



APPLETON HEALTH DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY REPORT October 1 - December 31, 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”

City Sealer Eric Maggio and Health Officer Kurt Eggebrecht met with the nine contracted Consortium municipalities of Ashwaubenon, Berlin, Fox Crossing, Kaukauna, Kimberly, Little Chute, New London, Ripon and Waupaca. The yearly meetings provide a chance to have face-to-face meetings about the program, provide next year's budget projections, and answer any questions about the work during the year. The municipalities all value the partnership of sharing services.

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

Health Officer Kurt Eggebrecht and Emergency Management Coordinator Cassidy Walsh participated in the Fox Valley Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition's (FVHERC) Closed Point of Dispensing (POD) exercise on December 11th. This exercise introduced a biological attack scenario that escalated in the Fox Valley area. The purpose of the exercise was to identify the need to vaccinate staff and their family members within the healthcare agency in order to keep daily operations going in a time of crisis. The exercise developed into great discussion on future collaboration with both hospitals in Appleton. The next step will be to escalate into a hands-on drill utilizing the City of Appleton Health Department Closed POD plans.

Cassidy Walsh organized preparedness training gap assessment meetings with all the department directors and deputy directors. These meetings allowed each department to meet one on one with Cassidy, describe the roles of their departments in the city, and identify training needs and opportunities to better prepare staff in each department. These

meetings were conducted on October 24th, 25th, 29th, and November 5th, 12th, and 19th. This was a great opportunity to create an emergency training plan for the city for the next couple years.

November 14th, Environmentalist Michelle Roberts and Ryan Mathew conducted swab sampling at three licensed establishments as part of DATCP's Listeria monitoring program. All samples tested negative for Listeria.

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

Public Health Nurse Val Davis created a display to promote Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention. This educational display was available for the community to view at the Appleton Public Library for the entire month of October.

October 17th, Becky Lindberg, RN and Krista Waterstradt, RN gave two presentations to 44 First Grade students at Foster Elementary. This interactive presentation focused on handwashing and “germs”.

November 12th, Krista Waterstradt, RN and Val Davis, RN presented on the topic of communicable disease to 20 YMCA child care teachers at YMCA-Fox West.

“Provides services in a cost effective and efficient manner”

Health department nursing staff provided 253 doses of influenza vaccine to City of Appleton elected officials, employees, their spouses, partners and children nine years of age and older.

In 2019, there were 32 new lead cases with an initial lead capillary level of 5 µg/dL or greater in children residing within the city limits of Appleton. Of these cases, 28 were 5-9 µg/dL and 4 were 10 µg/dL or above. There was 100% follow up on all 32 cases via mail and/or phone (14 cases had additional phone outreach). Of the 28 cases 5-9 µg/dL, 23 had a follow up venous test done and 3 are “In process” for a repeat test and 2 have not responded back to our outreach efforts. No cases 5-9 µg/dL had a home visit, but home visits were offered. Of the four (10+ µg/dL) cases, all four had follow-up venous testing done (100%). 1 case of 10+ had a home visit and an environmental investigation done. The other 3 cases had follow-up venous tests below 5 µg/dL.

In addition to case management of lead elevated children, primary prevention services are offered. There is outreach done to all City of Appleton families of 6-month-old children who live in a home built prior to 1950. This outreach offers these families a home visit to help identify lead hazards and includes information about lead sources. On average, this reaches about 20 families per month.

“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”

Public Health Nurses Becky Lindberg, Sonja Jensen and Susan Larson participated in a discussion with staff from Mosaic Family Health and World Relief Fox Valley on October 18. The topic focused on how the three agencies could best work together to provide optimal refugee health services.

Emergency Management Coordinator Cassidy Walsh hosted a Public Health Preparedness Partnership meeting in Appleton on October 11th. The meeting offered a chance to go over the contract deliverables associated with the preparedness grant. The group explored new tools to utilize when engaging the public on preparedness matters. It was also a chance for Cassidy to lay out her vision of focusing and enhancing the PHEP plans on an individual basis. It was met with full support by the group. The new meeting schedule will now be group meetings quarterly and individual meetings in the months between.

This quarter, Common Council approved ordinance language that prohibits the possession of vaping and e-cigarette related products. Given that more than 30% of high school students in Appleton use these products, we wanted to provide an alternative to citations that would lead to greater understanding of the dangers of these products. In Depth is a program from the American Lung Association that teaches youth about how the tobacco industry hires lobbyists and marketing specialists to target this product directly to their age groups in order to make a profit.

Health Officer Kurt Eggebrecht has facilitated discussions with Lawrence University students to teach this class to those who receive citations. If students participate, the citation from a police officer is waived. The Appleton Area School District has supported this social justice approach to reduce the epidemic of use. Nicotine consumption at a young age impacts brain development and impairs learning. The Community Foundation is supporting this pilot project to determine effectiveness.

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

Public Health Nurse Jena McNeil completed the Thrive Leadership Academy, which culminated in a graduation ceremony on December 2.

October 7th, Ryan Mathew was hired to fill the vacant Environmentalist position. As part of his orientation and training, Ryan has completed his required 25 joint inspections with Steve, Michelle and Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WI DATCP) staff along with required online FDA courses. Ryan is now able to do independent inspections in the field. Ryan is a great addition to our staff.

In December, Steve Kihl began working with DATCP staff on his initial standardization. This process involves doing 8 side by side inspections with a State “Standard” to ensure consistency in the inspection and report writing processes. Steve will then become our agency Standard and go through the same process with Michelle and Ryan. This assures that all inspections are upholding the current food codes.

This quarter staff participated in a variety of trainings including:

October 2nd, Public Health Nurse Jena McNiel and Public Health Nursing Supervisor Sonja Jensen participated in the Imagine Fox Cities Community Summit in Kimberly. The overarching aim of Imagine Fox Cities is, “To advance the Well-Being of Our Place and the Well-Being of Our People”.

October 2nd, Britney Stobbe, Val Davis, and Cassidy Walsh attended a training at the Fox Valley Technical College. The focus was the new Inventory Management and Tracking System (IMATS).

October 7th-9th, Weights and Measures Specialist Todd Schmidt represented Appleton by attending the annual WWMA fall conference in Stevens Point, WI. The conference was administered by the Wisconsin Weights and Measures Association and the National Conference for Weights and Measures. A variety of topics were discussed during this year’s training. At the conclusion of the conference, Todd was sworn in as Vice President of Wisconsin Weights and Measures Association. He will serve on the board in various roles for the next 4 years.

October 9th-10th, Public Health Nurse Julie Erickson attended the Wisconsin Public Health Employee Orientation Session in Rothschild. This training was held at the Central Wisconsin Convention and Expo Center and was sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

October 10th, Steve and Michelle attended the Lead Risk Assessor Refresher class. This is a required recertification training provided by WI DHS – Lead and Asbestos Section. The certification is required for individuals performing lead risk assessments in homes of children found to be lead poisoned.

October 10th, Public Health Nurses Jess Moyle, Krista Waterstradt and Val Davis attended the First Breath Regional Session in Green Bay.

October 16th-18th, Cassidy Walsh attended the Debris Management course put on by Wisconsin Emergency Management. The 24-hour course highlighted the several phases and challenges with debris removal after a disaster, and the importance of having a debris removal plan. Outagamie County is in the works of creating a debris removal plan. The City of Appleton Public Works staff and Cassidy plan to be highly involved in that planning process when the county moves forward.

October 29th, Public Health Nurses Becky Lindberg and Jess Moyle attended the Employee Friendly Workplace Launch at Werner Electric Supply in Appleton. This event was sponsored by the Fox Cities Chamber. Becky and Jess are able to provide advice to companies interested in breast feeding options at the workplace.

November 6th, Environmentalist Ryan Mathew attended the Rabies Control Training sponsored by WI DATCP. The training covered rabies exposure response protocols along with specimen shipping requirements.

November 6th-7th, Public Health Nurses Jena McNiell, Jess Moyle, Julie Erickson, Krista Waterstradt, Val Davis and Sonja Jensen attended the Northeast Region Tuberculosis Summit at Liberty Hall in Kimberly. Jena McNiell and Sonja Jensen were on the planning committee for this educational event.

November 16th, Public Health Nurses Becky Lindberg and Susan Larson and Public Health Nursing Supervisor Sonja Jensen attended the Joint Fox Valley Refugee Resettlement Meeting at Miron Construction in Neenah. The meeting included a presentation on the H.E.A.R.T. (Healing Environment and Restorative Therapy) model of care in working with survivors of torture.

November 16th-17th, Emergency Management Coordinator Cassidy attended Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) 101 in Madison. This was a course that covered the multitude of programs within WEM, introduced the WEM staff that manage the programs, discussed the WEM certification process, and highlighted emergency service programs across the state of Wisconsin. This course was largely a great networking opportunity for new emergency management directors/coordinators.

November 7th, Environmental Health Supervisor Steve Kihl attended the New Supervisor Orientation.

December 16th, Environmentalists Ryan Mathews and Michelle Roberts attended Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Verification Training sponsored by WI DATCP. Certain food processes require an approved HACCP Plan. This training covered detailed inspection criteria to evaluate in an establishment with a required HACCP Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Eggebrecht, M.Ed., MCHES
Health Officer