



APPLETON HEALTH DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY REPORT July 1 - September 30, 2019

Executive Summary

The Health Department's day-to-day activities for the third quarter of 2019 are enumerated in the attached report. The Department continues to work toward fulfilling the goals of our Department, keeping in mind the belief statements that support and enhance our mission statement.

“Plays a vital role assessing and assuring the health needs and trade practices in the community”

Weights & Measures Specialist, Todd Schmidt, inspected the Appleton Downtown Inc., Farm Market on August 31, 2019. Of the 102 vendors inspected, there were 3 vendors with labeling issues and 2 vendors with unapproved scales. The overall compliance was very high. Weights and Measures staff met with vendors in May for the annual information meeting which provides information regarding recent changes in policies. The meeting which is mandatory to participate as a vendor provides a foundation for high compliance throughout the Farm Markets summer duration. Routine inspections provide value to the community and assures all scales for measured weight have been certified.

Weights & Measures Specialist, Keith Verhagen, conducted Weights and Measures inspections at the 2019 Octoberfest celebration held on September 28, 2019. There were 24 vendors inspected for Weights and Measures compliance of product labeling and trade practice regulations. Booths selling various items such as prepacked retail food products, herbal soaps and honey products were inspected. These items need to be labeled and sold either by weight or measure, depending on the product type. There were two minor violations found that were fixed at the time of inspection.

“Provides services to protect and promote the health and well-being of the citizen and consumer”

This quarter Cassidy Walsh accepted the newly created position of City Emergency Manager. Cassidy comes with experience from serving at Sauk County public health department and in her role will also provide guidance to the public health preparedness contracted communities that we serve.

On July 20th, the City of Appleton experienced a large-scale disaster that effected 17 counties and two tribes with severe storms amounting to over \$19.5 million in damages. The Emergency Management Coordinator Cassidy Walsh, DPW Director Paula Vandehey, DPW Office Manager Carrie Minges, and Battalion Chief Ethan Kroll attended the FEMA Preliminary Damage Assessment on August 13th. That meeting, combined with other damage assessment meetings across the 17 counties and two tribes, provided enough evidence to support a Presidential Declaration, which granted eligibility for the City of Appleton to apply for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement funding. A multitude of meetings with FEMA and Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) will take place over the next several months to years in order to receive reimbursement. FEMA will reimburse 75% of the overall eligible costs, WEM will cover 12% of the eligible costs, and the City of Appleton will cover the remainder. The next meeting that the Emergency Management Coordinator, DPW Director, DPW Deputy Director, DPW Office Manager, and the Battalion Chief attended was the Applicant Briefing on September 9th. This meeting was led by WEM, giving all the applicants in Outagamie County a brief overview of the process for reimbursement from FEMA and access to the grant funding system. The next steps in October will be the Exploratory Phone Call and the Recovery Scoping Meeting.

A Storm Debrief, held at MSB, was conducted on August 22nd to discuss the successes and lessons learned during the disaster in July. Several DPW employees, Fire representatives, Police representatives, the Communications Coordinator Chad Doran, GIS representatives, and Cassidy Walsh were present. The group discussed the use of the GIS Storm Clean up Tool during the cleanup response, the prioritizing of sections of the city to clean, the stand-up of the Emergency Operations Center, and the communication with the public. Overall the group was satisfied with the response.

In August and September, a total of 6 bats were sent in for rabies testing. Although we usually see an increase in bat exposures in the fall, this was an unusually high number in this short time. All bats tested negative for rabies.

This year, there were 62 food stand inspections and 6 re-inspections conducted by the Health Department during License to Cruise and Octoberfest. Nine (9) food stand inspections were conducted at License to Cruise. 53 non-profit food stand inspections were conducted at Octoberfest.

Of the 62 stands that were inspected this year, 47 food stands had *no violations* at the time of the inspection (76%). There was a total of 19 violations recorded at 13 food stands during Octoberfest and 2 violations found at 2 food stands at License to Cruise.

For comparison, in 2017 there were 86 food stand inspections and 10 re-inspections conducted during License to Cruise and Oktoberfest. 67 food stands had no violations at the time of the inspection (78%). There was a total of 27 violations recorded at 17 food stands during Oktoberfest and 3 violations found at 2 food stands at License to Cruise.

Of the points that are checked during an inspection, some items are critical, and some are non-critical, but all have a potential impact on the health and safety of the general public. A breakdown of violations found at this year's events are listed below.

There were:

- 4 notices of non-compliance with hand washing (lack of hand wash facilities or soap and toweling, improper facilities, inadequate hand washing frequency).
- 7 notices of non-compliance with hot food storage temperatures (<135 degrees).
- 7 notices of non-compliance with cold food storage temperatures (>41 degrees).
- 2 notices of inadequate spare utensils on hand.
- 0 notice of non-compliance with food thermometers
- 0 notice of non-compliance with bare hand contact with food
- 1 notices of food stand construction/lack of screening
- 0 notice of miscellaneous violations.

Environmental and Nursing staff worked with the family of a child diagnosed with an Elevated Blood Lead Level (EBLL). The family had already been working with Community and Economic Development's Housing Rehabilitation Program. Our two departments then worked together to perform a Lead Risk Assessment on the home and identify lead paint hazards to be corrected. The correction of these hazards was then written into the rehab program's scope of work. A Lead Abatement Contractor is currently addressing the lead issues in the home along with other needed renovation work through the rehab program grant.

“Communicates with the public on health and consumer related issues”

This quarter staff presented on a variety of topics including:

July 7th, Public health nurses Jess Moyle and Krista Waterstradt presented on Communicable Diseases in Child Care to staff at Bridges Child Enrichment Center, nineteen staff were in attendance.

August 5th, Public health nurses Val Davis and Krista Waterstradt presented on Communicable Diseases in Child Care to staff at the Appleton Downtown YMCA, twenty-one staff were in attendance.

August 14th, Health officer Eggebrecht presented to members and guests of the Appleton Historical Society held at St. Bernadette Church. His presentation focused on the history of the Appleton Health Department and the 1918 influenza pandemic.

September 13, Public health nurse Jess Moyle presented on the topic of Breastfeeding to eight incoming AmeriCorps staff. This presentation was held at the United Way Fox Cities.

September 16th, Public health nurse Kathleen Sprangers presented on the topics of Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Immunizations to a Mom and Me class at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center – Appleton. Eighteen Moms were in attendance.

September 26, Public health nurse Jess Moyle presented at the Wisconsin Breastfeeding Coalition Summit in Marshfield. She presented on the Community Conversations that were hosted by the Breastfeeding Alliance of Northeast Wisconsin earlier this year. Seventy-three professionals attended the conference.

“Provides services in a cost effective and efficient manner”

This quarter Health Officer Eggebrecht assisted Outagamie County with reviewing their Fatality Management Plan.

August 20th, several staff of the department participated in a special conference call coordinated by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services regarding the rapid rise of diagnosed cases of lung damage due to the use of vaping products. In turn our department shared this information with local physicians to elevate the level of suspicion when similar symptoms are reported.

“Develops and evaluates departmental programs, policies and procedures based on community needs and collaborate with community agencies and providers to assess those needs and ensure high quality services”

This quarter, several targeted community listening sessions were conducted by department staff. The purpose of these sessions was to identify vital improvements and barriers to achieve optimal health for our community. This information will be included in our next Community Health Assessment.

This quarter Health Officer Eggebrecht has participated in public health planning for the Democratic National Convention to be held in Milwaukee. The focus of this planning team is to address potential threats from a national perspective is the focus of this planning team.

Public health nursing staff worked with World Relief Fox Valley and various partners in the Appleton community to welcome 22 refugees during the months of July, August and September of 2019.

July 17th, the Appleton Health Department hosted representatives from the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), Division of Refugee Health for a program monitoring visit. No compliance issues were found during the visit.

The 8th Annual Breastfeeding Walk, hosted by the Breastfeeding Alliance Network of Northeast Wisconsin (BFAN), took place on August 3rd in Appleton. The walk is to celebrate World Breastfeeding Week and to raise awareness about the importance of breastfeeding. Public Health Nurses Becky Lindberg and Jess Moyle worked with their fellow BFAN members to help make the walk a success. There were thirty-six participants at the walk.

August 29th, Health Officer Eggebrecht participated in the ThedaCare Plunge on Addiction. This day long event took a group of local professionals in the field to learn more about the progression of addiction and how it impacts individuals, families and whole communities. Two days were of special interest vaping of nicotine and opiates, due to their high addiction rates and the changes to brain development.

Public health nurses Becky Lindberg and Jess Moyle met with staff at WHBY Radio about being designated a Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace on September 9th.

September 10th, Health Officer Eggebrecht joined other invited partners to review and provide feedback on ThedaCare's Community Health Improvement Plan. ThedaCare serves a nine-county region.

September 16th, Health Officer Eggebrecht participated in the quarterly meeting for the task force advising the development of the new State Health Plan. This new plan will result in setting the future direction for state and local communities to address the underlying drivers of health, often referred to as, social determinates of health. These include: education, transportation, housing, employment and social support.

The Appleton Health Department Immunization program completed the required Vaccines for Children Program Site Visit on September 30th. No compliance issues were found during the audit.

This year, the Octoberfest Board held a vendor-training meeting for new organizations participating in the event and anyone else wishing to attend. All other vendors were required to take an on-line test upon signing up for the event.

“Professional staff works together as a cohesive team by cooperating, communicating and supporting each other to achieve departmental and individual goals”

This quarter staff participated in several learning opportunities including:

July 9th – 11th, Health Officer Eggebrecht attended the National Association of City and County Health Officers. The theme was “Improving the National Health through Public and Private Partnerships.” Which highlighted the importance of cross-sector partnerships to improve outcomes in communities thought-out the country.

July 17th, public health nurses Val Davis and Jena McNiell attended the Regional Partner Services update in Steven Point.

August 21st, Health Officer Eggebrecht and Public Health Nurse Julie Erickson attended the Opiate Conference held at the Red Lion Hotel in Appleton. This event was supported though public health grant funds from the state. This regional training was for EMT, law enforcement, public health and the medical community to learn more about the progression of changes in the brain as a result of exposure to opiates.

September 11th – 12th, public health nurses Val Davis and Kathleen Sprangers attended the Statewide Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Conference in Rothschild.

September 12th, Emergency Management Coordinator Cassidy Walsh attended the Wisconsin Emergency Management Association Conference in Stevens Point. The conference highlighted the need to prepare for the worst case scenario and lessons learned from managing large incidents that occurred in 2018 in Wisconsin. The morning presenter was the former head of the U.S. Virgin Island Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA), Mona Barnes. Although Wisconsin does not experience hurricanes, we did learn how to expand creativity through networking with unlikely partners to meet the needs of those affected by disaster. The afternoon sessions were from Wisconsinites that lead the search for Jayme Closs and responders to the Husky Refinery Explosion. Several lessons were learned during these two disasters.

Cassidy Walsh attended a 16 hour training called “Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Management and Operations” from September 17th through September 18th. The training opportunity was offered through WEM, who typically will assist EOC efforts during and after a disaster. The instruction was presented by Homeland Security Principal Training Analyst, William Tyler. The course explored the design, functions, and role of the EOC and the relation to a Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS). The training provided disaster-related examples, activities, and case studies related to EOCs and MACS. Continuity of Operations (COOP) planning, effective organizational structures, situational awareness, and integrating call centers and public information concepts were also discussed and explored during the 16 hours. EOC and MACS are essential in the response to all man-made and natural disasters. The training provided insight on how to establish an EOC and best practices for operating one in a community.

September 18th, public health nursing supervisor Sonja Jensen attended the 2019 Wisconsin Clinical Laboratory Network annual regional meeting at Liberty Hall in Kimberly.

September 25th – 27th, public health nurse Krista Waterstradt attended the training, “Great Beginnings Start Before Birth”, in Oshkosh.

September 26th, public health nurses Becky Lindberg and Jess Moyle attended the Wisconsin Breastfeeding Coalition Summit in Marshfield. The theme at the conference was, “How breastfeeding support can integrate maternal child mental health, sleep and fatigue management and infant outcomes”.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Eggebrecht, M.Ed., MCHES
Health Officer