- Adult Immunization Clinics
- Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps
- Car Seat Safety Inspection & Installation
- Childhood Immunization Clinics
- Communicable Disease Investigation
- Community Education
- Emergency Preparedness
- Health Education & Promotion
- Infectious Waste
- Lead Testing/Head Start
- Nutrition Education
- Obesity Education
- Plumbing
- Pool, Spa, and Beach Inspections
- Rabies Control
- Restaurant Inspections
- School Inspections
- School Nursing Meetings
- Sewage Program
- Storm Water Program
- Tattoo/Body Piercing Inspections
- TB Tests
- Travel (International) Clinics
- Water Programs

Friends of Public Health

The 2011 Friends of Public Health Award is being presented to the family of Dr. Kenneth Rupp for his lifetime of dedicated service to Portage County.

Dr. Rupp served the residents of Portage County by working at the health department for 43 years, serving as health commissioner for 27 of those years and a member of the Board of Health for 14 years. He was a physician in private practice for more than forty years in the city of Streetsboro. Dr. Rupp was active in numerous endeavors including the Portage County Medical Society, the Robinson Memorial Hospital's Infection Control Credentials Committee, the Streetsboro Chamber of Commerce, the Ohio Association of Health Commissioners, the Knights of Columbus, and the Lion's Club. In addition, he served as a volunteer firefighter, a member of the Streetsboro Board of Education, a team physician for the Streetsboro School District and was an active member of the St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church.

Professionally and personally, Dr. Rupp earned the respect and admiration of all those who had the pleasure of his association. The Portage County Health Department is honored to proclaim Dr. Kenneth Rupp as 2011's Friend of Public Health.

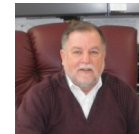
Tributes to Dr. Kenneth Rupp:

"He was a great guy to work with. He was very much concerned about the environmental health of Portage County."-Robert Palmer, President of the Board of Health

"It was a rare privilege to work with a man completely dedicated to public health and its effect on the citizens of Portage County. Above all, I will always remember and envy his commitment, dedication and deep felt love he had for his family. I will miss his support and guidance."-DuWayne Porter, Health Commissioner



PORTAGE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2011 Annual Report



A Message From The Health Commissioner

Something new every year! Public Health is anything but dull. The last half of 2011 saw the stampede to begin horizontal fracturing (fracking) for gas and oil in Portage County. We certainly weren't prepared for the water sampling requests that have poured into our office. However, we have dedicated already short manpower to make sure we can help those in Portage County on water wells to protect their groundwater interest.

We keep hearing the economy is beginning to improve, but we haven't seen that with our building related permits. The Health Department had at one time issued over 600 septic permits in a year. In 2011, we reached a new low. Only 68 septic permits were issued. We are hoping that 2012 and 2013 will begin to once again show growth in the building industry.

The good news is we have managed to fulfill our state mandated program requirements with our current staff. This does not mean that we can meet the 10 Essential Services required of health departments but as the economy improves we will work hard to meet those goals.

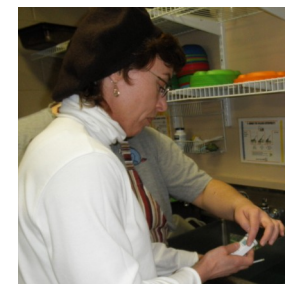
I appreciate all the hard work from Township Trustees Dan Derreberry, Sandy Templeton, and James Hammar in our effort to evaluate the community public health needs and potentials for consolidation. Though consolidation may not be in the near future, we are hoping to work towards a five-year plan that may lead to the joining of the three health departments.

Finally, because we have not replaced staff and have continued to watch over our expenditures, we hope to decrease or eliminate the need for chargebacks in 2013. We do not take the need to chargeback lightly and understand that this economic downturn is happening to all of us. The financial support of the Township Trustees in the past has allowed us to keep our doors open. The Health Department greatly appreciates your support.

Respectively Submitted,

DuWayne O. Porter MPH, RS

DuWayne Porter, MPH, RS
Health Commissioner



Beth Ahrens conducts a food service inspection in a daycare.



Judi Rettig doing registration for an outside immunization clinic.



Julie Wrona and Rose Ferraro discuss Medicaid changes.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Portage County Combined General Health District is to protect the health, safety and well being of the citizens of the Portage County Combined General Health District, to promote health, to prevent disease, and to assure that all persons are provided a better quality of life and increased longevity.

71st Annual Report
to
District Advisory Council
of Portage County

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Portage County Health Department

449 South Meridian Street
Ravenna, Ohio 44266
330-296-9919
Nursing Clinic
330-298-4490

[www.co.portage.oh.us/
healthdepartment.htm](http://www.co.portage.oh.us/healthdepartment.htm)



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Board of Health Members

Robert Palmer, President
Dale Miller, Vice President
Bonnie Bailey, Member
Dr. Howard Minott, Member
Dr. Robert Jackson, Member
James Bierlair, Member
Amy Hammar, Member

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The slow economy in 2011 continued to adversely affect the construction industry. It reduced the number of building-related permits issued by the health department to the fewest ever for a one-year period, 69 sewage system permits and 198 plumbing permits. The previous lows, 89 sewage permits and 261 plumbing permits, occurred in 2010. Typical numbers five years ago, before the recession, were in the 400 and 500 range, respectively. We can hope for an improved economy in 2012.

Even as the county struggles with financial recession, environmental health issues continue to remain an important aspect of public health. The Portage County Health Department Environmental Division is required by law to inspect and issue permits for over 20 programs. Some of these programs includes House Bill 110, solid waste, food service, wells and septic, and water testing. These inspections protect the environment as well as help to prevent the spread of diseases.



Kevin Watson, Tom Brannon, and Loyd Groves during a field consultation.



DuWayne Porter, Rich Lashley, and Ken Dye working in the office.

PCHD Environmental Division:

Loyd Groves, BS, RS
Environmental Director
Jack Madved, BS, RS
Sanitarian
Beth Ahrens, BS, RS
Sanitarian
Richard Lashley, BS, RS
Sanitarian
Kevin Watson, BS, RS
Sanitarian
Stanley Carlisle, MPH, RS
Sanitarian
Amos Sarfo, MS, RS
Sanitarian
Tom Brannon
Environmental Technician
Ken Dye
Certified Plumbing Inspector

Environmental Programs

Programs	Sites	Inspect-ions	Consult-ations
Sewage Systems	69	979	521
Septic Permits	68		
Lot Evaluations	44		
Aeration		1308	353
Home Sale Septic	97		
Water Supply Systems	136	196	38
Water Samples	347	419	47
Landfill Methane Gas Well Monitoring	103	309	
Storm Water District		375	574
Sewage Nuisances	40	464	578
Telephone Consults			8120
Food Service	459	826	23
Food Establishments	150	256	7

Programs	Sites	Inspect-ions	Consult-ations
Mobile Home Parks	33	86	3
Recreational Camps	39	50	4
Swimming Pools, Spas, and Beaches	70	97	23
Schools	38	77	29
Motels/Hotels	21	8	
Solid Waste Facilities	7	65	18
Infectious Waste	5	10	6
Solid and Animal Waste Complaints	25	189	342
Plumbing Inspections			
Total Number of Inspections		492	
Plumbing Permits Issued		198	
Clear Water Permits Issued		23	
Plumber Registered		78	

VOTERS ELECT

2011 Advisory Council

Chairman	James Eskridge
Vice Chairman	Diane Hargett Austin
Secretary	Bonnie Howe

Members: Chairmen of Township Trustees

Atwater	John Kovacich
Brimfield	Sue Fields
Charlestown	Tim Patrick
Deerfield	Michael Rack
Edinburg	Sandra Templeton
Franklin	Keith Benjamin
Freedom	James Hammar
Hiram	Steve Pancost
Mantua	Mark Hall
Nelson	Joseph Leonard
Palmyra	Henry Michael
Paris	Ralph Graham
Randolph	Roger Klodt
Ravenna	Hank Gibson
Rootstown	Brett Housley
Shalersville	Frank Ruehr
Suffield	David Polen
Windham	Dann Timmons

Mayors of Cities and Villages

Aurora City	Lynne E. McGill
Streetsboro City	Arthur Scott
Brady Lake Village	Hal Lehman
Garrettsville	Craig Moser
Hiram Village	Lou Bertrand
Mantua Village	Donna Hawkins
Mogadore Village	Michael Rick
Sugar Bush Knolls	Austin Melton Jr.
Windham Village	Rob Donham

Budget Commission

Prosecuting Attorney	Victor Vigluicci
Treasurer	Steve Shanafelt
Auditor	Janet Esposito

Portage County Commissioners

Maureen T. Frederick —President
Chris Smeiles
Tommie Jo Marsilio

Health Department Administration

DuWayne O. Porter, MPH, RS
Health Commissioner, Secretary to the Board of Health

Board of Health

The Board of Health consists of four members who are elected by the Advisory Council of the Portage County Combined General Health District, one member who is appointed by the Licensing Council, and two members who are appointed by the Mayors of Aurora and Streetsboro Cities, respectively. They are appointed for five-year overlapping terms. They meet monthly in open meetings. Among their responsibilities are the following:

- Appoint Health Commissioner
- Approve Health Department Budget
- Set Policies and Approve Health Regulations
- Hold Hearings on Complaints Regarding Regulations
- Promote Public Relations

Meet the Board of Health



Robert Palmer
President



Dale Miller
Vice President



Bonnie Bailey
Member
Streetsboro



Robert Jackson
Member



Howard Minott
Member
Aurora



James Bierlair
Member



Amy Hammar
Licensing
Council Rep.



A Message from the Medical Director

Public Health is a mystery to many in Portage County. It is a lot like the wind. You can't see the wind but you can feel it and see the effects of the wind. Public Health, the work your Portage County Health Department does everyday, is invisible to many, but felt by all.

You can see the effects of public health through the Portage County Health Department's programs that stop the spread of disease from people, water, food, animals, and insects. We monitor over 100 communicable diseases, including rabies and West Nile Virus. The Portage County Health Department works to keep you healthy and safe from epidemics to ensure people in our community are protected.

Daniel J. Raub, DO, MA, FACOFP
Medical Director

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

2011 saw many changes in the Administrative Division. With the retirement of Connie Leedom after 28 years of service, the division split into two branches; Administrative and Fiscal.

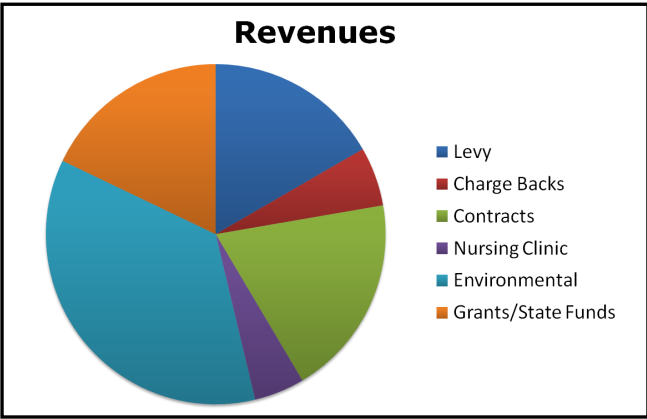
The secretary to the Health Commissioner is the head of the administrative branch and is responsible for ensuring the daily operations, which include personnel, personal and vocal interactions with the public, written correspondence to the public as a result of field personnel's investigations and inspections, and clerical support for environmental programs including the storm water program, food service, solid waste, plumbing, House Bill 110, septic, and water testing.

The fiscal branch is responsible for accounting and budgeting for the Health Department, reporting to the state for grant programs, and issuing licenses, registrations, and permits. The fiscal branch is also responsible for maintaining statistics of public health programs which is an essential activity that provides the foundation upon which all parts of public health programs are constructed.

Dorothy Filing
Administrative Director
Carol Pillsbury, BBA
Storm Water Clerk

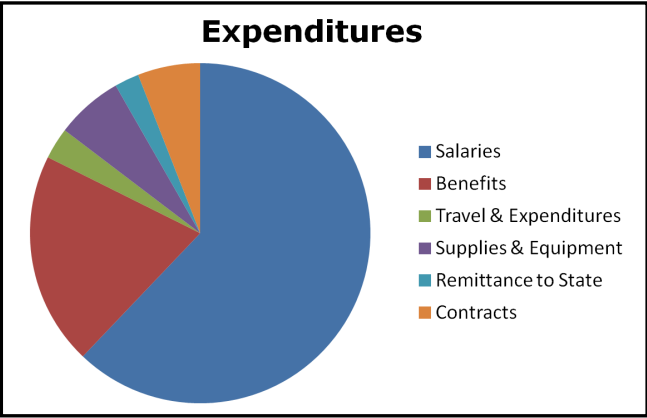
Debbie Stall
Finance Director
Carey Meissner
Account Clerk

Revenues	
Levy	\$311,437
Charge Backs	\$105,000
Contracts	\$358,540
Nursing Clinic	\$89,767
Environmental	\$669,590
Grants/State Funds	\$334,414
Miscellaneous	\$3,505
Total 2011 Revenues	\$1,872,253



Dorothy Filing, Carol Pillsbury, Debbie Stall, Carey Meissner

Expenses	
Salaries	\$1,086,750
Benefits	\$354,414
Supplies & Equipment	\$111,606
Remittances to State	\$40,771
Travel & Expenditures	\$52,204
Contracts	\$103,977
Miscellaneous	\$15,223
Total 2011 Expenses	\$1,764,945



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

PORTAGE COUNTY STORM WATER DISTRICT

The Health Department's program to fulfill its contract with the Portage County Storm Water District, to locate and eliminate existing illicit discharge, became fully active in 2011. A large portion of that year was devoted to training the new sanitarian who was hired to work on this project and researching the department's sewage system permit files to determine which systems on record would be considered "illicit discharges", per the EPA's definition of such.

The file search revealed that there are over 3,400 systems that have been installed in the last 50 years which would be illicit discharges.

Once the new sanitarian's training made her competent to evaluate soils and topography and design the required replacement sewage systems, she began investigating the possible violations. 118 suspected illicit discharges were inspected. It was discovered that 67 of those were not violations, but 51 were. Of those 51 violations, 22 have been corrected and the remainder are still in the process of completing their corrections.

There are also many systems that were installed before

permits were required. Many of those will be found to be illicit discharges when they are discovered by our field investigations, as will illegal installations and alterations which have been done.

Discovery and enforcing corrections for all the illicit discharges in Portage County will take many years. The first step was the work done in 2011.

The program encountered a set-back at the end of the year when the sanitarian assigned to the project resigned. We had to find and hire a replacement and, once again, began the necessary training. So progress is on hold until that is completed.

For questions regarding the Storm Water Program, contact Amos Sarfo, RS, at 330-296-9919 ext. 111.



Amos Sarfo and Stan Carlisle discuss storm water runoff within the county.

FRACKING

Fracking is a commonly accepted term for hydro-fracturing, a process where water, sand and chemicals are injected into the earth at high pressure. The aim of fracking is to fracture rock formations deep underground in the hopes of liberating natural gas that would be otherwise inaccessible, and to bring it to the surface. Fracking wells can be drilled vertically, vertically and horizontally, or directionally. A horizontal well in a shale formation can use between 7.5 million to 19 million litres of water. The EPA estimates anywhere from 15-80% of the water is recovered. For disposing purpose of the water, it can be stored underground in impermeable injection wells that prevent it from leaking into the environment or in steel tanks or pits; recycled for use in another fracturing well; or treated and discharged back into the water supply.

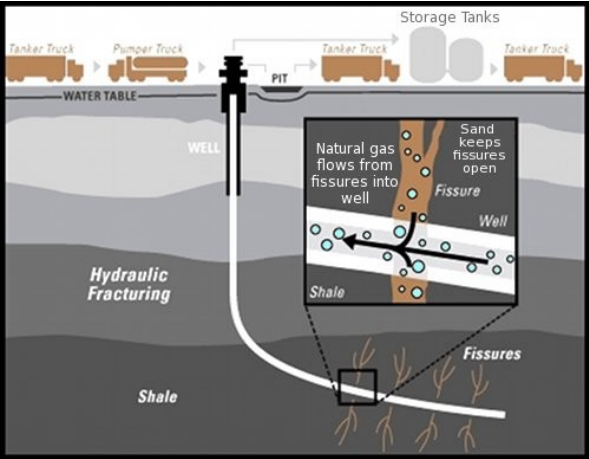
Three Tiers of Water Well Sampling

- Tier 1: \$170
- Tier 2: \$229 (Tier 1+\$59)
- Tier 3: \$344 (Tier1+2+\$115)

The water well sample is used to establish the background water quality and are grouped in order of importance. The more parameters analyzed, the higher the cost of the water analysis. If funds are limited, start with the tier 1 sample set.

If you use well water and are in a fracking zone, the health department recommends having your water well tested prior to the fracking and after the fracking has been completed.

For more information about water testing contact Jack Madved, RS, at 330-296-9919, ext. 116.



Jack Madved taking a water sample to test before the start of fracking.

NURSING SERVICES

During 2011, the Portage County Health Department Nursing Division continued its' yearly mission to provide flu immunization clinics throughout the county. With the small staff of 9 nursing division members and the help of MRC volunteers, 38 flu clinics were held and 953 people were vaccinated against the seasonal flu.

The Nursing Division continues its struggle with increasing the immunization rates of Portage County children. Working within the Immunization Action Plan Grant, a public health nurse and a health educator are responsible for educating both physicians and parents about the importance of immunizations. The nursing services provides a childhood immunization clinic every Wednesday from 8:00am-12:00 noon. This clinic is a walk-in clinic, no appointment necessary.

Adult and travel immunization clinics are also provided by the nursing services. They are by appointment only. Please call 330-298-4490, ext. 119 to schedule an appointment.

A main focus of the nursing division is communicable disease surveillance and investigation. Ohio law mandates that health care providers report certain cases of communicable diseases to their local health department. Cases of communicable diseases are investigated by the public health nurses. Investigation includes confirmation of diagnosis, evaluation of case information, contact notification, assurance of treatment, and institution of other appropriate measures to control further transmission of these diseases.

The Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh) is a program in the nursing division that supports the work for public health nurses on behalf of children with special healthcare needs and their families. There are two BCMh Public Health Nurses employed at PCHD in order to meet the needs within Portage County.

Community Health Assessment:

PCHD is conducting a five-year community health assessment of maternal and child health in Portage County. Community health assessment is the process of identifying a community's needs, analyzing strengths and gaps in existing services, and developing a community action plan to address the problems. PCHD will partner with key Portage County service organizations to meet these goals. This project is funded by a five-year grant from the Ohio Department of Health Child and Family Health Services.

PCHD Nursing Division:

- Rosemary Ferraro, RN, BSN
Director of Nursing
- Karen Towne, RN, BSN
Nursing Supervisor
- Kim Villers, RN, BSN
Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
- Angie Earle, RN, BSN
Public Health Nurse
- Catherine Gellatly, RN, BSN
BCMh Public Health Nurse
- Marianne Kitakis, RN, BSN
BCMh Public Health Nurse
- Becky Lehman, BS
Health Educator/
Public Information Officer
- Judi Rettig, BA
Nursing Clerk
- Julie Wrona
Nursing Clerk



Karen Towne providing education during an adult immunization clinic.



Marianne Kitakis assists a BCMH client with healthcare information.

Nursing Services Programs

- Communicable Disease
 - 753 Investigations
 - TB and TB Testing
 - 409 TB Tests Administered
 - No active cases
 - Childhood Immunizations
 - 1844 Immunizations Administered
 - Adult Immunizations
 - 1076 Immunizations Administered
 - International Travel Clinics
 - 142 Travel Clinics
 - 368 Immunizations Administered
 - Seasonal Flu
 - 38 Flu Clinics
 - 953 Flu Shots Administered
 - Bureau of Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh)
 - 454 Active Participants
 - 400 Contacts
 - Medical Reserve Corps
 - 144 Volunteers
 - FLIGHT Obesity Preventions
 - 97 Consultations
 - Animal Bites/Rabies Control
 - 222 Reports
 - School Nursing
 - 5 Meetings
 - 1 School Wellness Conference
- The nursing division also oversees a number of grant funded programs from the Ohio Department of Health including: Immunization Action Plan, Child and Family Health Services, and Public Health Emergency Preparedness.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Emergency Preparedness

Since 2002 the Portage County Health Department has been awarded yearly Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Grants. This is federal and state funding to build and strengthen public health capabilities. These capabilities include Emergency Planning, Interoperable Communications, Epidemiological Surveillance and Investigation, Public Information and Warning, Mass Prophylaxis, and Volunteer Management.

The Portage County Health Department coordinates emergency preparedness activities for all three local health departments including Kent and Ravenna. All public health employees are part of a combined response team.

Preparedness includes building relationships and engaging with community partners to develop emergency response plans, participate in training, drills and exercises, and meet capability benchmarks determined by the Ohio Department of Health.

Kim Villers, RN, BSN, has been the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator since December 2002 and the MRC Coordinator since it originated in 2006.



The Portage County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Unit was established in December 2006. Currently there are 140 registered volunteers. Volunteers have assisted at yearly vaccination clinics, stepped in during disease outbreaks, and participated in local training and drills. Public Health needs trained volunteers to assist during emergencies and appreciates their service.

Check out the brand new Portage County MRC website at: <http://www.co.portage.oh.us/mrc/>.



Kim Villers completes just-in-time training during flu clinics with MRC volunteers: Jim DeMarco, Pat Overfield, and Jeanette Poole.

HEALTH EDUCATION AND PROMOTION

Child Passenger Safety Seat Program

The Ohio Buckles Buckeye Child Passenger Safety Seat Program was brought back to Portage County in June of 2011. Two health department staff members were trained to be certified child passenger safety technicians.

This program focuses on proper safety seat restraint use for children. It offers education and free car seat safety inspections for parents, grandparents, and caregivers year round.

The Ohio Buckles Buckeye program also provides income eligible families* with free child safety seats and booster seats to ensure that children are properly restrained every time they are transported in a motor vehicle.

Both services are by appointment only. To schedule an appointment with a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician, call Becky at 330-296-9919, ext. 137.

*Income must be within WIC guidelines. Participants do not need to be enrolled in the WIC program.

Did you know?

- Infants and toddlers should ride rear-facing until at least 2 years of age or until they reach the highest weight and height allowed by the car seat manufacturer.
- All children 2 years or older should ride forward-facing with a harness for as long as possible.
- All children whose weight and height is above the forward-facing limit for their car seat should use a belt-positioning booster until they are 8 years of age and are 4'9".
- When children are old enough and tall enough, they should always use lap and shoulder seat belts.
- All children younger than 13 years of age should ride in the back seat of the vehicle.



Angie Earle and Becky Lehman conduct a car seat education class.