

# APPLETON HEALTH DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY REPORT July – September 2015

## Executive Summary

*The Health Department's day-to-day activities for the first quarter of 2015 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, James Richter, inspected the Appleton Downtown Inc., Farm Market on August 1, 2015. Of the 140 vendors inspected. There were eight vendors without the correct signage or labeling issues. The overall compliance was very high. Weights and Measures staff met with farm market vendors in June for the annual meeting which provides information regarding recent changes in policies as well as going over rules and expectations. The meeting which is mandatory provides a great foundation for high compliance throughout the Farm Markets summer duration.

City Sealer, Eric Maggio conducted Weights and Measures inspections at the 2015 Octoberfest celebration on September 26, 2015. There were 43 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 must be fully labeled and sold either by weight or measure, depending on the product type. This year there were three minor violations found.

Each year, the Octoberfest organizers provide training to the participants of Octoberfest. They require attendance at one of two scheduled vendor-training meetings in order to participate in the event. Health Department staff provides the food service training and Weights & Measures requirements. The Police and Fire departments, as well as the Chamber of Commerce personnel relay other important information to the vendors during these training meetings to keep the event safe. This year, there were over 250 people present at the training meetings.

This year, there were 100 food stand inspections and 9 re-inspections conducted by the Health Department during License to Cruise and Octoberfest. Eleven (11) food stand inspections were conducted at License to Cruise. Eighty nine (89) non-profit food stand inspections were conducted at Octoberfest. Of the 100 stands that were inspected this year, 69

food stands had no violations at the time of the inspection (69%). There were a total of 28 violations recorded at 20 food stands during Oktoberfest and 12 violations found at 5 food stands at License to Cruise.

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

In July, Environmental Health Inspector Steve Kihl, RS investigated a consumer’s concerns regarding tuna he recently had at Pullman’s Restaurant. He said he felt sick after consuming a portion and had concerns the tuna was part of a national recent tuna recall. Kihl let the consumer know that the restaurant uses a different supplier than the tuna implicated in the recent Salmonella recall. Given this, and the quick onset of symptoms and fairly quick recovery, Kihl did not believe this is related to a Salmonella infection. He did, however, find that their storage conditions for the raw tuna were above required temperatures. All the thawed tuna in this unit was ordered to be discarded and corrective action was taken. After relaying his findings, the consumer said he was “Glad to see people like you protecting the public’s health and welfare”!

Environmentalist Michelle Roberts, RS conducted food stand inspections at the annual Art in the Park event on July 26, 2015. Several Food code violations were found during the inspections.

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

During the summer of 2015, Appleton Health Department staff, along with staff at multiple local health agencies across the state and the Wisconsin Division of Public Health, investigated an outbreak of blastomycosis. This outbreak was among people who visited the Little Wolf River in Waupaca County, near New London, on or after Memorial Day weekend (May 23-25, 2015) and continued into float trips through August. Signs and symptoms of infection may develop 2-15 weeks after exposure, so cases were investigated throughout the summer and early fall. Although many more became ill, Appleton public health nursing staff provided investigation, education and follow-up for 7 confirmed and 2 probable cases of Appleton residents during the third quarter of 2015. Health Officer Eggebrecht communicated with the public numerous times by TV, radio and print media as well as updates to the Board of Health.

Public Health Nurse, Becky Lindberg, RN provided an overview of the Youth Mental Health First Aid Program to state and local health department partners during the Mental Health Focused On-Line Learning Community on August 24. 12 public health professionals were in attendance.

Public Health Nurses Ann Steele, RN and Jess Moyle, RN provided education on “Communicable Disease Prevention and Control in the Daycare”, to 40 childcare providers and parents at the YMCA Child Learning Center on September 15.

***“Provides services in a cost effective and efficient manner”***

The Environmental Health Program serves as a state agent for establishment inspections. The State license year runs from July 1 through June 30. Establishments that have not paid their license renewal fees on or before June 30 are subject to a late fee of \$95.00. This year, 36 establishments were required to pay the late fee, (34 in 2014). The city municipal ordinance also states “Establishments operating on July 15 without a proper license shall be ordered closed by the Health Officer.” With the assistance the Appleton Police Department, three bars were closed after midnight on July 15 for operating without a valid license. An additional five establishments were closed until payments were made.

This quarter we continue to welcome new refugees to Appleton. Public health nurses provide the initial health assessment and review of medical records. Nurses also provide linkages with medical and social support based in those visits.

September 2, Sonja Jensen, RN and Becky Lindberg, RN attended the State Refugee Office’s Quarterly Update in Oshkosh. This update featured an overview of the current Syrian conflict and refugee crisis, and featured a panel presentation on Syrian refugees.

***“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 City Sealer Eric Maggio and Health Officer Kurt Eggebrecht met with the eight contracted Weights and Measures Consortium municipalities of Ashwaubenon, Berlin, Kaukauna, Kimberly, Little Chute, New London, Ripon and Waupaca. The yearly meetings provide a chance to discuss the program year evaluation and answer any questions about the work we’ve done during the year. The municipalities were very happy with the work Weights and Measures have done and the partnership of sharing services. All work was completed at a high level and the program continues to be a successful partnership.

This quarter we hired a new Preparedness Coordinator to replace Jon Lee who accepted a new opportunity in the health care sector. Sarah Burmeister has hit the ground running participating in several training courses including, Exercise Design, Fatality Management and Esponder.

September is National Preparedness month and Sarah worked on several projects to create awareness. Partnering with the Police department she worked with neighborhood watch captains by providing information on personnel preparedness and how families can prepare an emergency kit using a checklist of supplies.

Also this quarter, the preparedness program reached out to the faith based community to provide information, laminated posters and hand sanitizer in an effort to educate and prevent seasonal influenza. This project was well received with more than a third requesting additional supplies.

Sarah also assisted Green Lake County as they exercised the impact of a tornado. A simulated Family Assistance Center was activated during this exercise.

This quarter, Health Officer Eggebrecht, and other core team members of Weight of the Fox Valley have been crafting a new 5 year strategic plan to present to the leadership team. This project continues to grow in scope and participation.

This quarter department staff and Attorney's Office researched and then drafted suggested department guidance to implement a revision to the City Ordinance related to the keeping of honey bees within the city in residentially zoned areas.

This quarter we field tested a program called "Exercise Prescription", a program which is designed to encourage an increase in physical activity. Representatives from Park and Recreation, GIS and Health, partnered with Mosaic Health, to pilot the project within their physician residency program. The concept is to encourage communication between physicians and clients interested in improving their health through regular exercise. Then the physician writes an appropriate exercise prescription suggesting they choose pre-identified City parks that have been selected and measured for distance and accommodations. Individuals can also chart a prescribed distance right from their doorstep. Evaluation from this pilot will occur later this year.

Appleton along with four area health departments and four health care systems have been collaborating on a regional community needs assessment. Utilizing the Center for Disease Control Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) we have contracted with St. Norbert's Survey Research Club. More than 1,500 surveys (20 minute phone interviews) have been completed. In addition key leadership surveys have been conducted this quarter to augment the BRFSS results. This data will be used in the coming year as we prepare our departments' prevention priorities.

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

Department staff participated in a variety of training opportunities this quarter including:

July 7, Kathleen Sprangers, RN completed the Lead Sampling Technician Recertification Training in Eau Claire.

July 15, Jess Moyle, RN attended Community Health Connections presentation for the Weight of the Fox Valley at the Bridgewood in Neenah.

August 5, Public Health Nurses Becky Lindberg , RN, Jess Moyle, RN and Trish Schuldes, RN participated in a First Breath Program (pregnancy smoking prevention program) update, held at the Appleton Health Department.

September 14, Becky Lindberg, RN attended a training sponsored by Waupaca County Health and Human Services entitled, "Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences: Building Self-Healing Communities. This training was held in Neenah at the Wenzler Center.

All Public Health Nursing Staff, along with Administrative Assistant Britney Stobbe, completed CPR refresher training on September 15, 2015. This training was provided by Appleton Fire Department Staff.

September 22, all department staff participated in an off-site team building education day. This year's theme was on sustainability and what we can do as a department and as individuals. We had speakers from Wisconsin Energy (WE), City Facilities Management, Outagamie County Recycling and master gardening program. Staff evaluations were very positive and information regarding reducing energy use has been highlighted as a valued learning outcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Eggebrecht, M.Ed., MCHES  
Health Officer