



75th Annual Report to District Advisory Council of Portage County

Portage County Combined General Health District



2015

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

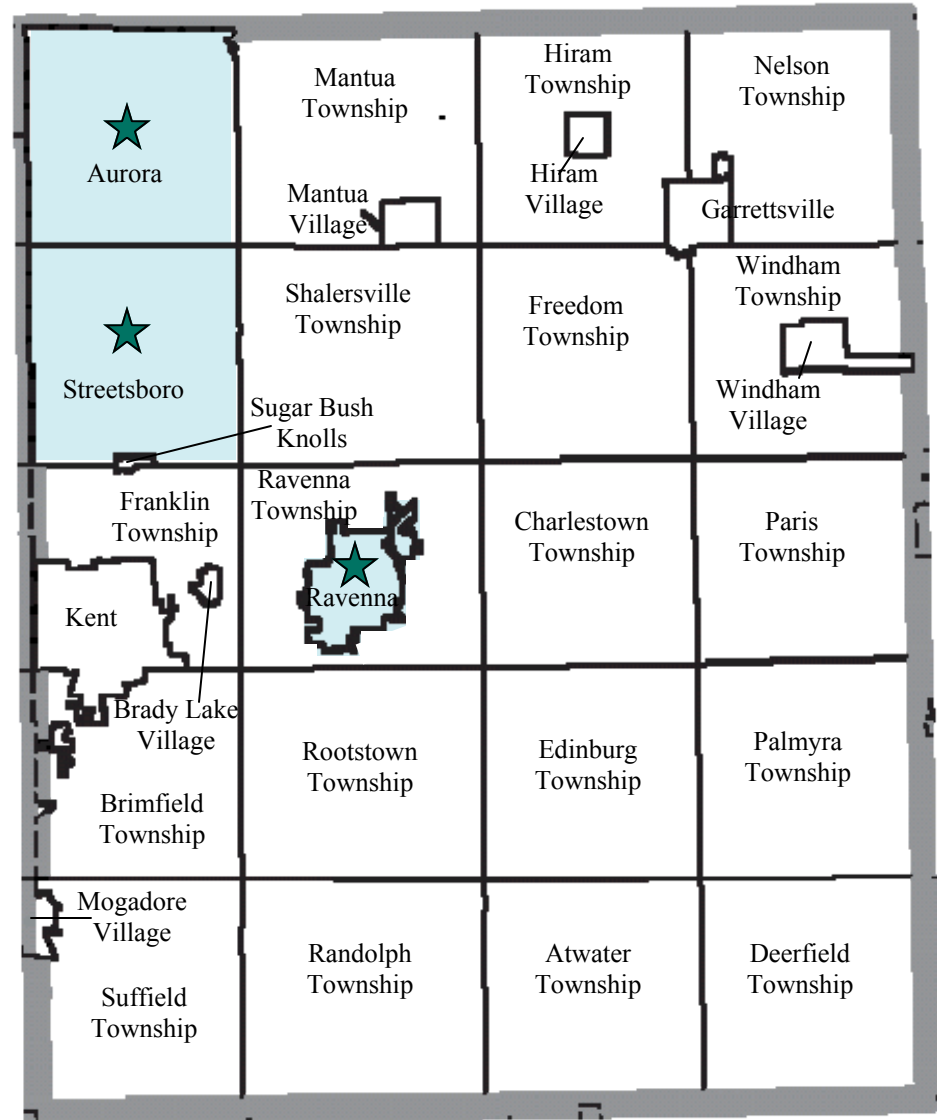


Table of Contents

2	Message From the Health Commissioner
3	Change in Health Commissioner
4	Public Health Accreditation
5	Mission, Vision, Values and Community Partners
6	Environmental Health Services
8	Nursing Services
10	Health Education and Promotion Services
12	Administrative & Personnel Services
12	Finance Services
13	Grants Provide Opportunities
14	Community Events
15	Board of Health Stakeholders
15	Friend of Public Health
16	Board of Health and Staff

A Message From the Health Commissioner

The staff and Board of Health members are proud to provide the 2015 Annual Report of the Portage County Combined General Health District. This report highlights programs, services, and accomplishments aimed at achieving a higher level of public health for the residents of Portage County.

As we continue our path towards Public Health Accreditation, we have embarked on several internal and external projects that will ensure that we successfully meet the 10 Essential Public Health Services.

Through the hard work and dedication of both staff and Board of Health members, our agency's Strategic Plan is almost complete. This plan will establish a mission statement, vision for the future, and core values for our agency. It will also serve as our guide to accomplish the agency mission with maximum efficiency. Our Strategic Plan will further establish specific goals and describe action steps and resources needed to accomplish them.

The continued collaboration with Kent City Health Department and our new partnership with the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio aided the process of primary data collection efforts for the 2015 Community Health Assessment. We eagerly await the release of the 2016 Community Health Improvement Report, which will serve to guide the Community Health Improvement Process to ultimately identify health priorities for Portage County.

Public health addresses an incredibly wide range of issues: environmental health, emergency preparedness, infectious diseases, injury prevention, substance use and abuse, immunizations, child fatality review, programs to address the underserved, and programs to promote health development in our youth. These community issues cannot be solely addressed by public health agencies working in isolation. These concerns can only be successfully managed through partnerships, and we want to thank all of our community partners. Ultimately, it is the role of the Portage County Combined General Health District to support and encourage healthy behaviors and protect our local environments. We could not do this without your help.

As the new Health Commissioner of the Portage County Combined General Health District, I am excited to work with Portage County residents, Township Trustees, city and village Mayors, County Commissioners, and partnering agencies as we embark as a community on the journey of improving the public health in Portage County.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph J. Diorio, MPH, MS, RS



Welcome, Ravenna City Residents!

In March 2015, Ravenna City Health Department became part of the Portage County Combined General Health District (PCCGHD). Since that time, PCCGHD has been providing Ravenna City residents with the complete range of public health services offered by the County. These services are highlighted throughout this report. The cities of Aurora and Streetsboro have been part of the PCCGHD since the 1970's.

Ravenna City has gained voting representation on the Portage County Board of Health. Combining with the Health District will also supplant the annual contract with resident levy funding approved in 2014, which is estimated to be \$10 per year for the average homeowner.



Right: Ali Mitchell and Jessie Offineer provide health education services at the Ravenna Farmer's Market.

Portage County Combined General Health District

705 Oakwood Street

2nd Floor

Ravenna, Ohio 44266

330-296-9919

330-297-3597 fax

www.co.portage.oh.us/healthdepartment.htm



[Like us on Facebook: Portage County Health Department](#)

[Follow us on Twitter: @portagecohealth](#)

A Change in Health Commissioner for the Portage County Combined General Health District

Retirement of DuWayne Porter

After 40 years of public health service, DuWayne (Chip) Porter, MPH, RS retired in June, 2015. Chip started with the Portage County Combined General Health District in 1985, serving as a Environmental Health Director. In 2006, Chip began serving the community as Health Commissioner. His leadership extended through the emergency response of the H1N1 pandemic, the relocation of the health department, the passing of the health levy after 58 years, the creation of the health education division, the combining of Ravenna City Health Department into the Portage County Combined General Health District, and the start of the accreditation process for the health department.



Hiring of Joseph Diorio

In August, 2015, the Board of Health appointed Joseph Diorio, MPH, MS, RS as Portage County Combined General Health District's new Health Commissioner. Joe comes to Portage County with over 20 years of experience in public health; most recently serving as Director of Community Health, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, and Accreditation Coordinator for Mahoning County District Board of Health.

Since becoming Health Commissioner, areas of focus have included both day-to-day operations and continuation of the process towards public health accreditation. Day-to-day operational changes have included: establishing By Laws for the Board of Health, creating a Memorandum of Understanding between PCCGHD and Summit County Combined General Health District for Medical Director services, implementing a Resolution for a Moratorium on New Injection Wells, and instituting a new salary structure for health department staff. In the area of accreditation, Joe has engaged the staff in updating and revising the PCCGHD Personnel Policies, he has implemented a PHAB approved performance evaluation, and has been instrumental in guiding the Strategic Planning process. Joe also initiated the transfer of Safe Communities of Portage County and Motorcycle Ohio programs from Family and Community Services to PCCGHD.

By this time next year, the overarching goal is to have PCCGHD well on its way to meeting the requirements of Public Health Accreditation !

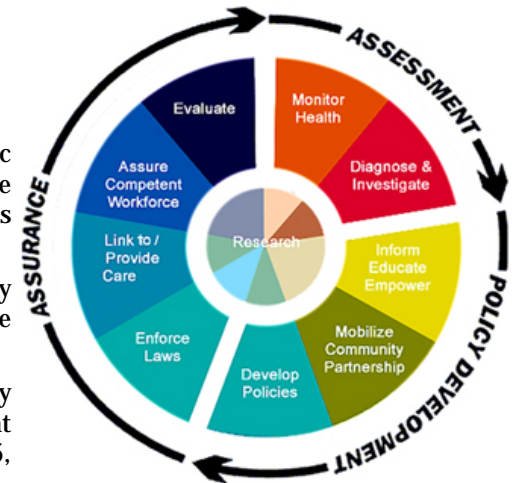
Public Health Accreditation

What is public health accreditation?

Based on The Ten Essential Public Health Services (*right*), public health accreditation is the recognition of a public health department's performance by a set of national standards that ensure continuously improving services for the community. While public health accreditation is voluntary for local and state departments across the nation, Ohio is the only state that has mandated that all local health departments become accredited by 2020.

Accreditation will result in the identification of successes and opportunities for improvement, promotion of quality initiatives, an energized workforce, and alignment of our strategic objectives to the daily services we provide to the community.

Portage County Combined General Health District started on the journey towards public health accreditation in 2013 by naming Karen Towne, MSN, RN, APHN-BC, the Accreditation Coordinator and launching the first internal assessment of readiness, comprehensive community health assessment efforts, and organizational planning. In November 2015, Kevin Watson, BS, RS, was named Accreditation Coordinator.



Community Health Assessment and Improvement

Accreditation begins with the completion of the comprehensive Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Through the dedication of over 20 local organizations, Kent State University College of Public Health's Center for Public Policy and Health (KSU CPPH) released the Portage County Community Health Needs Assessment in January 2015. The report identified nine major areas of health need in Portage County utilizing previous community health assessments and the substantiated perspectives of local experts. The need to conduct primary data collection — of which surveying residents to gather their health-related opinions, perspectives, and experiences is an example — was identified in the report.

Through a partnership between PCCGHD, Kent City Health Department, and The Center for Health Affairs, a large-scale survey campaign was launched in Portage County in 2015 by the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio. Surveys were mailed to 2,400 adults and 2,400 parents of children ages 0-11. Adolescents were surveyed in Portage County schools across six districts. We are excited to report that the results will be released in March 2016.

Community health improvement planning, a multi-agency collaboration to develop and expand programs and services based upon the data collected in the health assessments, will begin in April 2016.

Strategic Planning

Under the leadership of the new health commissioner, the health department embarked on the strategic planning process. The Strategic Planning Committee, consisting of staff and board of health members, worked together to create an updated mission, vision statement, and a list of values for the health department. In 2016, strategic priorities, goals, and objectives will be implemented in alignment with the community health improvement plan.



Workforce Development

A department-wide workforce development team was created in 2010 to ensure that staff possesses the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to perform their jobs effectively and efficiently. In 2015, the team began planning for national accreditation by beginning a Workforce Development Plan, assessing staff competency using The Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals, and conducting an organizational cultural competency assessment. Plans for 2016 include updating the policy and procedure manual, improving the performance evaluation process, and completing the department's workforce development plan.

Quality Improvement

A quality improvement team was developed in 2015 with representation from all disciplines within the department. The purpose of the QI team is to develop and implement the Portage County Combined General Health District Quality Improvement Plan, oversee quality improvement projects throughout the department, and prepare the department for national accreditation.

The Strategic Planning Committee has proposed the following as the Portage County Combined General Health District mission statement, vision for the future, and core values for the agency.

Mission: To **promote** public health, **prevent** disease, and **protect** the environment; through leadership and partnership; to empower individuals and communities to achieve optimal health.

Vision: Healthy People. Healthy Environments. Healthy Communities.

Values: Accountability Communication Dedication Ethics Innovation

Thank you for improving our community's health

Special thanks to our community partners who have contributed to the community health assessment process in Portage County over the past few years. If your organization would like to participate in community health improvement planning in 2016, please contact Kevin Watson, Accreditation Coordinator, at kwatson@portageco.com.

Akron Children's Hospital	Kent State University College of Public Health &	Portage County Job & Family Services
Akron General Medical Center	Center for Public Policy and Health	Portage County Obesity Prevention Coalition
AxessPointe Community Health Center	Kent State University Health Services	Portage County Public Health Task Force
The Center for Health Affairs	King Kennedy Community Center	Portage County Safe Communities Coalition
Children's Advantage	Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage	Portage County School Districts
City of Ravenna	County	Portage County Sheriff's Department
Cleveland Clinic	Northeast Ohio Medical University	Portage County Township Trustees
Coleman Pregnancy Center	PARTA	Portage County WIC
Coleman Professional Services	Planned Parenthood	The Portage Foundation
Family and Children First Council	Portage County Board of Developmental	Portage Learning Centers
Family & Community Services	Disabilities	Ravenna City Board of Health
Healthy Communities Partnership	Portage County Board of Health	Skeels-Matthews Community Center
Help Me Grow of Portage County	Portage County Children's Services	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Hiram College	Portage County Combined General Health	Summa Health System
Kent City Board of Health	District	Townhall II
Kent City Health Department	Portage County Commissioners	University Hospitals of Cleveland
Kent State University Center of Nutrition	Portage County Educational Service Center	University Hospitals Portage Medical Center
Outreach	Portage County Immunization Coalition	United Way of Portage County
		Windham Renaissance Family Center

Environmental Health Services

The Environmental Health Services Division focuses on prevention of disease through sanitation, safe food and water, proper disposal of wastes and toxics, and promoting safe and healthy environmental conditions throughout Portage County for the benefit of our residents and visitors.

1,251
Food Service
Inspections

704
Septic System
Lot Evaluations
& Plan Reviews

254
Rabies Control
Investigations

18,361
Telephone & Email
Consultations

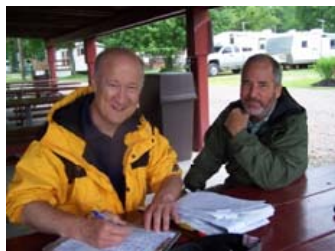
669
Plumbing
Inspections

► POOL PROGRAM

PCCGHD licenses and regularly inspects 69 pools and spas each year. A license is required for any pool or spa serving four families or more, which includes apartments, hotels, condominiums, home-owner associations, hospital/therapy facilities, health clubs, and municipal facilities. In 2015, the health department implemented a Quality Improvement Project to make necessary changes to the Pool Program.

Changes included:

- Increased inspection frequency
- Tracked resolution on all pool inspection deficiencies
- Improved communications between PCCGHD and pool operators via email, phone, and annual newsletter
- Certified Pool Operator training for inspectors
- Improved education to pool operators



Eric Roberts, ODH Pool Program Auditor and Jack Madved, Registered Sanitarian.

► FOOD SERVICE INSPECTIONS

PCCGHD 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, including the county fair. Registered Sanitarians closely evaluate critical food safety items that can contribute to foodborne illnesses.



Jessie Offineer measures sanitizer levels in a mobile unit at the Randolph Fair.

► 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 dogs, cats, and bats. Most people requiring post-exposure rabies treatment do so because the animal is not available or able to be tested.

Environmental Programs	Sites	Inspections	Consultations
Food Safety Programs			
Food Service, Mobile, Temporary, Vending	558	1251	239
Food Establishments, Mobile, Temporary	160	359	54
Water Quality Programs			
Household Sewage Treatment Systems (HSTS)	134	297	8678
HSTS Lot Evals & Plan Reviews		704	
HSTS Aeration System Annual Reviews		181	99
Home Sale STS & Water Evaluations	84	86	42
Private Water System Permits & Installs	162	257	109
Water Samples	452		
Storm Water District Illicit Discharges		58	240
STS Nuisance Complaints		118	324
Semi-Public, Commercial Wastewater Program	408	922	76
Solid Waste Programs			
Landfill Methane Gas Monitoring		50	
Solid Waste Facilities	7	54	69
Infectious Waste Facilities	8	41	15
Solid & Animal Waste Complaints		247	329
General Environmental Health Programs			
Recreational Camps	38	55	8
Swimming Pools and Spas	69	302	171
Schools	47	109	46
Plumbing			
Total Number of Inspections		669	43
Plumbing Permits Issued	337		



► MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM

PCCGHD partnered with Kent City Health Department to provide a mosquito control program consisting of education and source reduction, surveillance, and larviciding. Mosquito spraying is not done in the communities served by PCCGHD.

► SEMI-PUBLIC WASTEWATER 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, PCCGHD, on behalf of Ohio EPA, conducts inspections at semi-public wastewater facilities for compliance with Ohio's water pollution control laws and regulations.

► PLUMBING PROGRAM

The PCCGHD plumbing program requires the inspection of plumbing, the registration of contractors, and the issuance of permits through the health department for plumbing work conducted in residential buildings, commercial buildings, and accessory structures.

PCCGHD establishes a uniform set of regulations for the registration of plumbing contractors, licensing, permitting, bonding, fees and inspection of plumbing work on residential buildings, nonresidential buildings, and accessory buildings. This includes both renovated structures and newly constructed structures, and the replacement of plumbing fixtures within these structures.

In November 2015, Ken Dye, Certified Plumbing Inspector, retired after 12 years of service to Portage County.



Mary Helen Smith providing education to Portage County residents on Environmental Health Services provided by the health department.

Storm Water Program

The Storm Water Program witnessed a number of changes and yet another eventful year in 2015. Mary Helen Smith, Director of Environmental Health, began supervising the program. Chris Novelli, a registered sanitarian who has been part of the Storm Water Program for the past 4 years, became the new Wastewater Supervisor after Kevin Watson, an eighteen year veteran with the health department took the position of Accreditation Coordinator and moved to the health education division. Chris and Kevin will continue to offer their expertise in wastewater management to the Storm Water Program to help eliminate illicit discharging household sewage treatment systems (HSTS) and coordinate the Storm Water Program's educational outreach respectively.

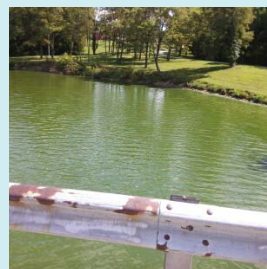
The Storm Water Program continued earnestly to pursue its primary mandate of illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE) of wastewater from non-storm water sources such as HSTS to prevent surface and ground water contamination to achieve sustainable water quality in accordance with the EPA's Clean Water Act demands.

Furthermore, the Storm Water Program continued the revision, organization, investigation, and monitoring of suspected illicit discharges in the PCCGHD database throughout the year. New suspected illicit discharges found through our HSTS files, reported nuisance complaints, and property transfer septic inspections are added to the illicit discharging database. Notices of violations are issued when suspected illicit discharges are validated through our investigation to ensure compliance and abatement of the public health nuisance.

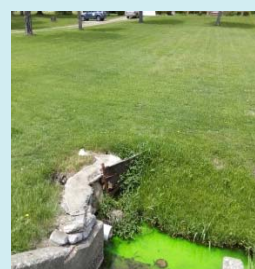
Conscious of the high cost of septic system replacement, the Storm Water Program constantly looks for financial assistance for our homeowners. To this end, the Storm Water Program, with the support of our stakeholders, applied for and received a \$300,000 grant to help our low to moderate income homeowners who need HSTS replacement.

A work group with the Water Resources Department was formed and meets bi-monthly to prioritize areas with failing HTST and illicit discharges. Additionally, as members of the Portage County Storm Water Task Force and Steering Committee, the Environmental Director and the Storm Water Program staff attend Portage County Storm Water quarterly meetings to discuss all storm water issues in the county.

Finally, in fulfillment of our educational outreach goals, the Storm Water Program staff attended public forums and provided educational sessions to our stakeholders with the intent of informing them of our goals and objectives for this program.



Left: Aqua bloom on water reservoir potentially caused by nonpoint pollution.



Right: HSTS showing illicit discharge.



Left: Dye test in use.

Nursing Services

The Nursing Services Division remains committed to protecting the health and well-being of the residents of Portage County. This is accomplished through infrastructure, population-based services, enabling services, and education.

2,877
Childhood
Immunizations

81
Clients in
International
Travel Classes

350
TB Tests
Administered

1,025
Seasonal
Influenza Shots

41
Flu Shot
Clinics



Public health nurse providing immunization during a Childhood Immunization Clinic.

► Immunizations

PCCGHD strives to reduce or eliminate vaccine-preventable diseases through vaccine administration. The immunization program provides immunizations for children age 2 months—18 years and adults on a weekly basis. These immunization clinics are provided for the prevention of vaccine-preventable diseases. Childhood clinics are every Wednesday from 8:00 am-12:00 pm as a walk-in clinic. Adult clinics are every Tuesday morning from 8:00 am-10:00 am, by appointment.

► Seasonal Flu Shot Clinics

Influenza is a respiratory illness that is easily spread from person to person. Getting the flu can be serious. According to the CDC, almost 36,000 people die each year from complications of the flu. Getting a flu shot is the best way to prevent the flu! The health department works with township trustees, schools, and fire departments to provide flu shot clinics throughout the county.



► International Travel Clinics

The International Travel Clinic provides education on potential health threats in foreign countries and vaccinations to protect them from vaccine-preventable diseases found in those areas to local travelers. This is an important step to ensure staying healthy while on vacation, a mission trip, studying abroad, or a business trip.



► Children With Medical Handicaps (BCMh) Program

BCMh is a program within the nursing division that links families of children having special healthcare needs to quality providers in the county. BCMh also helps families obtain payment for diagnostic and treatment services.

A Message From the Medical Director

Much of what we do at the Portage County Combined General Health District is “behind the scenes,” out of the sight of most people. For example, we maintain surveillance of disease symptoms throughout the County to detect potential threats to the general population. We investigate and manage disease outbreaks, such as the Zika virus if it comes to Portage County. We operate the only international immunization clinic for foreign travel in the County. We conduct local immunization clinics for routine vaccines for children and adults. We inspect and demonstrate proper installation of infant and child car seats. We inspect every eating establishment and grocery store in the County (except for the city of Kent) for proper storage, handling, preparation, and serving of food. We consult on and inspect home sewage systems for proper sizing, type, and operation. We inspect schools, swimming pools, and spas for safe operation. We review all fatalities of children under 18 years of age for possible prevention strategies. These and our other services are outlined in this report. Thank you for your continued support of Public Health in Portage County!

Daniel J. Raub, DO, MA, FACOFP

► Communicable Disease Control

The Nursing Division is responsible for the investigation and follow-up of reportable infectious diseases for all of Portage County. The nursing staff continues to work with healthcare providers to ensure their understanding of disease reporting responsibilities.

► Child Fatality Review Board

The Child Fatality Review Board, which also includes many community partners, examines all deaths of all Portage County children under 18 years of age. The Board's primary goals are to discuss the preventable causes and factors leading to the child's death, and then identify needed changes in practice and/or policy to prevent a death in the future.

► The Child Fatality Review Board reviewed, analyzed, and made recommendations on 21 cases in 2015.

► Community Events

Public health nurses provide additional services to the community including blood pressure checks, health presentations, and trainings.



Left: Rose Ferraro and Sherry Halas providing blood pressure checks at the Randolph Fair.



Right: Susie Forgacs presenting communicable diseases to Center of Hope staff.

Grant Funded Programs

► Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant

A public health emergency is any event or situation, natural or man-made, that demands immediate action from the public health system. The health department receives grant funding to coordinate the emergency preparedness activities for both local health departments.



Susie Forgacs providing instruction to KSU Nursing Students during a POD Drill.

► Ebola Funding

In February 2015, PCCGHD received grant funding to train, plan, and prepare for Ebola response. The health department is part of the regional planning response, working with multiple agencies both within Portage County and surrounding counties.

► Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

The MRC is a volunteer organization that was established to support the local public health departments in their emergency preparedness initiatives. It is made up of both licensed and non-licensed health professionals and community volunteers.

MRC Drill to test communications between PCCGHD and MRC Volunteers. MRC donated canned goods to the Center of Hope as part of the drill.



► Immunization Action Plan Grant:

A public health nurse coordinates the IAP grant, with the goal of increasing immunization rates of children up to 24 months of age. Immunization provider education is a key aspect of the grant. This ensures effective vaccine administration and a reduction in missed opportunities.

► In 2015, IAP grant staff completed the 2015 Kindergarten Retrospective Survey. This survey assesses the up-to-date immunization rates of children 24 months of age utilizing kindergarten immunization records. The survey is conducted every five years. The 2015 up-to-date rate was 70%.



► Challenge Award Grant

In 2015, PCCGHD received a grant from the National Association of County and City Health Officials. This grant provided the opportunity for public health nurses to work with MRC Volunteers to provide Opioid Overdose education and Naloxone kits to first responders in Portage County; including law enforcement and basic EMT's.

829
Communicable
Disease
Investigations

445
Bureau for
Children with
Developmental &
Special Needs

156
MRC
Volunteers

70%
Up-to-Date Rate of
Children 24
Month of Age

740
Kindergarten
Records Assessed
for Survey

Health Education and Promotion Services

Public Health Educators are responsible for the planning and development of coordinated health education programs to meet the goals of the Health Department and to serve Portage County residents.

118

HIV Tests
Administered

133

Child
Safety Seats
Distributed

31

Vision Care
Outreach
Participants Served

75

Bicycle
Helmets
Distributed

55

Project DAWN
Kits Distributed

► Communications and Publications

Communications to the public are coordinated by the Health Education and Promotion division. This includes management of the health department website, media coverage, and educational materials. New in 2015 is the addition of social media as a means of communicating and disseminating information to the community. PCCGHD has a Facebook page and a Twitter feed. Various means of communication are used to communicate to the community including press releases, signage, advertisements, social media feeds, website updates, and flyers.



► Vision Care Outreach Program

PCCGHD partners with Prevent Blindness Ohio to help Ohio residents who have no access to vision insurance receive assistance for an eye exam and glasses as needed. Participants must be Ohio residents, not have access to vision insurance, not have used this program in the last 2 years and meet income guidelines.

► 31 Residents Served



► Bike Helmets and Bike Safety Event

The health department received 75 bike helmets from the American Academy of Pediatrics. These helmets were distributed during a Bike Safety Event held by the health department. A hands-on kids health fair at the Chestnut Hills Park was part of the event. Educational information and nutritious snacks were provided by Portage County WIC, Robinson Memorial Hospital, Portage Learning Centers, Portage County Safe Communities Coalition, and Kent State University Center of Nutrition Outreach.

► Car Seat Program

PCCGHD partners with the ODH Ohio Buckles Buckeye program for the distribution of child passenger safety seats. The health department received 24 convertible and 8 booster car seats in 2015. These car seats are given to low-income families who are WIC income eligible. PCCGHD provided an additional 101 car seats to Portage County residents who meet the same income guidelines. Along with the provision of car seats, Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians provide education and instruction on the installation of car seats.

► Child Safety Seats Distributed: 133

► Child Safety Seats Installed: 173

► HIV Testing and Counseling

The health department provides free HIV testing, condom distribution, and community sexuality education through walk-in testing clinics, client-centered counseling appointments, and community events.

The activities for 2015 include:

- 118 HIV Tests Administered
- 100 Group Sessions
- 2,192 Persons seen in group activities
- World AIDS Day Activities at Kent State University
- Community Testing Sites:
 - Center of Hope
 - Hiram College
 - Horizon House
 - Kent City Health Department
 - Kent Social Services
 - Planned Parenthood
 - Portage County Health Dept.
 - Root House
 - Townhall II
 - Windham Renaissance Family



Kat Holtz, HIV Tester and Counselor promoting the HIV Program during our Open House.

New Health Education Programs in 2015

► **Project DAWN: Community-Based** PCCGHD and the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County partnered to start the Project DAWN program in September, 2015. Project DAWN is a community-based drug overdose education and Naloxone distribution program.

Participants learn to:

- See the signs and symptoms of an overdose
- Know the different types of overdoses
- Do rescue breathing
- Call emergency medical services
- Give the intranasal Naloxone



Participants who complete the class are given the Project DAWN kit containing Naloxone, instructions, and referral information.

- 16 classes
- 55 Project DAWN kits distributed

► **Project DAWN: Law Enforcement** PCCGHD received funding from ODH to provide Project DAWN kits to first responders. The health department is committed to providing education to law enforcement agencies on heroin/opioid overdose and how to administer the nasal Naloxone. Each officer trained on Project DAWN receives a Project DAWN kit. In 2015, 42 officers in 2 police departments were trained in Project DAWN.

Streetsboro Police Department receiving Project DAWN training.



► Matter of Balance

Matter of Balance (MOB) is a program of small-group workshops offered in Portage County to help participants view falls as controllable. Participants will learn to recognize and address many factors in their life and lifestyle that may be increasing their risk of falling. Two staff are trained as MOB Coaches and classes are offered throughout the county.

► 20 Residents Served

Grant Funded Programs

Child & Family Health Services (CFHS) Grant

► Tobacco Prevention Program

The 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.



► Workforce Health & Wellness Coalition

CFHS staff partnered with Portage County Safety Council to begin the Portage County Workforce Health & Wellness Coalition. Karen Towne and Becky Lehman co-created a magazine-style booklet, "Engaging Your Workforce in Wellness". CFHS specific topics included breastfeeding in the workplace, nutrition education, and tobacco cessation. From the publication, a Portage County Workforce Health & Wellness conference was held; targeting local employers.

Infant Safe Sleep



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

► Safe Sleep Education

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is the leading cause of death in infants between 1 month and 1 year of age. With funding provided by the CFHS grant, Health Education is committed to providing education on the ABC's of Safe Sleep to parents, grandparents and guardians of children under the age of one year. Babies should sleep Alone, on their Backs, in a Crib, every time!

► Nutrition Education

PCHD contracts with Kent State University Center of Nutrition Outreach to provide nutrition education for children, including school-based and family-based nutrition counseling programs.

Nutrition Education Programs:

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



Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Grant

► Substance Use and Abuse Conference

PCCGHD, in partnership with Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County, Robinson Memorial Hospital, and the Portage County Sheriff's Office, hosted the Substance Use and Abuse Conference in June, 2015. 140 Portage County residents and employees learned about substance use and abuse, the problems surrounding addiction, and what resources are available in the county.

Community Programs



Becky Lehman and Karen Towne participated in a workshop on the services of the health department at Winfield Church of God.



Ali Mitchell educated kids in the Streetsboro Safetytown program on poison safety and prevention.



Ali Mitchell participated in the Ravenna City Farmer's Market (pictured with James Bierlair, Board of Health member).



Joel Mowrey, MHRB, presenting information on substance use and abuse at the Conference.

Administrative and Personnel Services

The Administrative and Personnel Division is responsible for ensuring the daily operations, which includes human resources, 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. Another aspect of the administrative support is the retention and reporting of public records. Additionally, this division has been involved with the updating of the personnel policy manual and staff job descriptions.

There were several staff changes in 2015. Six staff members left the health department; two of which retired. In 2015, three new employees were hired to fill these positions; with some positions being consolidated in an effort to maximize resource utilization.

Finance Services

PCCGHD remains grateful to the voters of Portage County who passed a replacement levy in May of 2013 and for their continued support. We remain attentive to the budget as we continually strive to meet the needs of the county. We continue to maintain many grants that have been in place for years; Immunization Action Plan, Child and Family Health Services, and Public Health Emergency Preparedness, along with applying for new grants to fund such programs as Project DAWN and helping eligible residents repair or replace their home sewage treatment systems with funding from the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund.

In 2015, we maintained strong partnerships with our neighboring health departments and agencies to both provide and receive services. We have contracts with Kent City Health Department for us to provide their Nursing Services and for them to provide our Mosquito Program. We contracted with Summit County Public Health for our Epidemiological Services. The Kent State University (KSU) College of Public Health and KSU Center for Nutrition Outreach were also instrumental in helping us meet the needs of the community through their expertise in community health assessment and nutrition education, respectively.

This was the second year in our new location. We have been successful in staying within our budget, even with the added expenses of rent, phone services and postage. We are proud to be able to fulfill our promise to the residents of Portage County by not just maintaining programs, but expanding beyond that and adding programs that are needed. The newest expense and additional workload we face is accreditation, which is now required by the state, but this will only make us stronger as an agency and a community. Again, we say YES to public health!

Financial Statement Fiscal Year 2015 (unaudited)

Sources of Revenue

Health Levy	1,148,784
Contract Fees	515,970
State Subsidy	24,578
CFHS Grant	85,568
IAP Grant	29,160
PHEP Grant	133,788
BCMH	71,837
NACCHO Award	18,500

Environmental

General	10,485
HB110	108,464
Plumbing	72,369
Point of Sale	24,475
Body Art	750
Pools	28,449
Food Service	242,356
Private Water	77,684
Parks/Camps	27,521
Wastewater	141,846
Solid Waste	750

Nursing	160,132
----------------	---------

Miscellaneous	29,142
----------------------	--------

Total Revenue	2,952,608
----------------------	------------------

Expenditures

Salaries	1,428,663
Insurance	303,942
Medicare	20,958
PERS	200,102
Workers Compensation	23,410
Unemployment	1,317
Payouts for Retirement	61,504
Overtime	3,026
Communications	7,860

Accreditation	29,100
Supplies/Equipment	209,996
Contracts	123,456
State Remittances	40,100
Travel	60,929
Lab Testing	26,056
Miscellaneous	35,058

Rent	40,000
------	--------

Total Expenditures	2,615,477
---------------------------	------------------

Grants Provide Opportunities

In 2015, Portage County Health Department received state and federal grants.

► Child and Family Health Services (CFHS):

The CFHS program is a community-based effort to eliminate health disparities, improve birth outcomes, and improve the health status of women and children in Ohio. The focus is on geographic areas and populations of highest need, including low-income women and children that are disproportionately impacted by poor health outcomes. This is achieved through a multidisciplinary, collaborative, and culturally competent approach to health improvement. Our program partners for 2015 include Kent State University Center for Nutrition Outreach, Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County, Children's Advantage, and Summit County Public Health.

Activities for 2015 include:

- Primary data collection on child, youth, and adults for the Community Health Assessment.
- Community outreach on infant safe sleep practices to reduce the incidence of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
- Nutrition education for school-aged children, including school-based programs, social nutrition and physical education, and family-based nutrition counseling programs
- Linking nutrition services with mental health counseling to enhance overall mental, physical, and emotional health
- Tobacco Cessation for women of child-bearing age and education sessions for WIC participants



Ali Mitchell and Becky Lehman presenting tobacco cessation education at Portage County WIC.

► Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP):

With state and federal grant funding, PCCGHD was able to develop and expand Health District Emergency Operation Plans to include Crisis Communications, Pandemic Influenza Response, Mass Dispensing, Volunteer Management, Ebola Response, and more. PCCGHD coordinates emergency preparedness activities for both local health departments in the county and all health department employees are part of a combined response team.

The activities for 2015 include:

- NECO Region Exercise through partnerships with UH Portage Medical Center and Portage County Emergency Management Agency
- Substance Use and Abuse Conference
- Community Education on Emergency Preparedness
- Medical Reserve Corps call-up for Influenza Community Clinics
~156 Portage County MRC Volunteers
- Ebola response planning
- Point of Dispensing (POD) Drills with KSU School of Nursing



Left: Sherry Halas providing instruction to KSU Nursing Students during POD Drill.

Right: Sherry Halas, Susie Forgacs, and Marianne Kitakis overseeing students during KSU POD Drill.



► Immunization Action Plan (IAP):

The purpose of the IAP grant is to increase immunization rates of children up to 24 months of age. This is done through provider and public education of immunizations, effective vaccine delivery and documentation, and assessment of child immunization rates.

Activities for 2015 include:

- Education and Training for immunization providers: MOBI (Maximizing Office Based Immunization) Program
- Assessment of provider vaccine administrations using the AFIX (Assessment, Feedback, Incentives, and eXchange) Program
- Education and training provided to Portage County School Nurses
- Education provided to parents and guardians at health fairs, farmers' markets, etc.
- 2015 Kindergarten Retrospective Survey



Be Wise... Immunize!!!

► Lead Poisoning Prevention Education and Outreach

Funding from ODH allowed PCCGHD to create an educational campaign based on the ODH Healthy Homes initiative. This campaign included public service announcements, PARTA bus billboards, and printed materials.

Educational messages included:

- Health effects of lead poisoning
- Sources of lead in the home
- Healthy home principles:
Keep it dry,
clean, safe,
well-ventilated,
contaminant-free, well-maintained,
and pest-free



Open House

Public health promotes and protects the health of people and the communities where they live, work, and play. Each year, the first full week of April, is National Public Health Week. The health department celebrates this week by inviting the public to an Open House.



Portage County Randolph Fair

PCCGHD teamed up once again with Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County, and Portage County EMA (Portage Prepares). During the week, all three agencies provided education on their services to fair participants.



Left: Jessie Offinier, Stan Carlisle, and Mary Helen Smith reviewing fair food inspection reports.



Above: Judi Rettig educating the public on services provided.



Right: Ali Mitchell (PCHD) and Karyn Hall (MHRB) taking a break from the golf game.



Below: Joe Diorio awarding the winner of the bike.

Above: EMA's Ryan Shackelford and Amie Cajka promoting Portage Prepares.



Left: PCCGHD Board President Robert Palmer & Victor Grimm, Mantua Township

Mantua Township residents donated a bike to be raffled off to kids who played our golf game. THANK YOU!



Board of Health Stakeholders

2015 Advisory Council

Chairman	James Eskridge
Vice Chairman	Diane Hargett Austin
Secretary	Bonnie Howe

Members: Chairmen of Township Trustees

Atwater	Danny Derreberry
Brimfield	Mike Kostensky
Charlestown	James Eskridge
Deerfield	Ed Dean
Edinburg	Sandra Templeton
Franklin	Keith Benjamin
Freedom	Roy Martin
Hiram	Jack Groselle
Mantua	Jason Carlton
Nelson	Michael Elias
Palmyra	Henry Michael
Paris	Tom Smith
Randolph	Susan White
Ravenna	Hank Gibson
Rootstown	Dave McIntyre
Shalersville	Nancy Vines
Suffield	Thomas Calcei
Windham	Dann Timmons

Mayors of Cities and Villages

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

Budget Commission

Prosecuting Attorney	Victor Vigluicci
Treasurer	Brad Cromes
Auditor	Janet Esposito

Portage County Commissioners

Kathleen Chandler—President
Maureen T. Frederick
Vicki Kline

Health Department Administration

Joseph J. Diorio, MPH, MS, RS
Health Commissioner, Secretary to the Board of Health

Friend of Public Health

Portage County Combined General Health District 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. 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. 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, lending his expertise regarding preparedness and personal protective equipment to first responders, and providing trainings on communicable diseases and preparedness to public health workers.

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.

Board of Health



Robert Palmer
President



Robert Howard
Vice President



Bonnie Bailey
Member
Streetsboro



Howard Minott
Member
Aurora



James Bierlair
Member



Amy Hammar
Member



Evelyn Cutlip
Member



Lucy Ribelin
Member
Ravenna

The Board of Health consists of five members who are elected by the Advisory Council of the Portage County Combined General Health District and three members who are appointed by the Mayors of Aurora, Ravenna, 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 Health
- Strategic Plan Guidance and Participation
- Oversight and Guidance towards Public Health Accreditation

Portage County Combined General Health District Staff

Joseph Diorio, MPH, MS, RS

Health Commissioner

Daniel Raub, DO, MA, FACOFP

Medical Director

Administrative Division

Dorothy Filing

Administrative and Personnel Director

Melissa Akers

Administrative Clerk

Finance Division

Debbie Stall

Finance Director

Judi Rettig, BA

Account Clerk

Fiscal Grant Manager

Carol Pillsbury, BBA

Account Clerk

Debbie Wine

Account Clerk

Environmental Division

Mary Helen Smith, MPH, CPH, RS, REHS

Environmental Director

Jack Madved, BS, RS

Registered Sanitarian

Beth Ahrens, BS, RS

Registered Sanitarian

Richard Lashley, BS, RS

Registered Sanitarian

Stanley Carlisle, MPH, RS

Registered Sanitarian

Amos Sarfo, MS, RS

Registered Sanitarian

Tom Brannon

Environmental Technician

Chris Novelli, BS, RS

Wastewater Supervisor

Keith Riley, PE

Sanitarian-in-Training

Jessica Offineer, BS

Registered Sanitarian

New Staff in 2016:

Dan Robinson

Certified Plumbing Inspector

Craig Davis

Sanitarian-in-Training

Nursing Division

Rosemary Ferraro, MSN, RN

Nursing Director

Marianne Kitakis, BSN, RN

Public Health Nurse

Emergency Preparedness

Coordinator

Sherry Halas, BSN, RN

Public Health Nurse

Kerry McKeen, BSN, RN

BCMH Public Health Nurse

Susan Forgacs, BSN, RN

Public Health Nurse

Jennifer Day

Nursing Clerk

Philesia Condor

Nursing Billing Clerk

Health Education & Promotion Division

Becky Lehman, MPH, CHES

Health Education Director

Alison Mitchell, BSPH

Health Educator

Kat Holtz, BS

Health Educator/

HIV Specialist

Karen Towne, MSN, RN,

APHN-BC

Child and Family Health

Services Project Director

Kevin Watson, BS, RS

Accreditation Coordinator

New Staff in 2016:

Lynette Blasiman

Safe Communities/Motorcycle

Ohio Project Director

Portage County Combined General Health District

705 Oakwood Street

2nd Floor

Ravenna, Ohio 44266

330-296-9919

330-297-3597 fax

www.co.portage.oh.us/healthdepartment.htm