



APPLETON HEALTH DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY REPORT January 1 - March 31, 2020

Executive Summary

The Health Department's day-to-day activities for the first quarter of 2020 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”

January 14, Weights and Measures Specialist Keith Verhagen retired after 12 years of service with the City of Appleton. Keith was President of the Wisconsin Weights and Measures Associate (WWMA) and was highly respected across the state for his knowledge. He maintained a strong and friendly presence in the Appleton community that will be missed.

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

By January, the City of Appleton Health Department had been listening to CDC phone briefings and Wisconsin updates about the outbreak of a virus occurring in Wuhan, China. The department began planning the possible activation of the public health emergency plans regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), and soon activated the Incident Command System (ICS) to meet the increased call intake. Once cases were confirmed in the state of Wisconsin, the department reached out to the Police Department to begin filling in positions within the ICS structure, to prepare for a comprehensive outbreak response affecting multiple city departments.

In January and February, Steve Kihl completed his standardization work with WI Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) staff. This process involved doing eight side by side inspections with a State “Standard”, along with other related non-inspection exercises. This process ensures consistency in the inspection and report writing processes. Steve is now our agency Standard and will go through the same process with Michelle Roberts and Ryan Matthew.

Throughout January, February, and March the Public Health Nursing staff worked with World Relief Fox Valley and various partners in Appleton to welcome three refugees to the community.

March 16, Mayor Hanna signed a State of Emergency Proclamation and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated. All departments worked diligently to protect staff with the ability to work from home, set up virtual meetings, and adjust schedules to enhance social distancing within the city. For the remainder of the quarter, the City of Appleton remained in full ICS activation, the EOC continued to operate, and the city worked hard to protect the community and respond to COVID-19.

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

February 4, Public Health Nurses Becky Lindberg, RN and Krista Waterstradt, RN presented Sleep Baby Safe to 37 clinical staff members at Mosaic Family Health of Appleton. The presentation was done in partnership with Outagamie County Public Health, Family Services Association of Northeast Wisconsin, and the Children’s Health Alliance of Wisconsin.

Kathleen Sprangers, RN presented at a Mom and Me Group to 14 moms and their babies on the topic of immunizations. This was held at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center—Appleton.

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February 14, Becky Lindberg, RN presented on nutrition and the importance of hygiene at a Health Fair at Horizons Elementary School in Appleton. Three classes of first and second graders attended, for a total of 79 students and six staff.

March 10, the City of Appleton Health Department conducted a presentation for faith-based organizations to begin planning for social distancing practices and possible shutdown of services.

“Provides services in a cost effective and efficient manner”

January 17, Emergency Management Coordinator Cassidy Walsh and Public Health Nurse Julie Erickson attended an American Red Cross shelter simulation at St. Norbert College in De Pere. The simulation went through several stages of a shelter including the registration desk, sleeping quarters, and food distribution efforts.

January 30, Cassidy Walsh organized a Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) discussion with all directors or their representatives, the first COOP update since 2016. While the 2016 update addressed a staffing shortage due to a pandemic, the intent of this meeting was to identify departmental succession lines, determine essential services and how long the community could operate with only those services, and create an all hazards COOP. Attendees realized more discussion with their respective staff would be needed to develop a COOP for all hazards, so the group will be meeting again.

“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, the Wisconsin Public Health Preparedness Program awarded Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) funding to the department to promote inclusive risk planning for the Appleton community. In collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Department, Fire Department, and Police Department, the City of Appleton Health Department will use this funding to launch a new program in July 2020. The Appleton Camp APRD Youth Emergency Preparedness Program will inspire inner city children to develop family emergency plans, begin to identify their personal and family vulnerabilities, and build emergency kits. This includes learning what should be in a home or vehicle emergency kit, which emergency agencies respond to disasters and their uniforms, and receiving planning material to bring back to their household.

January 8, Cassidy Walsh was officially appointed and approved by Common Council to be the Emergency Manager for the City of Appleton.

January 22-23, The Wisconsin Department of Health Service (DHS) held the 2nd annual Health Emergency Preparedness conference in Stevens Point. This conference was an opportunity for health emergency preparedness professionals to share lessons learned and best practices from preparedness and response activities in and around Wisconsin.

February 21, Becky Lindberg, RN and Sonja Jensen, RN attended the joint refugee resettlement team meeting at the Appleton Library.

March 13, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the department directors gathered for a situational awareness briefing and began planning how to implement the continuity of operations plans.

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

Our department places a high priority on staff training. This quarter, staff participated in a variety of trainings, including:

In January, Ryan Mathew attended a 4-day Lead Hazard Investigator class and is now eligible to take the State DHS exam for certification in this discipline. The exam was originally scheduled in March but has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and has not yet been rescheduled. Once certified, Ryan will be able to perform Lead Hazard Investigations in homes where children are known to have elevated blood lead levels.

January 22-23, Health Officer Kurt Eggebrecht, Emergency Management Coordinator Cassidy Walsh, and Public Health Nurses Julie Erickson and Krista Waterstradt attended the 2020 Public Health Emergency Preparedness Conference in Stevens Point. Their attendance at the conference was thanks to a training scholarship from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

January 27, the annual Weights and Measures Policy and Procedure training was held in Madison and attended by local City Sealers, State Inspectors, and State Management. City Sealer Eric Maggio was a member of the Policies and Procedures Committee that oversaw and implemented changes in policies, as well as the yearly schedule for training and state surveys.

February 4-5, Public Health Nursing Supervisor Sonja Jensen attended the 2020 Operations Conference in Wisconsin Dells. This included a pre-conference event with a focus on Quality Improvement in Health Departments, sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

February 5, Public Health Nurses Jena McNiell and Val Davis attended a Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS) training in Green Bay for the Partner Services Program.

February 17-19, Steve Kihl, Val Davis, Cassidy Walsh and Kurt Eggebrecht successfully completed the ICS-300 (Incident Command System) course, along with other city employees. The course was organized by Cassidy Walsh and held at Fire Station 1.

In February and March, Cassidy Walsh and Sonja Jensen attended the Mass Fatality Exercises held by Outagamie County and Calumet County. It was a successful opportunity to have discussions with critical partners that do not typically gather.

March 5-6, Jess Moyle, RN and Becky Lindberg, RN attended the 2020 Wisconsin Association of Lactation Consultants conference at the Best Western Premier Waterfront & Hotel Conference Center in Oshkosh.

March 10-11, Public Health Nurses Becky Lindberg, Jess Moyle, Krista Waterstradt, and Val Davis attended the 25th Annual Fulfilling the Promise Conference in Green Bay. This Maternal Child Health conference was themed "It Takes a Village," and included a Prenatal Care Coordination track.

As part of Ryan Matthew's ongoing training, he has viewed many DATCP webinars on a variety of environmental topics, in relation to Food and Recreation Establishment Inspections. He has continued to accompany Steve Kihl and Michelle Roberts on various inspections as they arise.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Eggebrecht, M.Ed., MCHES
Health Officer