

Putnam County

General Health District



ANNUAL REPORT

2015

Observations of a New Health Commissioner

At the end of March 2015, I was fortunate to begin to serve you as the new Putnam County Health Commissioner. I brought with me over 20 years of Public Health experience from Allen County Public Health. During my time there, I learned a lot about Public Health and worked in the areas of Health Education, Nursing, and Disease Surveillance. Even though I have less than a year of experience in my new position at my “home health department”, I have learned much and continue to learn each and every day. Below are a few highlights of what I have discovered in the short time since I have taken on this new position.

1. **We are small, but we are mighty!** Our staff of 13 employees provides core public health services to our residents. Because of our small number of staff, everyone performs multiple tasks. For example, in addition to our Accreditation Coordinator helping us prepare for accreditation, she also provides health education to the public, works with other community partners to implement our Community Health Improvement Plan and assists our Vital Statistics Division in issuing birth and death certificates. While large health departments have the ability to have their employees focus on one or two responsibilities, our staff must be competent in multiple areas so that we can provide needed services.
2. **We are a small community, but we are rich in resources.** We are fortunate to have great community partners who also share in the goal of making Putnam County a healthier place to live. Whether it is the Sheriff’s office, Police Chiefs and elected officials who are working to address opioid addiction, the schools who help us reach students and parents with health-related information or Pathways Counseling and the ADAMHS Board who address mental health and addiction, we all work together to assess the health of the community and administer programs to address our issues. We are indeed fortunate!
3. **Public Health is experiencing a time of rapid change and small health departments must work hard to adapt.** Change is inevitable. This is particularly true in Public Health. Whether we are making changes to our programs to meet new stipulations set forth in law, or making agency-wide changes to help us achieve public health accreditation, our goal is to enhance the health of our community. The requirements of accreditation make it necessary to take a good, hard look at the services we provide to determine if there is a more proficient way to serve our residents. Achieving accreditation will indeed tax our small agency but it will help us become a better health department.

I am fortunate to have the opportunity to work with our great staff and the Board of Health as we continue our agency’s mission to protect, promote and improve the health, safety and quality of life of the Putnam County community. It is with great pleasure that I share with you our 2015 Annual Report. If you have any questions about the information in this report, do not hesitate to contact our agency.

Kim Rieman, RN, MPH, CHES

PUTNAM COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

We look forward to serving you in 2016.

Kim Rieman, RN, MPH, CHES	Health Commissioner	Joan Kline, CHES	Health Ed/Accreditation Coord.
Sherri Recker, RN, MSN	Director of Nursing	Ruth Gerding, RN, MPH	Emergency Response/MRC Coord.
Mary Duling, RN	Nursing	Brandi Schrader, M.Ed., RS	Environmental Health Director
Dawn Schmenk, RN, BSN	Nursing	Beth Skulina, M.Ed., RS	Environmental Specialist
Dunel Fry, RN, BSN	Nursing	Laura Gulker, RS	Environmental Specialist
Patty Jerwers, RN	Nursing	Abigail Greve	Registrar/Clerk
Laurie Meyer	Billing/Clerk		

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ACCREDITATION

While the effort to become an accredited health department is long, and at times cumbersome, the outcome will be well worth it! To become accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, health departments are required to develop and implement many plans and policies that will allow us to provide services more efficiently. In the last year, we have developed an agency strategic plan, a workforce development plan and are working on a communication plan. We have had many policies written and approved by our Board of Health. Our staff is charged with implementing these plans and policies so that we are able to provide outstanding service to our community.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP)

The implementation of the *2014-2017 Putnam County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)* is in full swing. During the first year of the CHIP, the health department and the *Partners for a Healthy Putnam County* worked to address the three identified strategic issues:

- Childhood and Adult Obesity
- Alcohol and Drug Use
- Mental/Behavioral Health

We are fortunate to have community partners who are active in implementing the action steps of our CHIP. The CHIP is a living document that must be reviewed and revised on an annual basis. We continually gather updated data to assess our community's needs and make changes to the CHIP to ensure that the issues are being addressed in the best possible way.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to protect, promote, and improve the health, safety, and quality of life of the Putnam County community.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

2015 was an extremely busy year for the Environmental Health (EH) staff at the Putnam County Health Department. The Sewage Treatment System (STS) regulations effective January 1, 2015 brought many changes for our county. EH staff provided Continuing Education Units (CEU's) for our contractors and provided valuable information on the new regulations. Additionally, two new systems were introduced into the county that comply with the STS regulations. Due to the changes, there were many consults with Ohio Department of Health and Ohio EPA. These discussions lead to Putnam County Health Department hosting a public meeting to discuss the new sewage regulations, specifically lot splits and the new requirements. In 2015, EH staff applied for the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF). We were successful in our applications and received \$100,000 in 2015 Funds and \$300,000 in 2016 Funds. This money can be used to repair or replace existing STS's if the homeowner meets income guidelines and other provisions of the funding. This summer our office will host a meeting to begin creating the Operational Plan for Putnam County. This plan will provide guidance and information for the county to comply with Ohio Law that requires all Household Sewage Treatment Systems to have an Operational Permit.

Though the sewage program tends to receive the most attention, staff worked very hard in all other programs. Last spring, PCHD Environmental Health staff hosted a pool training for the 6-Pact. This training was a great refresher and assessment for all staff that attended. Additionally, staff attended training throughout the year in various programs. Employees worked hard to serve the public within the Food, Sewage, Water, Campground, Body Art, Pool, School, Nuisance/Complaints and Rabies Control programs. From January thru March 2016, PCHD staff are attending Township Trustee meetings and will provide detailed information on Environmental Health issues in our county as well as general information of all functions of the Health Department.

2015 Environmental Health Activity Report	
297	Food Service/Retail Food Licenses Issued
476	Inspections of those 302 Licensed Food Establishments
9	Pools and Spas
2	Campgrounds
16	School Inspections
29	Sewage Treatment System Permits
52	Private Water System Permits
157	Water Samples
43	Animal Bites Investigations

Brandi Schrader
Environmental Health Director

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Emergency Preparedness Coordinator is presently working on several projects. The current grant year is the fourth of a five-year grant cycle. Our focus continues to be on enhancing Mass Fatality efforts in the county, improving communications with county partners, and improving efforts to provide needed medications to the entire county population within 24 hours. PCHD has greatly improved in each of these areas with the help of many county partners. The grant for 2016/2017, being the final year of this cycle, has been written and the focus is similar with additional emphasis on recruiting more volunteers for preparedness.

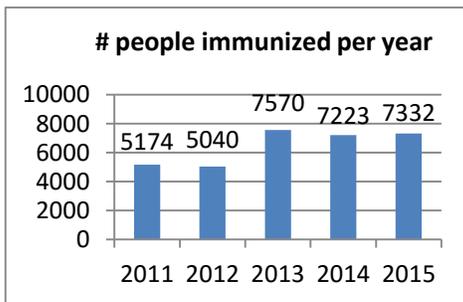
In addition to the preparedness grant, in 2015 PCHD was awarded the Ebola and Other Special Pathogens grant. With this funding we are establishing transportation of individuals with these conditions. We are also meeting the grant requirements by assuring we have appropriate PPE and establishing protocol for individuals needing isolation and quarantine.

Ruth Gerding
Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

NURSING Sherri Recker, RN Immunizations

Immunizations are a vital link in communicable disease control. The health department serves children and adults in Putnam County with a full line of vaccines that prevent numerous diseases. PCHD bills Medicaid, Medicare, and most private insurances for providing these immunizations.

Vaccines are constantly changing and keeping up with the latest information can be challenging. With financial help from the Immunization Action Plan grant through the Ohio Department of Health, we provide an educational program for physicians and their staff which helps them keep up with the latest information. In addition, our nurses are a resource for both physicians and residents who have questions on the immunization recommendations. Below is a chart of the number of people vaccinated at PCHD each year.



Naloxone Distribution to Law Enforcement

On March 11, 2015 Governor Kasich signed HB 170 which expanded the definition of people that can administer Naloxone (name brand Narcan) to include family, friends, and law enforcement officers and not be held liable for administering in an emergency situation. The Ohio Department of Health worked with the Ohio Department of Mental Health Pharmacy to allow local health departments to order Narcan and distribute to law enforcement officers. The health department was allotted 20 free Project Dawn Kits for our county.

The health department and Putnam County EMS office conducted an educational session for police officers to get trained on the proper

identification of an overdose and administration of Narcan. There were 50 officers trained in November and December. Now, every police department in the county carries this life-saving medication with them while on duty.

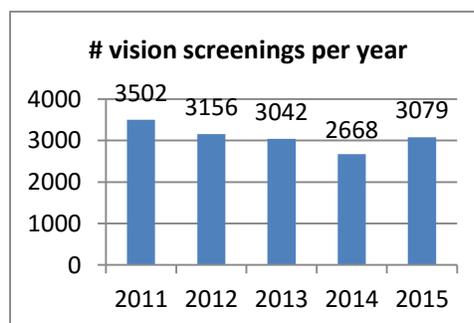
In 2015, there were 5 Putnam County residents who died and the EMS made approximately 40 runs related to drug overdose. The health department continues to work with local law enforcement and other county agencies to address the drug problem in Putnam County with innovative, data-driven programming.

Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps

The Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh) is a state program that assists parents with their child's special health care needs. BCMh consists of two parts. One part is the diagnostic program where a public health nurse refers a child to a BCMh physician, and the child receives diagnostic testing to rule out a medical condition. This program is eligible to any family, regardless of income. Part two is the treatment program. Once the child has a diagnosis, BCMh looks at eligibility based on the diagnosis and parental income. This program has steadily increased as more families qualify for the treatment program.

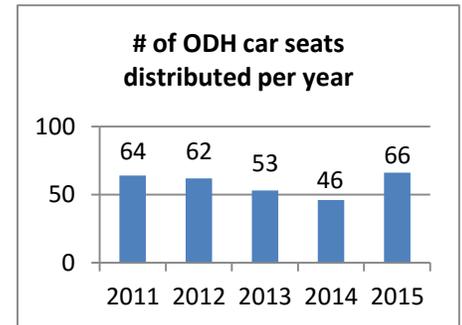
School Health Program

Health Department nurses provide vision and scoliosis screenings for county schools free of charge. Vision screenings are done in Kindergarten & grades 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9. Scoliosis screenings are done in grades 6, 7, and 8.



Car Seat Program

A car seat program for families who income qualify for WIC is provided through a grant from the Ohio Department of Health. Very nice car seats are given, with a short education program and installation guidelines provided by the nurse.



Communicable Disease

Since the beginning of public health, the local health department has aided in the control of communicable disease. Sexually transmitted diseases such as Chlamydia continue to be the most common reportable disease. There is a consistent increase in the number of Hepatitis C cases mainly due to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention testing recommendations that now include testing anyone born between 1945-1965.

Amebiasis	1
Campylobacteriosis	4
Chlamydia	54
Cryptosporidia	3
Giardiasis	3
Gonorrhea	2
Hepatitis B	1
Hepatitis C chronic	22
Invasive Strep Pneumoniae	3
Mycobacteria non TB	1
Legionellosis	3
Lyme Disease	1
Salmonellosis	3
Shigellosis	1
Viral meningitis	7
Influenza hospitalization	17
Influenza - lab confirmed	9
Influenza - physician diagnosed	36
Communicable Disease Total	171

VISION STATEMENT

All Putnam County Residents will be free of preventable disease and live in a healthy environment.

VITAL STATISTICS

The health department registrar is responsible for filing all births and deaths with the Bureau of Vital Statistics in Columbus. Since January 2011, Ohioans have been able to obtain a certified copy of any Ohio birth record at any local health department. Death certificates, however, must be obtained from the county in which the death occurred.

Certificates Issued in 2015	
Birth Certificates	664
Death Certificates	755

Birth records are available from 1908 – present. You may obtain a certified birth or death record at The Putnam County Health Department during regular business hours. Cost is \$27.00 per certified record. (Cash, check, credit, or debit card are accepted).

Abigail Greve, Registrar

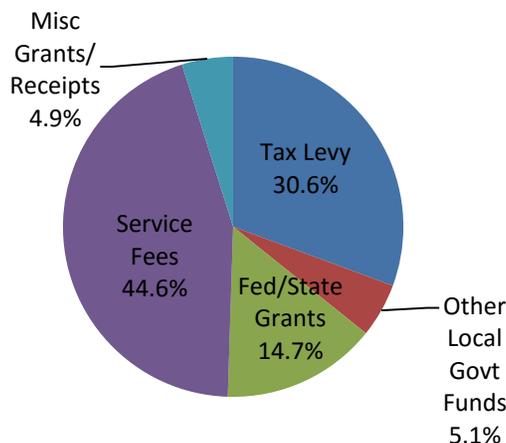
PUBLIC HEALTH: A WISE INVESTMENT

Year 2015 Health Department Funding

Kim Rieman, Health Commissioner

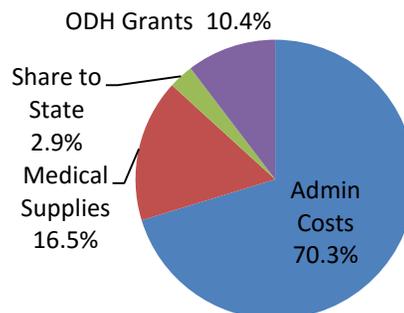
Balance as of January 1, 2015 \$ 798,926.80

REVENUE	
Putnam County Tax Levy	\$370,437.58
Other Local Government Funds	62,189.90
Federal/State Grants/Subsidy	178,200.68
Service Fees	539,850.34
Misc. Grants/ Receipts	58,796.74
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,209,475.24



January 1 Balance + Receipts \$ 2,008,402.04

EXPENSES	
Administrative Costs	\$776,918.24
Medical Supplies	182,457.94
ODH Grants	114,507.23
Share to State	31,727.88
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,105,611.29



Balance as of December 31, 2015 \$ 902,790.75

THANKS TO OUR BOARD OF HEALTH

The Putnam County Board of Health serves both the Putnam County Health Department and Putnam County HomeCare and Hospice. Current members of the Board include Mr. Raymond Brinkman, Mr. Gary Hermiller, Mr. Al Hueve, and Dr. Mandy Klass. A fifth member will be named at the District Advisory Council Meeting in March 2016. All members serving on the Board of Health are required to complete two hours of continuing education each year.

Board of Health Meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Please visit our website at www.putnamhealth.com for meeting location and times.

In 2015 Mr. Jeff Hoyt and Mr. Michael Lammers resigned from their positions on our Board of Health. We would like to thank them for their time on the Board and for their service to the community.