



This is public health.

73rd Annual Report to District Advisory Council of Portage County

environmental health ~ communicable disease ~ health promotion
emergency response ~ food safety ~ **nursing services**
community assessment ~ tuberculosis ~ **finance** ~ flu ~ safe water
accreditation ~ prevention ~ nutrition education ~ sanitation
HIV/AIDS ~ **health education** ~ childhood immunizations
preparedness ~ rabies control ~ health fairs ~ partnerships ~ trainings
restaurant inspections ~ epidemiology ~ community education
administration ~ adult immunizations ~ plumbing ~ facility inspections
special needs programs ~ child fatality review ~ safe sleep ~ car seats

Portage County Health Department
annual report 2013

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

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New Location

HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS MOVED
NEW LOCATION:
705 OAKWOOD STREET, 2ND FLOOR
RAVENNA

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CALL 330-296-9919

IMMUNIZATION CLINIC IS LOCATED IMMEDIATELY TO THE LEFT OFF THE ELEVATOR.

In October 2013, the Health Department changed locations from the Portage County Administration Building to 705 Oakwood Street. We are now housed in the same building as Family and Community Services, the Senior Center, Help Me Grow, Portage County Parks and Recreation, Ohio Extension Office, and many more.

We recognize this move may have caused some confusion or disrupted how some residents do business in Portage County. For this, we apologize. The move, however, has proven to be a positive change for the county. The entire health department is now located on one floor. This has allowed our Nursing Division to work more directly with the other divisions in the department. With the passing of the levy, we will be more inline to offer programs for the senior population as well as other special populations.

We look forward to providing the same quality care in our programs as we have in the past as well as increasing the services we can provide to the residents of Portage County. We invite everyone to come visit the new location of your Portage County Health Department.

**Portage County
 Health Department**
 705 Oakwood Street
 2nd Floor
 Ravenna, Ohio 44266
 330-296-9919
 330-297-3597 fax

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

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

2013 will be a year to remember here at the Health Department. After 58 years of trying, the Health District passed its first replacement levy. We acknowledge the support of the Township Trustees, the Record Courier, WNIR, and the citizen groups that helped make this happen. We will for the first time in my 29 years with the Health Department enter into the next year without a fear of insufficient funding. To all of Portage County, my sincere thanks.

The funding could not have come at a better time as the State has passed legislation to require all health departments in Ohio apply to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) for accreditation by 2018 and become accredited by 2021. This is no simple task and will require both additional financial and manpower constraints on the Health Department. However, we see accreditation as a necessary step to assure the citizens of Portage County will have quality public health programs available in the future. In 2014 we will be working with our partners to complete a Community Health Assessment, a Community Health Improvement Plan, and a Strategic Plan for our Department. This will be a needed, but time consuming, move forward for Portage County. We have appointed Karen Towne, BA, BSN, RN, as our Accreditation Coordinator.

We are also continuing talks with Ravenna City to consolidate the two Health Departments. We currently are contracting with Ravenna to do their Nursing and Environmental programs. We believe this consolidation will benefit all the citizens of Portage County and make us stronger as we move towards accreditation.

Finally, in 2013, we made the move from the Portage County Administration Building to 705 Oakwood Street in Ravenna (the Family and Community Services building—The ROC). We are now entirely located on a single floor (2nd) with easily accessible departments. This came at a cost as the County Commissioners found a section in the Ohio Revised Code that makes optional the payment of our rent and utilities. It was their decision to move us from the Administration Building and to no longer pay our rent due to the County's currently tight finances. These costs will now be paid with levy dollars.

Yes, an exciting and busy year that is only the beginning of our commitment to the advancement of public health in the community of Portage County.

Respectfully submitted,



DuWayne Porter, MPH, RS
Health Commissioner



Freedom Township-May, 2013

Environmental Health Services

This past year involved some positive change for Portage County Health Department—relocating to a different building, an improvement in office space, passing a levy after over 50 years of failure, collaborating with the Ravenna City Health Department, and being on the verge of consolidating their health department into PCHD. Our staff has been working on getting organized in its new location. The additional funding from the levy will provide resources to help improve the Department in programs.

On the negative side, the Portage County building industry economy continues to be very slow through 2013. The number of home sewage treatment system permits issued last year, which reflect the number of homes built, was the third lowest on record—89 in 2010, 68 in 2011, 93 in 2013 (2012 had a brief rise to 105, which is still far from the 400-500 which was typical before the recession).

The finalization of creating new home sewage treatment system regulations by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has taken longer than expected. January 2014 was the target completion date. ODH is currently working on the final draft of these regulations, after holding many public review meetings with local health departments, sewage businesses, and building contractors. These regulations will affect the entire state uniformly and will determine how all local health departments must regulate new home sewage treatment systems. The date now being considered for those regulations to become effective is January 2015. It remains to be seen if all the various state government approvals can be accomplished in that time frame and what those final rules will include.

◀ Food Service Inspections

We reduce the chance of the public getting sick from contaminated food and drink through the inspections done by our staff. Food service establishments are inspected up to three times a year by our staff. We also issue permits for establishments that serve and sell food and drink.

What we emphasize during food service inspections:

- ▶ Correct food storage and preparation
- ▶ Proper operation of equipment
- ▶ Employee work practices
- ▶ Cleanliness and maintenance of the facility

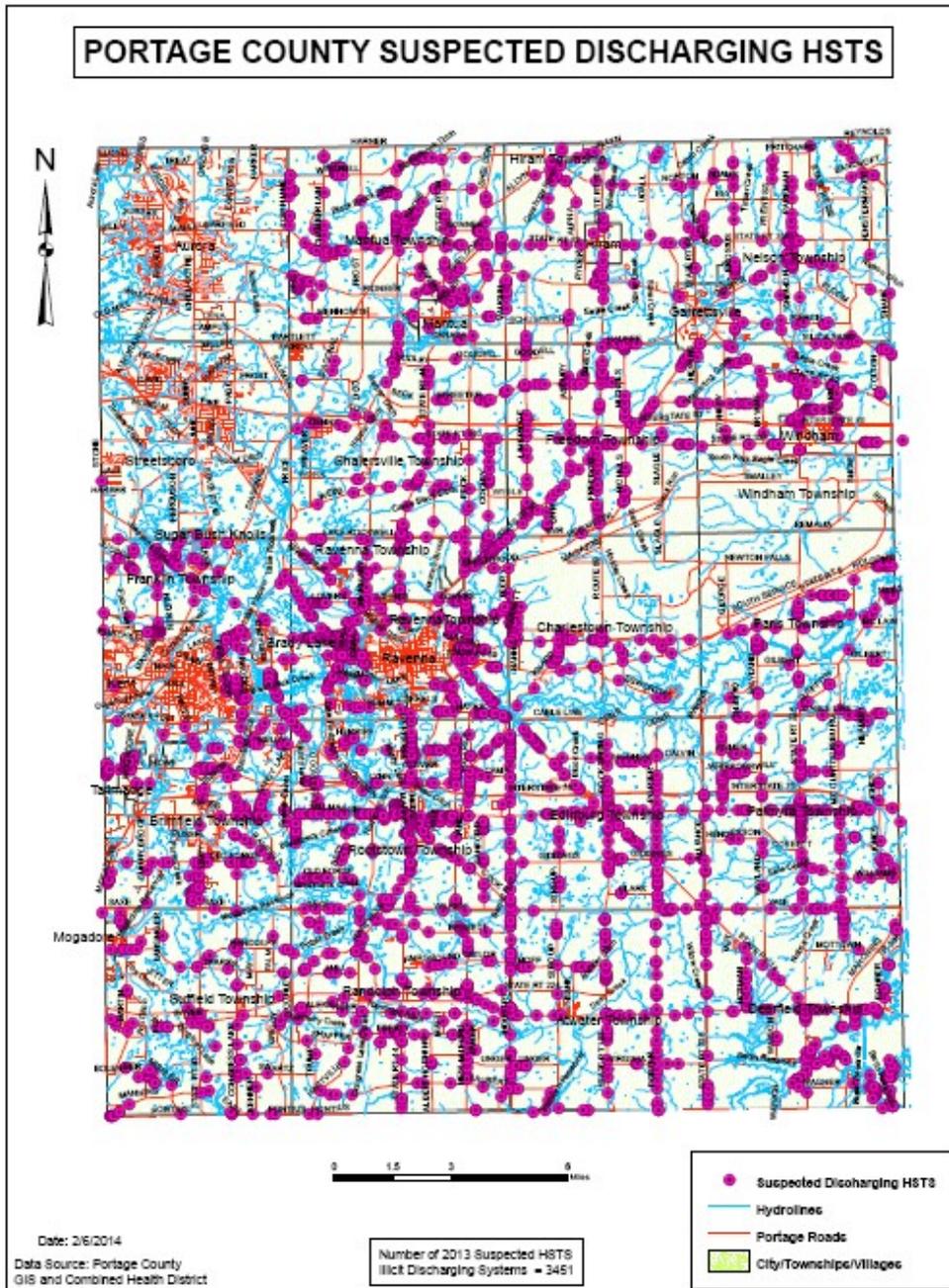


*Headwaters Trail, Hiram Township
Photo taken by Christine Craycroft*

Environmental Programs	Sites	Inspections	Consultations
Home Sewage Systems & Installs	93	628	833
Septic System Lot Evals & Plan Reviews		696	
Aeration System Annual Reviews	367	545	
Home Sale Sewage & Water Evaluations	100	110	51
Private Water Syst Permits & Installs	117	162	80
Water Samples	365		
Storm Water District Illicit Discharges		802	449
Sewage Nuisance Complaints		260	249
Telephone Consults/Emails			10,230
Food Service Operations	402	957	43
Food Establishments	134	460	9
Recreational Camps	38	49	1
Swimming Pools, Spas, & Beaches	73	123	34
Schools	38	117	
Landfill Methane Gas Monitoring		321	
Solid Waste Facilities	7	106	31
Infectious Waste Facilities	5	23	5
Solid & Animal Waste Complaints		396	457
Plumbing Inspections			
Total Number of Inspections	573		41
Plumbing Permits Issued	281		

957	696	802	10,230	573
Food Service Inspections	Septic System Lot Evaluations & Plan Reviews	Storm Water District Illicit Discharge Inspections	Telephone & Email Consultations	Plumbing Inspections

Storm Water Program



Portage County Health Department's Storm Water Program is aimed primarily at illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE) of waste water from non-storm water sources like septic systems to protect the environment, ground and surface waters in accordance with EPA regulations. To achieve the IDDE objective, PCHD investigates suspected septic discharge nuisance complaints in a timely manner. Additionally, about 3,500 suspected discharging systems in our storm water database visually represented in the map on the left will be inspected to verify violations. One thousand two hundred and ninety-six (1296) of these systems are permitted off-lot discharging systems which are also inspected annually. Furthermore, we perform home sale inspection of septic systems before and after sale. Moreover, we sample surface water for microbiological and micro biochemical contamination. We immediately embark on enforcement to correct any illicit discharge or contamination when we find them.

PCHD Storm Water Program recognizes that the success of the program depends largely on community involvement, collaboration between institutions (agencies), support, and cooperation of our citizens. The program will therefore continue to count on the understanding and support of all stakeholders to make the goal of achieving sustainable environmental and water quality a success.



Dye testing is used to find failing systems when the discharging point is far from the septic system and it is not obvious to find the discharging location.

Left: Failing home septic system that home owner connected 4 inch pipe to septic tanks and discharged waste into road ditch without pretreatment.

Right: Illicit discharge from common drain pipe taking sewage from neighborhood and dumping waste water onto private property.



Left: Storm Water Program Staff: Kevin Watson, Amos Sarfo, and Chris Novelli

Nursing Services

The PCHD Nursing 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.

<p>3208 Childhood Immunizations</p>	<p>560 Communicable Disease Investigations</p>	<p>415 Bureau for Children with Developmental & Special Needs</p>	<p>1704 Seasonal Influenza Shots</p>	<p>244 Rabies Control Investigations</p>
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Nursing Service Programs

Communicable Disease

- ▶ 560 Investigations

TB and TB Testing

- ▶ 311 TB Tests Administered
- ▶ 1 active case

Childhood Immunizations

- ▶ 3208 Immunizations Administered

Adult Immunizations

- ▶ 1399 Immunizations Administered

International Travel Clinics

- ▶ 62 Travel Clinics
- ▶ 318 Immunizations Administered

Seasonal Influenza

- ▶ 38 Flu Clinics
- ▶ 1704 Flu Shots Administered

Bureau for Children with Developmental & Special Needs

- ▶ 415 Active Participants
- ▶ 329 Contacts

Animal Bites/Rabies Control

- ▶ 244 Animal Bite Investigations



Rose Ferraro and James Bierlair at a Community Immunization Clinic at the Ravenna Farmer's Market.

◀ Communicable Disease Control

PCHD 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.

◀ Immunizations

PCHD provides immunizations for children 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 noon. as a walk-in clinic. Adult clinics are every Tuesday morning from 8:00 am-10:00 am, by appointment.

◀ International Travel Clinics

Before boarding a plane or ship 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.

◀ Prevention of Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

Pertussis is highly contagious and is one of the most commonly occurring vaccine-preventable diseases in the US. It is spread by coughing or sneezing while in close contact with others. Many infants who get pertussis are infected by older siblings, parents, or other caregivers who might not even know they have the disease. Because of this, ODH has made available the Tdap vaccine to be given free of charge to parents, grandparents, and caregivers of children under the age of 5 years. This vaccine is available at PCHD by appointment. Call 330-298-4490 to schedule an appointment.

◀ Bureau for Children with Developmental & Special Needs (BCMNH)

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



cerebral palsy, diabetes, cystic fibrosis, hearing loss, spina bifida



A Message From the Medical Director

Much of what we do at the Portage County Health Department 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 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 establishment and grocery store in the County (except for Kent City) 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 support of Public Health in Portage County!

Daniel J. Raub, DO, MA, FACOFP

Health Education and Promotion

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. Health Education and Promotion offers numerous programs and activities that are designed to improve the quality of life, prevent the onset of disease, and protect the health of Portage County residents.

◀ Communications and Publications

Communications to the public are coordinated by the Health Education and Promotion office. This includes management of the PCHD website, media coverage, and educational materials. PCHD is also considering the use of social media as a way of disseminating information to the residents of Portage County. One of the biggest activities for communicating to the public involved the media campaign for the move to Oakwood Street. Various means of communication were used including press releases, signage, advertisements, PCHD website updates, and flyers.

Messaging activities include:

- ▶ 12 Health Tribunes
- ▶ 26 Press Releases
- ▶ 12 Advertisements
- ▶ 4 School Newsletters
- ▶ 132 Website updates

**Know your status,
know your health** 

FREE HIV TESTING
Quick Tests:
Result at the End of Session
Oral Tests: No Needles
Provided by the
Portage County Health Department

Call 330-296-9919
Kat, Ext. 107 or Becky, Ext. 137

Weekly ad placed in the Record Courier advertising free HIV testing.

◀ Wellness Conference

PCHD hosted two Wellness Conferences in 2013. Both conferences offered an abbreviated version of the A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lock down, Inform, Counter, and Escape) Program. This program encourages community members to take an active role in their own survival during an active shooter/active threat incident. Participants of both conferences included Portage County residents, government employees, school personnel, hospital staff, and staff from various local service agencies. Funding for the Wellness Conferences was provided by the PHEP grant and the Ravenna Elks Lodge #1076.

THANK YOU Ravenna Elks Lodge and The Portage Foundation!

▶ The Ravenna Elks Lodge awarded PCHD with the Promise Grant in October 2013 in the amount of \$1000. This grant was used to purchase 17 car seats. These car seats were distributed to families who could not otherwise afford them at a PCHD Health and Safety Fair at the Brimfield Police Department. Members of the Ravenna Elks Lodge #1076 volunteered at the event.

▶ PCHD once again received funding from The Portage Foundation in the amount of \$500. This grant was given for the purchase of car seats to be distributed to families who could not otherwise afford them. 10 car seats were purchased and distributed using this grant.



Angie Earle educates families on car seats during a Car Seat Safety Event.

◀ Ohio Buckles Buckeye Program

PCHD receives car seats to be given to low-income families from the Ohio Department of Health. PCHD has two Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians on staff to assist Portage County residents with child safety seat installations and education.

◀ 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, PCHD Health Education is committed to providing education on infant safe sleep to parents, grandparents and guardians of children under the age of one year.



Safe Sleep Messaging activities include:

- ▶ Education distributed at health fairs and farmer's markets
- ▶ Education classes to HeadStart and WIC participants
- ▶ Safe Sleep educational materials given to Portage County OB/GYN's, Pediatricians, and Moms-in-Training participants

◀ Kids Fun Fair

PCHD hosted a Kids Fun Fair in August 2013 at the Windham Renaissance Family Center. Educational information and nutritious snacks were provided by PCHD, Portage County WIC, Robinson Memorial Hospital, Portage Learning Centers, Portage County Safe Communities Coalition, and Kent State University Center of Nutrition Outreach. PCHD distributed 75 bicycle helmets to children of families who could not otherwise afford them.



45
HIV
Tests
Administered

80
Child
Safety Seats
Distributed

750
Safe Sleep
Messages
Distributed

75
Bicycle
Helmets
Distributed

192+
Communication
Messages

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.

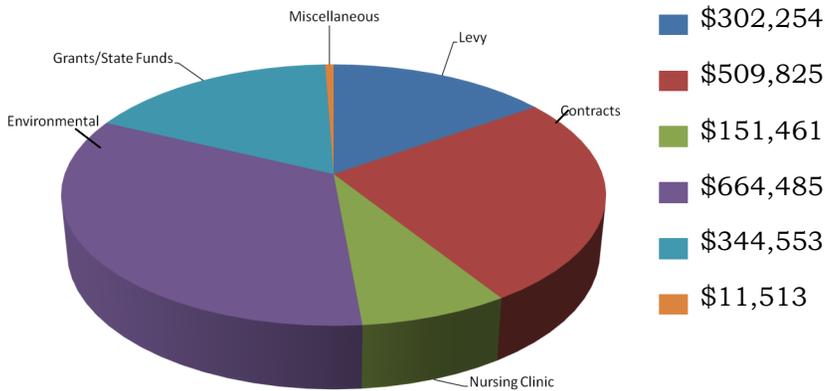
- The Administrative Division is responsible for ensuring the daily operations, which includes personnel, personal and vocal interactions with the public, written correspondence to the public as a result of field personnel’s investigations and inspections, and clerical support for environmental programs 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.

For many years the health department has worked with a limited budget. In 2009, PCHD received monies from the Public Health Emergency Response grant for the response of H1N1 efforts. In 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012, PCHD received chargeback monies from the townships. Grant dollars and this “extra” income was necessary for the health department to maintain mandated programs. With the continued vigilance of the health department staff, PCHD was able to continue our work for public health and also build a carryover of funds needed for the beginning of each year.

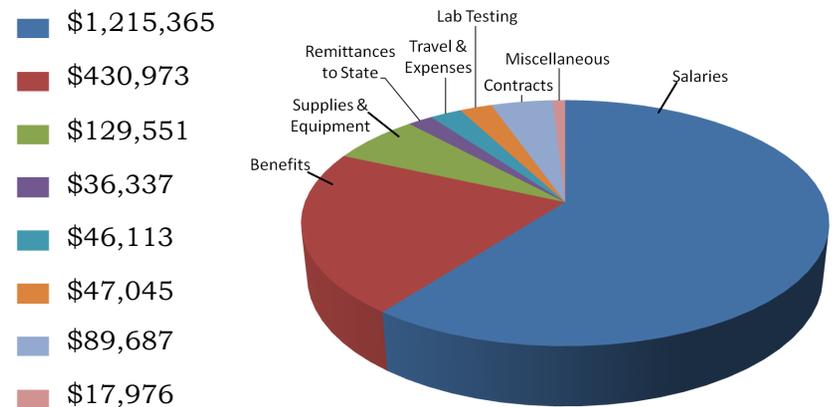
In 2013, PCHD stopped receiving charge backs from the townships. However, additional expenses were added with the move to our new location. As many of these expenses will continue and the plans to expand programming, thanks to the voters of Portage County, we will be able to maintain our commitment to the residents.

Total Operating Budget: \$2,013,047 (includes local, state, and federal funds, grants, fees collected)

Where the money comes from...Revenue



Where the money goes...Expenses



Becky Lehman, Judi Rettig, and Marianne Kitakis during the Open House held in April.



Melissa Akers helps guide PCHD customers where they need to go within the health department.



Lloyd Groves and Jack Madved were available to answer environmental health questions during the Open House.

Grants Provide Opportunities

In 2013, Portage County Health Department received awards for funding for four grants from the Ohio Department of Health.

◀ 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 2013 include Kent State University Center for Nutrition Outreach, Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County, Children's Advantage, and Summit County Public Health.

The services for the last three years include:

- ▶ Maternal and child community health assessment, which brings together 40 agencies serving residents to address health issues impacting Portage County
- ▶ The release of the Portage County Maternal and Child Health Indicators Report, which is available on the PCHD website at www.co.portage.oh.us/healthdeptpdfs/HIR.pdf.
- ▶ Community outreach on infant safe sleep practices to reduce the incidence of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
- ▶ Improving access to Medicaid and local social service resources for children and families
- ▶ Nutrition education for local preschools
- ▶ Nutrition education for school-aged children, including school-based programs, social nutrition and physical education programs, and family-based nutrition counseling programs
- ▶ Linking nutrition services with mental health counseling to enhance over all mental, physical, and emotional health

*Heather Demming from
KSU Center for Nutrition
Outreach providing
nutrition education to
health fair participants.*



◀ HIV:

In July 2013, PCHD received grant funding from Summit County Public Health to provide free HIV testing and education. Two PCHD Health Education staff are certified HIV counselors. To remove barriers for testing, free HIV testing is provided throughout the county at various locations.

The activities for 2013 include:

- ▶ 45 Tests Administered
- ▶ Community Testing Sites
- ▶ World AIDS Day Activities at KSU and Hiram College
- ▶ Community Education Programs
- ▶ HIV Education Presentations

**GETTING TO
ZERO**



◀ Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP):

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

The activities for 2013 include:

- ▶ NECO Region Exercise through partnerships with Robinson Memorial Hospital and Portage County Emergency Management Agency
- ▶ Point of Dispensing (POD) Drill with KSU School of Nursing
- ▶ "Real-life" Crisis Communication Exercise
- ▶ Wellness Conference on Active Shooter/Active Threat
- ▶ Community Education on Emergency Preparedness
- ▶ Emergency Preparedness Presentation for Seniors
- ▶ Medical Reserve Corps call-up for Influenza Community Clinics
~119 Portage County MRC Volunteers



*Wellness Conference:
attended by county
employees, community
agencies staff, school
personnel, law enforce-
ment, and Portage County
residents.*

◀ 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.

The activities for 2013 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, farmer's markets, etc.



Be Wise... Immunize!!!

Public Health Accreditation

A Word on Accreditation from DuWayne Porter, Health Commissioner

The Portage County Health Department is excited to announce that we have initiated the process of public health accreditation in 2013. Accreditation is based on standards that health departments can put into practice to ensure continuously improving services for the community. These standards are based on the Ten Essential Services of Public Health. Departments can obtain accreditation through the national accrediting organization for public health departments, the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). There are many benefits of Accreditation that will result in the identification of successes and opportunities for improvement, promotion of quality initiatives, an energized workforce, and alignment with our strategic objectives.



Our health department is committed to becoming Accredited and has begun the process to do so. Karen Towne, BA, BSN, RN has been named as the Accreditation Coordinator. Working alongside the Health Commissioner, the Accreditation Team has been assigned. This team consists of representatives from each Division and every professional level. The next big steps towards Accreditation is the completion of the Community Health Assessment (CHA), the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), and the Department Strategic Plan.

While this process may be challenging, the efforts will be rewarded with increased opportunities for funding and improvement of the services provided by the Health Department into the community. We are excited to begin the process of Accreditation and look forward to improving our services to the residents of Portage County.

Changes in Staff

There have been many staff changes in 2013. April of 2013 saw the retirement of Carey Meissner after 30 years of service to the health department as an Account Clerk. The vacancy in this position was filled by Carol Pillsbury; and Melissa Akers was hired to fill the position opened by Carol. We will miss Carey's precision and accuracy in her work. We wish Carey well in her retirement.

In June, Jessica Offineer, BS, joined the health department staff as a Sanitarian-in-Training. Jessica does routine inspections of schools and food establishments. Kat Holtz, BS, joined the health department in July. Kat was hired for the newly acquired HIV grant that provides free HIV testing for Portage County residents. October had three staff changes. Allison Mitchell, BSPH, joined the health department as a Health Educator. Ali's focus is on the creation of educational materials, health promotion programming, and immunization education for parents. Julie Wrona left the health department to return to her former employer. Julie's position as Nursing Clerk was filled by the hiring of Kayla Bauman. Kayla is responsible for the running of the Immunization Clinics, the entering of immunizations into a data system, and the communications with the public. Additional changes in the Nursing Division included the resignation of Melissa Devlin as Nursing Billing Clerk. That position was filled by the hiring of Mary McDaniel. Mary is responsible for billing for Medicaid, Medicare, and third-party billing for the Nursing Division.



Pictured: Kayla Bauman, Mary McDaniel, Kat Holtz, Ali Mitchell, and Jessie Offineer

Friends of Public Health

Portage County Health Department is please to announce Ralph Kletzien as 2014's Friends of Public Health recipient.

Ralph's professional career in the health care field began as a Commissioned Officer with the U.S. Public Health Service in the Rural Health Division and National Institute of Health. His work has taken him from Pennsylvania to Indiana and Illinois leading him to our corner of Ohio. He spent over 31 years in health care administration, 14 years in non-profit leadership, and serviced on numerous boards and foundations. It is difficult to name a local non-profit group he hasn't worked with! They include the Portage County American Red Cross, United Way, Coleman Foundation, Healthy Community Partnership of Portage County, The Portage Foundation, Kent Free Library, the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities, the Portage Economic Development Board, the Public Health Task Force, AxessPointe Community Health Center, and the Rotary Club of Kent.

He and his wife of 41 years, Judy, raised two sons, Peter and William, and now enjoy their granddaughter Maevis. Ralph is active in the life of the United Church of Christ in Kent. Along with his vast amount of professional activities, he has accompanied KSU students on seven trips to Mississippi to provide post Katrina relief.

Ralph Kletzien has been chosen as this year's Friend of Public Health due to his tireless demonstration of leadership and advocacy to the health of Portage County residents, as well as his innovative solutions to local public health problems.

Voters Elect

2013 Advisory Council

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

Members: Chairmen of Township Trustees

Atwater	.....	John Kovacich
Brimfield	.....	Mike Kostensky
Charlestown	.....	Bruce Lange
Deerfield	.....	Ed Dean
Edinburg	.....	Diane Hargett Austin
Franklin	.....	Keith Benjamin
Freedom	.....	Roy Martin
Hiram	.....	Kathy Schulda
Mantua	.....	Jason Carlton
Nelson	.....	Tom Matota
Palmyra	.....	Henry Michael
Paris	.....	Dorene Spicer
Randolph	.....	Roger Klodt
Ravenna	.....	Vince Coia
Rootstown	.....	Brett Housley
Shalersville	.....	Dennis J. Bujak
Suffield	.....	Thomas Calcei
Windham	.....	Brian Miller

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

Mayors of Cities and Villages

Aurora City	.....	James Fisher
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	.....	Vicki Kline
Auditor	.....	Janet Esposito

Portage County Commissioners

Kathleen Chandler—President
Maureen T. Frederick
Tommie Jo Marsilio

Health Department Administration

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

Board of Health



Robert Palmer
President



Robert Howard
Vice President



Bonnie Bailey
Member
Streetsboro



Howard Minott
Member
Aurora



James Bierlair
Member



Amy Hammar
Licensing
Council Rep.



Dale Miller
Resigned
August 2013

Portage County Health Department Staff

DuWayne Porter, MPH, RS

Health Commissioner

Daniel Raub, DO, MA, FACOFP

Medical Director

Administrative Division

Dorothy Filing

Administrative Director

Melissa Akers

Administrative Clerk

Finance Division

Debbie Stall

Finance Director

Judi Rettig, BA

Account Clerk

Fiscal Grant Manager

Carol Pillsbury, BBA

Account Clerk

Health Education & Promotion Division

Becky Lehman, MPH

Health Education Director

Alison Mitchell, BSPH

Health Educator

Kat Holtz, BS

Health Educator/HIV Specialist

Environmental Division

Loyd Groves, BS, RS

Environmental Director

Jack Madved, BS, RS

Registered Sanitarian

Beth Ahrens, BS, RS

Registered Sanitarian

Richard Lashley, BS, RS

Registered Sanitarian

Kevin Watson, BS, RS

Waster Water Specialist/
Supervisor

Stanley Carlisle, MPH, RS

Registered Sanitarian

Amos Sarfo, MS, RS

Registered Sanitarian

Tom Brannon

Environmental Technician

Chris Novelli, BS

Sanitarian-in-training

Keith Riley, PE

Sanitarian-in-training

Jessica Offineer, BS

Sanitarian-in-Training

Ken Dye

Certified Plumbing Inspector

Nursing Division

Rosemary Ferraro, MSN, RN

Nursing Director

Karen Towne, BA, BSN, RN

Nursing Supervisor

Accreditation Coordinator

Kim Villers, BSN, RN

Emergency Preparedness
Coordinator

Angie Earle, BS, BSN, RN

Public Health Nurse

Tier 1 Epidemiologist

Catherine Gellatly, BSN, RN

BCMh Public Health Nurse

Marianne Kitakis, BSN, RN

Public Health Nurse

Tier 1 Epidemiologist

Sherry Halas, BSN, RN

Public Health Nurse

Kayla Bauman

Nursing Clerk

Mary McDaniel

Nursing Billing Clerk

Thank You!

FOR SUPPORTING
PUBLIC HEALTH



From all of us to all of you....

Thank you for letting us improve our services for you!

Handwritten signatures of staff members including: DuWayne Porter, Daniel Raub, Dorothy Filing, Melissa Akers, Debbie Stall, Judi Rettig, Carol Pillsbury, Becky Lehman, Alison Mitchell, Kat Holtz, Loyd Groves, Jack Madved, Beth Ahrens, Richard Lashley, Kevin Watson, Stanley Carlisle, Amos Sarfo, Tom Brannon, Chris Novelli, Keith Riley, Jessica Offineer, Ken Dye, Rosemary Ferraro, Karen Towne, Kim Villers, Angie Earle, Catherine Gellatly, Marianne Kitakis, Sherry Halas, Kayla Bauman, and Mary McDaniel.

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