

# Putnam County Health Department

## PCHD Works with Partners to Address MFI, Ebola

### *Working with our Local Partners*

One of the obligations for our Public Health Emergency Grant is to participate in county coalition planning for a Mass Fatality Incident (MFI). An MFI is any incident that results in more fatalities than a local jurisdiction can adequately manage, whether man-made, accidental or intentional. In 2014, our coalition developed a plan under the direction of Dr. Anna Horstman, the county coroner. The Putnam County Health Department (PCHD) partnered in this endeavor to plan for such an event. In addition to the county plan, PCHD also has an agency-specific plan which will be used to guide the activities of our agency in the event of a MFI.

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, the county coalition, along with many other agencies, took part in a Table Top Exercise to test our MFI plans. During the exercise, opportunities for improvement were identified. The coalition will address these items and revise the plan. PCHD staff would like to thank everyone who participated in this exercise and look forward to our continued partnerships.

Regional Partnerships

PCHD is working with our regional partners to plan for a potential incident of Ebola and Other Special Pathogens in our area. This grant focuses on plans for transportation of persons to hospitals to assess for a potential Ebola pathogen or other unknown pathogen and for treatment of those affected. The focus is also on management of wastes from these persons, and how we will share important information with our county partners and residents.

### Did You Know....

- > You can go to the Putnam County Health Department for a birth record of someone born in anywhere in the state of Ohio?
- > Important Nursing activities from our department include immunizations, BCMH visits, communicable disease follow-up and school visits?
- > Environmental Health Programs include our sewage, well and rabies programs, as well as food, campground, body art and pool inspections? We also follow up on nuisances.



### By The Numbers—Nursing Jan 1—Sept 30, 2015

Immunizations (including TB tests)	4,316
School Vision Screenings	1,510
School Scoliosis Screenings	596
BCMh Visits	109
Car Seats Distributed	55
Car Seat Checks	11
Reportable Diseases	75

## Immunization Action Program Earns Award

The Putnam County Health Department partners with the Hancock County Health Department in receiving an immunization grant from the Ohio Department of Health. The activities funded by the IAP grant include providing a physician education program and assessing physician office's immunization rates, assessing the up-to-date rates at Putnam

County Health Department, recalling PCHD clients who are behind on their shots, educating parents about vaccines, and collaborating with WIC and other agencies in efforts to increase our vaccination rates. This year at the *Immunize Ohio Conference*, the PCHD was recognized for having greater than 90% of their clients less than 2 years of age up to date on their immunizations in 2014. We would

like to acknowledge our staff and local partners for helping us protect the children of Putnam County.



Above, Mary Duling, RN with the PCHD is receiving the award from John Joseph, of the Ohio Dept. of Health Immunization Program.

**By The Numbers  
Environmental Health  
Jan 1–Sept 30, 2015**

<b>Food Service/Retail Food Licenses Issued</b>	<b>164</b>
<b>Mobile Licenses Issued</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Pools and Spas</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Campgrounds</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Temporary Campgrounds</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Sewage Treatment System Permits</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Site Evaluations</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Private Water System Permits</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Water Samples</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>Animal Bite Investigations</b>	<b>34</b>

## What is New in Environmental Health?

2015 has been an interesting year! We began the year with new Sewage Treatment System rules, which have brought about many changes and discussions to our office. To address questions raised by our residents and county partners, our staff invited Ohio Department of Health Sewage Treatment Subject Matter Experts to Putnam County. The meeting was open to all citizens, with a special invitation to attorneys, township trustees and realtors as well as health department staff in the surrounding counties. We are currently working with our County Trustee Association to share this information.

To assist residents who find themselves needing financial help to address septic issues, the Environmental Health staff applied for a loan forgiveness grant through the Ohio EPA and Ohio Department of Health. Our department was awarded \$100,000 to utilize for repair or replacement of Household Sewage Treatment Systems. The money is prioritized to the Auglaize River watershed, but any homeowner that meets income guidelines in the county can use the funds.

The staff have attended many trainings to remain up-to-date within our programs and to learn new techniques and information. In the spring, Putnam County Health Department hosted a Pool Training that was open to the 6-Pact Counties (Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding and Williams). The Ohio Department of Health provided the education session. The training offered in-class lecture as well as in-field training and refreshers for the sanitarians in attendance.

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

**By The Numbers  
Vital Statistics  
Jan 1–Sept 30, 2015**

<b>Death Certificates Issued</b>	<b>534</b>
<b>Birth Certificates Issued</b>	<b>534</b>

## Matter of Balance Program Addresses the Fear of Falling

The Putnam County Health Department has partnered with the Putnam County Council on Aging and the Putnam County YMCA to provide the “Matter of Balance” program to seniors in our county. This is an 8 week program that uses group discussion, problem-solving strategies and exercise to help older adults learn methods to reduce the fear of falling and remain active and independent. Through a grant received from the Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership Older Adult Falls Prevention Coalition, three individuals were trained as Matter of Balance Master Trainers. The Master Trainers will train coaches in our community to provide the Matter of Balance program to older adults throughout the county. For more information, contact the health department at 419-523-5608.

## Work on the CHIP Objectives has Begun!

In 2015, the Putnam County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) was unveiled to the community. Health Department staff and community partners are working together to begin addressing the priority areas in our CHIP. One area of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is to focus on obesity. The partners have been meeting to plan programs for schools, promote school and community gardens and provide information about walking and biking routes in our communities. The OSU Extension of Putnam County is offering the Cooking Matters program with great success! This is a program we hope to expand throughout the county.

The other priority areas identified in the CHIP include decreasing alcohol and drug use and improving mental and behavioral health. If you or someone from your agency is interested in learning more about the CHIP or how you can become involved, please call Joan Kline at 419-523-5608 ext 239.

## Accreditation Efforts Continue

In 2014, the State of Ohio, with the support of the Ohio Department of Health passed legislation that all Health Departments must be accreditation-ready by 2018. PCHD is continuing down the path toward accreditation by developing and implementing plans that are required for accreditation. Our board has approved the Quality Improvement Plan and Strategic Plan. The Workforce Development Plan is ready for approval and implementation! Our staff are working to gather documents to show that we meet the standards and measures developed by the Public Health Accreditation Board. Our plan is to submit our letter of intent for accreditation in 2016.

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