

# This is Public Health

A snapshot of some of the services provided by your health department in 2014.

 **1,014**  
Communicable Disease  
Investigations

 **94**   
Child Safety Seats Distributed

**306**   
Rabies Control  
Investigations

 **494**  
Storm Water District Illicit  
Discharge Inspections

Portage  
County  
medical  
reserve  
corps   
**160**  
MRC Volunteers

 **594**  
Plumbing Inspections

**175**   
HIV Tests  
Administered

**930**   
Food Service Inspections

 **1,947**  
Safe Sleep Messages Distributed

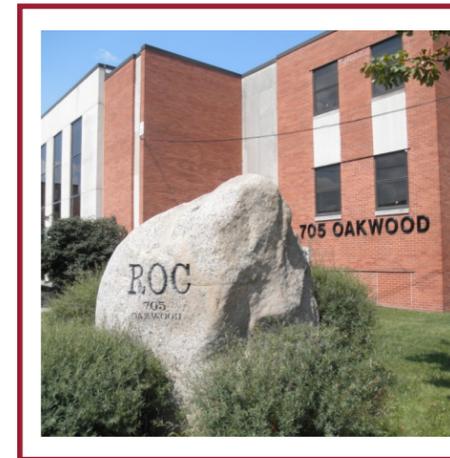
 **1,143,957**  
Levy Dollars Generated

**4,591**   
Immunizations Given

# Portage County Health Department



74th Annual Report  
to the District Advisory Council of Portage County



## 2014 Annual Report

705 Oakwood Street, 2nd floor, Ravenna, OH 44266~330-296-9919~www.co.portage.oh.us/healthdepartment.htm

Portage County Health Department  
705 Oakwood Street, 2nd floor, Ravenna, OH 44266  
330-296-9919 phone, 330-297-3597 fax  
www.co.portage.oh.us/healthdepartment.htm

## Table of Contents

- 2 Message from the Medical Director and Health Commissioner**
- 3 Accreditation, Community Health Assessment**
- 4 Environmental Health Services**
- 6 Health Education and Promotion Services**
- 8 Nursing Services**
- 10 Administrative Services**
- 11 Voters Elect**



### A Message from the Medical Director

To stress the importance of immunizations, I want to focus this year on the measles outbreak Ohio experienced in 2014. The outbreak was centered in Holmes County in the Amish community. Many Amish do not immunize their children for religious reasons. Others refuse the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine for fear of a link of the vaccine to autism. THIS HAS BEEN DISPROVED.

Another benefit of immunizations is the “herd effect”. The more people are immunized, the more people who CANNOT be immunized for various reasons are protected from being exposed to the disease.

Immunization is one of the greatest accomplishments that Public Health has achieved. It has not only contributed to reduction of disease, but has contributed to the extension of our life spans. So please, do your part to protect yourselves and the more vulnerable community-IMMUNIZE!

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

## Our Mission

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.



## A Message from the Health Commissioner

Public health continues to evolve at a rapid pace and I am pleased to report that the Portage County Health Department is evolving with it. We would not be growing without the continual support of the Township Trustees, cities, villages, County Commissioners, and residents. Despite not passing a levy for 58 years, we had been able to perform mandated requirements and even acquire grant monies for additional programming. With the passing of the health levy in 2013, I am eager to share our plans for the future of public health in Portage County.

First, we will continue to do what we’ve always done: Enforce public health laws, protect the public from hazards, educate and inform our residents, and help them to access dependable, affordable health and social services. With new levy monies, we now have the resources to focus our efforts on our most vulnerable populations, such as minority and low-income communities, seniors, teens, and the uninsured. Our resources are being used to develop new programs and expand existing ones, many of which you will see throughout this report.

Our levy resources will also enable us to serve Portage County businesses in innovative ways and engage Portage County residents and service providers in new ways to improve community health, including new coalitions, innovative partnerships, and more opportunities for residents to learn about public health. To continue the efforts of Kent State University Center of Public Policy and Health’s (KSU-CPPH) Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, we will also continue to work with Kent City Health Department to identify opportunities to share public health services.

A joint effort from the three local health departments and many community partners in 2014 led to the creation of the comprehensive Portage County Community Health Needs Assessment. Residents should expect to see new programs and policies developed to meet measurable, evidence-based, and community-driven goals over the next five years and into the future. Internally, we will continue to work toward the goal of health department accreditation, which ensures we are meeting the 10 Essential Services of Public Health.

Respectfully submitted,

DuWayne Porter, MPH, RS  
Health Commissioner

## Voters Elect 2014 Advisory Council

Chairman.....James Eskridge  
Vice Chairman....Diane Hargett Austin  
Secretary.....Bonnie Howe

### Members: Chairmen of Township Trustees

Atwater.....Dan Derreberry  
Brimfield.....Charles Sprague, Jr.  
Charlestown.....Tim Patrick  
Deerfield.....Ed Dean  
Edinburg.....Diane Hargett Austin  
Franklin.....Mark Beckwith  
Freedom.....John Zizka  
Hiram.....Steve Pancost  
Mantua.....Jason Carlton  
Nelson.....Joe Leonard  
Palmyra.....Henry Michael  
Paris.....Ralph Graham  
Randolph.....Susan White  
Ravenna.....Vince Coia  
Rootstown.....Joe Paulus  
Shalersville.....Frank Ruehr, Jr.  
Suffield.....Thomas Calcei  
Windham.....Dann Timmons

### Mayor of Cities and Villages

Aurora City.....Ann Womer Benjamin  
Streetsboro City.....Glenn Broska  
Brady Lake Village.....Hal Lehman  
Garrettsville.....Rick Patrick  
Hiram Village.....Lou Bertrand  
Mantua Village.....Linda Clark  
Mogadore.....Michael Rick  
Sugar Bush Knolls.....James Beal  
Windham Village.....Rob Donham

### 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

## Board of Health



Robert Palmer  
President



Robert Howard  
Vice President



Bonnie Bailey  
Member  
Streetsboro



Howard Minott  
Member  
Aurora



James Bierlair  
Member



Evelyn Cutlip  
Member



Amy Hammar  
Licensing  
Council Rep.

### Budget Commission

Prosecuting Attorney..Victor Vigluicci  
Treasurer.....Vicki Kline  
Auditor.....Janet Esposito

### Portage County Commissioners

Kathleen Chandler, President  
Maureen T. Frederick  
Sabrina Christian-Bennett

### Health Department Administration

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

## Friend of Public Health

Portage County Health Department is pleased to announce Christopher Woolverton, PhD as 2015’s Friend of Public Health recipient.

Over the years, Dr. Woolverton has generously shared his expertise in public health, microbiology and infection control to benefit the health of all Portage County residents. In his official roles as both Professor and Founding Faculty Member in the KSU College of Public Health, and Board Member of the Kent City Health Department, Dr. Woolverton is frequently called upon to address public health issues in the City of Kent and the Kent State University campus. He is always willing to go beyond his official duties and personally support the broader cause of health in our communities. Dr. Woolverton is repeatedly called upon as a subject matter expert by the Portage County Health Department and Medical Reserve Corps – most notably during the months of the H1N1 Influenza Pandemic of 2009. During this time, he attended countless meetings and gave several presentations including a Medical Staff Grand Rounds at Robinson Memorial Hospital. More recent examples of Dr. Woolverton’s commitment to public health include providing expert consultation to county-wide agencies responding to the Ebola scare in October, 2014. During this time he lent his expertise regarding preparedness and personal protective equipment, presenting “Ebola Virus Disease and Protection from Ebola Infection,” to first responders in Suffield Township. Other examples include presenting “Common Lab Tests Revisited,” to the Ohio Public Health Association Nursing Conference in Columbus; “Communicable Diseases: Issues for the Deployed Soldier,” to the Ohio National Guard in Akron; and “Public Health Preparedness Basics,” to the Medical Reserve Corps of Portage County. In summary, Dr. Woolverton is a sincere friend both to the mission of public health as well as to the individuals who work in the field. Repeatedly, in the first minutes and hours after a public health disease threat emerges, the words, “We’d better give Chris Woolverton a call” are to be heard – and he always answers that call. For these reasons, Chris Woolverton is truly a Friend of Public Health.

## Administrative Services

The Administrative Services is made up of the Administrative and the Financial Divisions. They work together daily to provide high quality, efficient, and effective services for the county.

- The Administrative Division is responsible for ensuring the daily operations, which includes 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, and water testing.
- The Financial Division provides budget, financial, and fiscal management to aid in the delivery of services. The function of this division is the creation and oversight of the department's budget, workforce development, monitoring receipts and expenditures, financial and statistical reporting, contracts management, fiscal grants management, and quality improvement.

### ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

**Dorothy Filing**  
Administrative Director  
**Melissa Akers**  
Clerk

### FINANCE DIVISION

**Debra Stall**  
Finance Director  
**Judi Rettig, BA**  
Account Clerk  
Fiscal Grant Manager  
**Carol Pillsbury, BBA**  
Account Clerk  
**Debbie Wine**  
Account Clerk

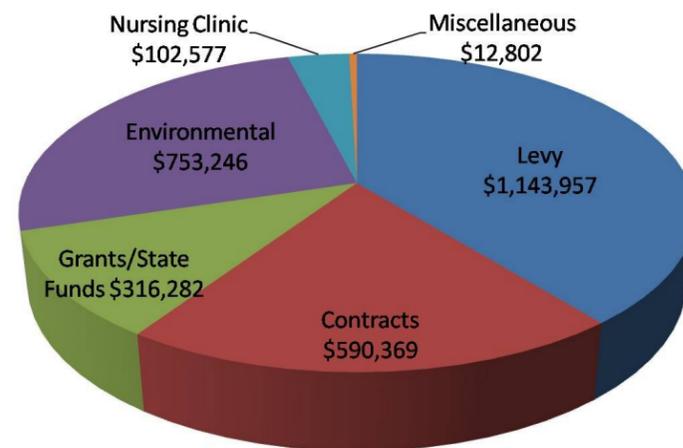
## REVENUE AND EXPENSES

After years of operating on a limited budget, the health department was boosted from 2009-2012 by charge-back monies and grant funds (including the Public Health Emergency Response funding for H1N1). In May 2013, the voters of Portage County passed a replacement levy and by October 2013, at the request of the Portage County Commissioners, PCHD would be relocating the offices to Oakwood Street.

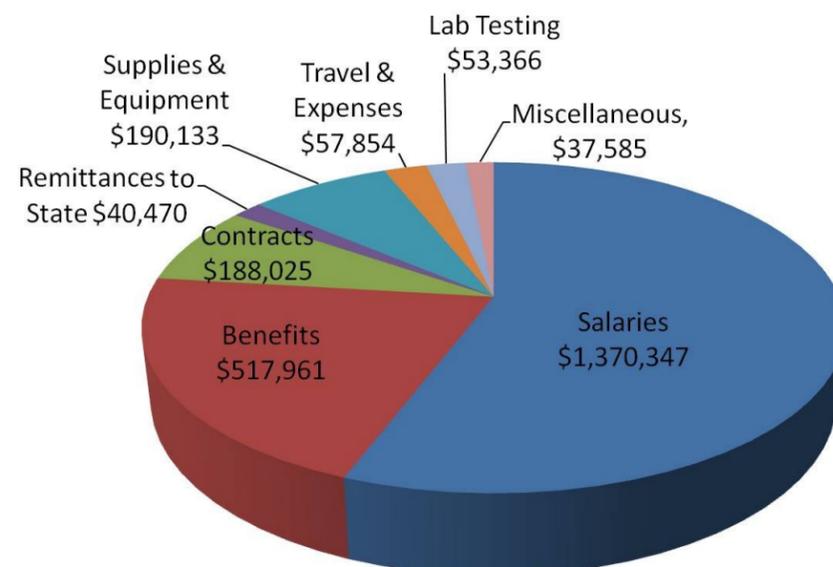
In 2014, the largest change in revenue was the increase in levy dollars due to the support of the people of

Portage County. The largest changes in expenditures were incurred due to the relocation in the categories of Contracts and Supplies and Equipment (includes rent, phone, mail, and setting up of offices). But throughout this time of change, PCHD has managed to sustain the current programming and expand into other programs such as mosquito control (contracting with Kent City Health Department), smoking cessation programs, Ohio Buckles Buckeye Child Passenger Safety Seat program, and Safe Sleep program. We look forward to "saying YES to public health" in 2015 and offer services that indeed impact the lives of the residents of Portage County.

### Where the money comes from....Revenue



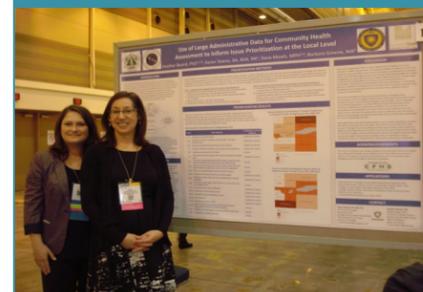
### Where the money goes....Expenses



## Community Health Assessment and Improvement Planning: The first steps toward Public Health Department Accreditation

In 2014, Kent State University Center for Public Policy and Health facilitated a major collaborative effort under the leadership of the three local health departments to identify health issues facing Portage County residents. This effort brought together many community stakeholders to participate in the creation of the comprehensive Portage County Community Health Needs Assessment.

Portage County adults, children, and youth will be surveyed in Spring 2015, and the community health improvement process (CHIP) will be underway by Fall 2015. During the CHIP, community partners will use assessment data to identify priority issues, develop and implement strategies for action, and establish accountability to ensure measurable health improvement.



Above: Karen Towne, MSN, RN, and Heather Baird, PhD, are seen presenting a poster on the Portage County maternal and child community health assessment at the 2014 American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans. The poster is entitled, "Use of large administrative data for community health assessment to inform issue prioritization at the local level." It summarizes the impact of sub-county data mapping on community involvement and prioritization. Maps are available in the Maternal and Child Health Indicators Report on the PCHD website.

### ACCREDITATION

**Karen Towne, MSN, RN**  
Accreditation Coordinator

## THE 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES



The 10 Essential Public Health Services capture the public health activities that all public health systems should undertake and serve as a framework for national performance standards for public health systems. Public health systems:

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

### Thank you for improving our community's health!

It takes a community effort to ensure the public's health. The public health system is a network of all public, private, and voluntary entities that contribute to the delivery of The 10 Essential Services in Portage County. The collaboration in 2014 to create the Portage County Community Health Needs Assessment was no small feat. We'd like to take an opportunity to thank our community partners who have contributed to the community health assessment process in Portage County:

Akron Children's Hospital  
Akron General Medical Center  
AxessPointe Community Health Center  
Children's Advantage  
City of Ravenna  
Coleman Pregnancy Center  
Coleman Professional Services  
Family and Children First Council  
Family and Community Services & Skeels-Matthews and King-Kennedy Comm. Centers  
Healthy Communities Partnership  
Help Me Grow of Portage County  
Hiram College  
Kent City Board of Health  
Kent City Health Department  
Kent State University College of Public Health & Center for Public Policy and Health  
Kent State University Health Center  
Kent State University Center for Nutrition Outreach  
Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County  
Northeast Ohio Medical University  
PARTA

Planned Parenthood  
Portage County Board of Development Disabilities  
Portage County Board of Health  
Portage County Children's Services  
Portage County Commissioners  
Portage County Educational Service Center  
Portage County Immunization Coalition  
Portage County Job & Family Services  
Portage County Obesity Prevention Coalition  
Portage County Safe Communities Coalition  
Portage County School Districts  
Portage County Sheriff's Department  
Portage County Township Trustees  
Portage County WIC  
Portage Learning Centers  
Ravenna City Board of Health  
Robinson Memorial Hospital  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Summa Health Systems  
The Portage Foundation  
Townhall II  
United Way of Portage County  
Windham Renaissance Family Center

## Environmental Health Services

Welcome Mary Helen Smith as the new Director of Environmental Health!

Mary Helen Smith, MPH, CPH, RS, REHS, was hired December, 2014. She comes to PCHD with a vast amount of experience in public health. Mary Helen comes to PCHD from Mahoning County Health District where she was a Sanitarian from 1994-2004, the Director of the Solid & Infectious Waste Program from 2004-2009, and the Director of Environmental Health from 2009-2014.

Mary Helen has her Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Resource Management, a Master degree of Public Health, and is a Certified Public Health Professional. She is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist, a Registered Sanitarian, and is a Certified Ohio Pesticide Operator, Pool Operator and Trained Facilitator.

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

Mary Helen Smith, MPH, CPH, RS, REHS  
Environmental Health Director  
Kevin Watson, BS, RS  
Wastewater Specialist/Supervisor  
Jack Madved, BS, RS  
Registered Sanitarian  
Elizabeth Ahrens, BS, RS  
Registered Sanitarian  
Richard Lashley, BS, RS  
Registered Sanitarian  
Stan Carlisle, MPH, RS  
Registered Sanitarian  
Tom Brannon  
Environmental Technician  
Amos Sarfo, MS, RS  
Registered Sanitarian  
Chris Novelli, BS, RS  
Registered Sanitarian  
Jessica Offineer, BS  
Sanitarian-in-Training  
Keith Riley, PE  
Sanitarian-in-Training  
Ken Dye  
Certified Plumbing Inspector



### FOOD SERVICE INSPECTIONS

PCHD inspects food facilities to routinely monitor food handling practices and physical conditions. Routine inspections are conducted up to four times a year depending on the type of facility. PCHD Registered Sanitarians closely evaluate critical food safety items that can contribute to foodborne illnesses.

Critical Food Safety Items:

- Food must be obtained from an approved source.
- Food must be protected from contamination, spoilage, and adulteration.
- Food workers with certain illnesses must be restricted.
- Food workers must practice effective handwashing procedures.
- Potentially hazardous foods must be properly cooled.
- Potentially hazardous foods must be held at proper cold and hot temperatures.
- Potentially hazardous foods must be adequately cooked or reheated to the appropriate temperatures.
- Potable hot and cold running water must be provided.
- Sewage disposal system must function properly.



PCHD created Food Safety Packets in both Chinese and Spanish to assist the multiple ethnic restaurants in Portage County. These packets contain guidance on safe food handling practices and are distributed to restaurant managers during routine restaurant inspections.

### ANIMAL BITE INVESTIGATIONS

Rabies is a fatal, progressive neurological disease transmitted by a virus found in the saliva of infected animals. Prompt treatment following an exposure to the virus is needed for the prevention of rabies. The majority of exposures occur due to potential contact with bats. Most people requiring post-exposure rabies treatment do so because the animal is not available or able to be tested. All animal bites and potential rabies exposures are investigated by Judi Rettig.



### RABIES BAITING

Since the mid-1970's, a rabies variant associated with raccoons has spread rapidly through the eastern U.S. PCHD participates in a vaccine baiting operation in the Fall. Vaccine baiting operations are intended to help curb the spread of raccoon-rabies variant. This activity has successfully slowed the spread of rabies into Ohio from Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

- PCHD sanitarians distributed 34 boxes of bait over 48 square miles in northern Streetsboro and southern Aurora.

### SEMI-PUBLIC WASTE WATER HOUSE BILL 110

In 1984, the Ohio General Assembly created the Ohio EPA's HB110 program to better protect the public health and welfare, and to protect the environment. The program is a contractual partnership between Ohio EPA and local health departments; whereby, Portage County Health Department, on behalf of Ohio EPA, conducts inspections at semi-public wastewater facilities for compliance with Ohio's water pollution control laws and regulations.

### MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM

PCHD partnered with Kent City Health Department to provide a mosquito control program consisting of education and source reduction, surveillance, and larviciding. Adulticiding or mosquito spraying is not done in the Portage County Combined General Health District

### PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GRANT

PCHD is prepared to respond to public health emergencies with detailed plans of action and a system of communication with community responders. This is done through state and federal Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant funding. The PHEP Coordinator, Marianne Kitakis, BSN, RN, is responsible for developing and maintaining policies and procedures for the Portage County Local Health Departments Emergency Plans and Procedures which includes the Communication Plan, Public Health Emergency Operations Plan, Community Containment Plan, Continuity of Operations Plan, Epidemiology Plan, Mass Dispensing Plan, and the Pandemic Plan.



Above: Public Health staff training during the NECO Region Exercise.

### INCIDENT COMMAND STRUCTURE (ICS)

Disasters have changed both in the way in which we define them and the way in which we respond to them. Disasters can be categorized as natural, man-made, technological, and civil. Since 9/11, public health has been trained in the Incident Command System. This allows public health to coordinate with multiple agencies in the response to any disaster. PCHD staff receives updated training on ICS every year.



### MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS (MRC)

The Portage County MRC is a volunteer program that helps build public health infrastructure in Portage County. MRC volunteers do not need to be licensed healthcare providers. MRC volunteers assist public health workers during both emergency and nonemergency situations. Portage County MRC volunteers have been called upon for mass vaccination clinics and local drills and trainings.

- In 2014, using grant funding, PCHD hired Jennifer McCoy, MPH, to be the MRC Coordinator Assistant. To become a MRC volunteer, contact Jennifer at 330-296-9919, ext. 118 or visit <http://www.co.portage.oh.us/mrc/index.html>.



### BILLABLES PROJECT

Much of 2014 was spent on preparing to launch the Billables Project. This is a project funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Billables Project allows local health departments to bill insurance companies for immunization services provided to insured patients. The money raised through such billing programs is then used for the expansion of immunization services for both children and adults. Throughout 2014, PCHD expanded contracts for billing services; contracting with Medical Mutual of Ohio, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield, Aetna, and Mutual Health Services. PCHD also accepts Medicaid and Medicare and are contracted with several of the Managed Care Plans, including United Healthcare Community Plan, Buckeye, and Caresource. Contracts are in process with United Healthcare, Summacare, and Healthspan. PCHD launched the Billables Project January 1, 2015. Mary McDaniel handles the Billables Project for PCHD.

### PCHD RESPONDS TO EBOLA



As Portage County received word of the possible Ebola exposure on October 14, 2014, we immediately turned to our infectious disease response plans. We began to communicate with our partnering agencies, Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and Summit County Public Health (SCPH), who were dealing with the possible exposure patient. Participation in ODH Conference calls for public health, epidemiology and public information was done daily. As a result, updates to our plans and protocols were made.

In Portage County, we were responsible for monitoring nine contacts of the index case. This involved contacting each patient, providing them with information and regular consultation to be sure they were not exhibiting signs and symptoms for the 21 day period. New forms were shared and templates were completed so we could monitor the patients. The Joint Information Center (JIC) was opened immediately with local partners to send a consistent message to the public. The JIC consisted of Portage County Health Department, Kent City Health Department, Kent State University, Robinson Memorial Hospital, Emergency Management Agency, and Mental Health and Recovery Board. Health Advisory Network Alerts were sent regularly to physicians, EMTs, hospitals and other community members to keep them informed regarding this event.

As a result of this response, our county has added new materials and protocols for monitoring Ebola contacts and travelers from Ebola affected communities. PCHD preparedness plans were updated to reflect lessons learned during this real life event.

## Nursing Services

### Communicable Disease

- 1,014 Investigations

### TB and TB Testing

- 249 TB Tests Administered
- 1 Active Case

### Childhood Immunizations

- 2,198 Immunizations Administered

### Adult Immunizations

- 968 Immunizations Administered

### International Travel Clinics

- 22 Travel Clinics
- 142 Immunizations Administered

### Seasonal Influenza

- 25 Community Flu Clinics
- 1,283 Flu Shots Administered

### Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps

- 374 Active Participants

### Medical Reserve Corps

- 160 MRC Volunteers

## NURSING DIVISION

Rosemary Ferraro, MSN, RN  
Nursing Director  
Marianne Kitakis, BSN, RN  
Emergency Preparedness Coord.  
Sherry Halas, BSN, RN  
Public Health Nurse  
Conni Contreras, BA, BSN, RN  
Public Health Nurse  
Kerry McKeen, BSN, RN  
BCMh Public Health Nurse  
Mary McDaniel  
Billing Clerk  
Jennifer Day  
Nursing Clerk  
Jennifer McCoy, MPH  
MRC Coordinator Assistant

## IMMUNIZATIONS

Administration of safe and effective vaccines is one of the most successful public health strategies for preventing diseases. PCHD receives grant funding for the purpose of increasing immunization rates to 90% to meet the Healthy People 2020 guidelines. The Immunization Action Plan (IAP) is coordinated by Sherry Halas, a PCHD public health nurse. She is responsible for healthcare providers education on immunizations, effective vaccine delivery and documentation, and assessment of child immunization rates. PCHD is a Vaccine for Children (VFC) provider. This program ensures that children who are uninsured/underinsured receive immunizations at no cost to families.

- **Childhood Clinic**  
When: Wednesdays  
Time: 8:00 am-12 noon  
Walk-in clinic
- **Adult Clinic**  
When: Tuesdays  
Time: 8:00 am-10:00 am  
By appointment only

## INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Before boarding a plane for a trip to a foreign country, local travelers make a stop at the PCHD International Travel Clinic to get education on potential health threats in foreign countries and vaccinations to protect them from vaccine-preventable diseases found in those areas. This is an important step to ensure staying healthy while on vacation, a mission trip, studying abroad, or a business trip.

- **International Travel Clinic**  
When: Monday-Friday  
Time: 8:00 am-4:00 pm  
By appointment only



Above: Rose Ferraro, Marianne Kitakis, and Sherry Halas providing flu shots at Suffield Fire Dept.



Above: Point of Distribution Drill with KSU Nursing Students.

## BUREAU OF CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL HANDICAPS (BCMh)

BCMh is a healthcare program for Ohio resident children and youth aged 0-21 years of age with special health needs. The BCMh Nurse, Kerry McKeen, BSN, RN, works in partnership with families on behalf of children with special needs to assist in providing a network of quality care providers. The BCMh nurse helps make referrals to physicians, pharmacies, durable medical equipment providers and other service agencies. She helps families understand their child's medical plan of treatment. The BCMh nurse also works with schools to ensure the child's educational needs are met.

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

Surveillance, investigation, and follow-up of reportable communicable diseases are a mandatory responsibility of local health departments. The PCHD Nurses track communicable diseases through a channel of communications at the local and state level between public health, physicians, hospitals, and labs. This allows for prompt investigation of possible outbreaks in the county and immediate implementation of control measures to minimize further transmission of diseases.

Top 3 Reportable Communicable Diseases in Portage County		
Hepatitis C	180	Contagious liver disease that ranges in severity.
Hepatitis B Acute	36	Serious liver infection caused by Hep B virus.
Pertussis	60	Highly contagious respiratory disease.

## STORM WATER PROGRAM

One of the most successful public health environmental programs of PCHD is the Storm Water Program. The mandate of this program is essentially focused on illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE) of waste water from non-storm water sources such as household sewage treatment systems (HSTS). This program is to prevent surface and ground water contamination and to achieve sustainable water quality in accordance with EPA regulations.

In pursuance of the Storm Water Program's IDDE objective, PCHD established an official written Illicit Discharging Sewage Systems Policy in 2014, which clearly defines appropriate procedures in addressing illicit discharging sewage systems detection and elimination through various health department Storm Water and Sewage Treatment System Program activities. This policy outlines corrective requirements/options and enforcement timeframes for ALL illicit discharging sewage systems discovered via: property transfer evaluations, home use changes, lot split proposals, nuisance complaints, and those within PCHD's Annual Aeration Inspection Program. The Storm Water Program also compiles, organizes, and investigates the scope of potential illicit discharges in the county. Consequently, program staff research a portion of the PCHD HSTS files, note potential failing discharges, and compile information received from cities, villages, townships, the county engineer, and the general public. The existing comprehensive database of suspected and reported illicit discharges is continuously updated throughout the year. The nuisance complaints are investigated in a timely manner and notices of violation are issued, as necessary, to obtain compliance.

Finally, spatial data of storm water outfall points are collected by Soil & Water Conservation District and the Portage County Engineers Office with handheld GPS units were mapped. The outfall point database and map will be used in subsequent years to support the Storm Water Program's monitoring, detection, and elimination of illicit discharges.

Environmental Programs	Sites	Inspections	Consultations
Home Sewage Systems & Installs	139	613	852
Septic System Lot Evals & Plan Reviews	59	667	
Aeration System Annual Reviews	1275	583	
Home Sale Sewage & Water Evaluations	88	97	53
Private Water System Permits & Installs	95	119	44
Water Samples	365		153
Storm Water District Illicit Discharges	3482	494	305
Sewage Nuisance Complaints	70	341	323
Telephone Consults/Emails			12711
Food Service Operations	456	930	69
Food Establishments	155	296	45
Food Nuisance Complaints	46	46	
Recreational Camps	38	49	3
Swimming Pools, Spas, & Beaches	77	150	43
Schools	39	77	12
Landfill Methane Gas Monitoring		207	
Solid Waste Facilities	7	32	16
Infectious Waste Facilities	5	29	10
Solid & Animal Waste Complaints	38	306	501
Environmental Nuisance Complaints	19	11	63
Total Number of Inspections		594	270
Plumbing Permits Issued	341		



Left: Illicit discharging of wastewater from a septic tank into a roadside ditch.



Left: Kevin Watson and Chris Novelli discuss a lot evaluation.

Above: Illicit discharge of wastewater transported from a common ditch tile.

## Health Education and Promotion Services

### HIV Program

- 175 Tests Administered
- 13 Interventions (no HIV test given)

### Sexuality Education Classes

- 2,274 contacts

### Child Safety Seats Program

- 2 Certified Car Seat Techs
- 94 Seats Distributed
- 118 Seats Installed

### Safe Sleep Program

- 1,947 Safe Sleep Messages Distributed
- 2 Cribs for Kids Pack'n Plays Distributed

### Bicycle Safety Program

- 75 Bicycle Helmets Distributed

### Community Education

- 18 Presentations
- 10 Health Fairs
- 12 Farmers Markets

### Prevent Blindness Program

- 7 Residents Served

### Teen Parent Education Classes

- 3 Students Served

## HEALTH EDUCATION AND PROMOTION DIVISION

Becky Lehman, MPH  
Health Education and Promotion Director  
Allison Mitchell, BSPH  
Health Educator  
Kat Holtz, BS  
Health Educator



Above: Car seat purchased with Ravenna Elks grant dollars given out during a Safety Seat Check Event.

## OHIO BUCKLES BUCKEYE PROGRAM

PCHD receives car seats from the Ohio Department of Health to be given to low-income families. Two PCHD certified car seat technicians provide Portage County residents with child safety seat installations and education. Car seat checks and installations are available by appointment Monday-Friday 8am-4pm.

### THANK YOU Ravenna Elks Lodge!

The Ravenna Elks Lodge awarded PCHD with the Beacon Grant in 2014 in the amount of \$2000. This grant was used to purchase 37 car seats. These car seats were distributed to families who could not otherwise afford them.

## BICYCLE HELMETS

Each year children suffer serious injury from bicycle accidents. Head injury is the leading cause of bicycle related death and disability. Bicycle helmets can reduce this risk by 85%. PCHD provided 75 children with bicycle helmets in 2014. Helmets were given during several community events, including the Portage County Randolph Fair.



## HIV PROGRAM

PCHD provides free HIV testing, condom distribution, and community sexuality education through walk-in testing clinics, client-centered counseling appointments, and community events. Two PCHD staff are certified HIV Counselors.

PCHD currently provides HIV testing and education at:

- ▶ Center of Hope
- ▶ Hiram College
- ▶ Horizon House
- ▶ Kent City Health Department
- ▶ Kent Social Services
- ▶ Planned Parenthood Kent
- ▶ Portage County Health Department
- ▶ Portage County Senior Center
- ▶ Root House
- ▶ Townhall II
- ▶ Windham Renaissance Family Center

PCHD provided leadership during a practicum experience with Vincent Hendershot, a KSU Masters of Public Health student. Vincent created an educational program targeting HIV and the senior population. Educational HIV presentations were provided to the Ravenna Senior Center and the Streetsboro Senior Center.



Above: HIV Education board at the Ravenna Senior Center.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Communications to the public are coordinated by the Health Education and Promotion Division. This includes management of the PCHD website, media coverage, and educational materials. Various means of communication were used in 2014 including press releases, signage, advertisements, PCHD website updates, and flyers.

## CHILD & FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES GRANT

### SAFE SLEEP PROGRAM

Every week in Ohio 3 babies die in unsafe sleep environments. These deaths are preventable. PCHD provides community and one-on-one education to Portage County residents on the ABCs of Safe Sleep (Alone, on your Back, in a Crib).



Above: Safe Sleep education provided at the Windham Sparkle Market.

## NUTRITION EDUCATION

PCHD contracts with Kent State University Center of Nutrition Outreach to provide nutrition education for school-aged children, including school-based programs and family-based nutrition counseling programs. For more information call, 330-672-2063.

### Nutrition Education Programs:

- FLIGHT
- Munch Bunch
- Mighty Pack Program
- KIDS Camp
- Kids in the Kitchen
- Student Nutrition Fairs

## TOBACCO PREVENTION PROGRAM

PCHD Tobacco Prevention Program seeks to help smokers quit using tobacco products and protect the public from second-hand smoke, with a primary focus on children, pregnant women, and women of child-bearing age. Programming consists of community education and smoking cessation support.

## COMMUNITY AGENCY "SHOW AND TELL"

In March 2014, PCHD hosted an event that brought Portage County agencies together with the purpose of educating each other on the services they provide to better assist Portage County residents.



Above: Ali Mitchell and Becky Lehman with KSU Intern Vince Hendershot.

Below: Kat Holtz provides HIV education at a health fair.



## WELLNESS CONFERENCE

PCHD hosted a Terrorism Awareness Conference in June 2014. This conference provided education on Portage Prepares, cyber terrorism, terrorism prevention and awareness, and Psychological First Aid Training. Participants of the conference included Portage County residents, emergency responders, MRC volunteers, government employees, school personnel, hospital staff, and staff from various local service agencies. Funding for the Wellness Conference was provided by the PHEP grant.



Above: Amie Cajka presents information about Portage Prepares at the Wellness Conference.

Right: Ali Mitchell and Jessica Offineer received CPR training. 12 PCHD staff were certified in CPR in 2014.

## PCHD GOES TO THE RANDOLPH FAIR!

For the first time since 2009, PCHD had a booth at the Portage County Randolph Fair. Being at the fair allowed us to personally say Thank You to the residents of Portage County for passing the first replacement levy since 1955.

Being at the fair also allowed PCHD the opportunity to educate the public on the services provided by the health department. During the week of the fair, there was staff from every division of the health department made available to answer questions.

PCHD partnered with Portage Cyclery and raffled off a bike at the end of fair week. The winner of the bike was Carter Baldwin (pictured below) from Atwater.



Thank you Portage County Mental Health & Recovery Board and Portage County EMA for sharing the space and your time with us at the fair.

