

**APPLETON HEALTH DEPARTMENT
QUARTERLY REPORT
January – March 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”

February 7th Weights and Measures Specialist Keith Verhagen made an unannounced visit to the Saturday Indoor Winter Farm Market at the City Center. There were total of 40 booths. A total of 4,032 items were inspected with only 3 minor labeling violations found. Maintaining a strong presence at the market as well as holding yearly Farm Market meetings and scale tests ensures an accurate commercial transaction for the consumer.

March 23, 2015 a re-inspection was performed at Office Max located at 2401 S. Kensington Drive by Keith Verhagen, Weights and Measures Specialist. He detected major violations during the visit which revealed 4 pricing errors (1 overcharge) in a 50 item sample. As the National Price Verification Code tolerance is + or – 2%, the 8% overall error rate found in this inspection is a violation, and indicated problems with the store's price control system. The store has had a history of price violations and was even cited in 2013 for price scanning violations. Although the store improved from its first inspection it still hasn't made the necessary steps to avoid simple errors. A warning letter was sent and a re-inspection will be conducted in April.

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

Public Health Nurse Becky Lindberg, RN completed the 32 hour Youth Mental Health First Aid USA Instructor Course in February, 2015. This course teaches skills for providing initial help to young people (ages 12-18) experiencing mental health problems such as depression, anxiety disorders, psychosis and substance abuse disorders until professional treatment is obtained or the crisis resolves. This training was a result of the Project Aware grant awarded to the Appleton Area School District. In collaboration with the school district, youth mental health training will be provided to community members in the greater Appleton area over the course of the two year project period.

This quarter our department proactively responded to the outbreak of measles that spread to many states including Michigan, Minnesota and Illinois. Working closely with our public and private schools, we identified who was most at risk of contracting and spreading this disease. We then in partnership with several different local agencies offered two free MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccination clinics for Appleton public and private school students and staff in February. These clinics were offered to the staff and children in Appleton schools that were not up-to-date on the measles vaccination. Participating/partner agencies included ThedaCare, Affinity Health System, the Appleton Fire Department, Gold Cross Ambulance, and public and private schools in Appleton.

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

This quarter staff provided a variety of education sessions for the public including the following:

January 5, Becky Lindberg, RN presented on “Safe to Sleep” at AMC’s Mommy and Me group. Eight moms and their babies were in attendance.

February 16, Tina Pelishek, RN partnered with Cindy Brylski-Breit, RN of Outagamie County Public Health to present on the topic of Communicable Diseases to sixty childcare professionals. This educational event was held at the Childcare Resource and Referral Center.

February 17, Kathleen Sprangers, RN trained seven public health nursing staff on Vaccine Storage and Handling Requirements.

February 25, Kathleen Sprangers, RN provided education on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention to ten women and their families at Harbor House.

February 26, Trish Schuldes, RN presented on hand washing, ways to stay health, and the dangers of second hand smoke to twenty parents and staff at B.A.B.E.S in Appleton.

March 2, Jess Moyle, RN and Becky Lindberg, RN trained the staff at the Appleton Y's Childcare on the Ten Steps to Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care Centers. The Director and three staff members were present for the initial training. Training included a power point presentation created by the Wood County Breastfeeding Coalition on the ten steps and breastfeeding basics, followed by a post test. Jess and Becky are checking in with the center monthly to offer support and resources as they complete the ten steps. After all 10 steps are met the center will be designated as "Breastfeeding Friendly".

March 25, Health Officer Kurt Eggebrecht presented a Health Professionals Perspective at the County Road CA/State Highway 125/College Avenue Corridor Study. The Corridor Study will provide a critical look at existing conditions from a health, safety, planning, business development and engineering perspective.

This quarter public health nursing staff provided several learning opportunities for children and their parents who attend the new Community Early Learning Center. For example, on January 20th Becky Lindberg, RN presented "How sleep affects my development." Then on January 27th she discussed the importance of socio-emotional development in young children. Tina Pelishek, RN spoke on the topic of safe sleep on January 22nd. Tina returned on March 3rd and 5th to discuss the socio-emotional development in young children.

"Provides services in a cost effective and efficient manner"

Public Health Nurse Becky Lindberg, RN provided TB skin testing for Appleton Fire Department employees in January and February. 76 screenings were completed.

February 11th the Administrative team, Britney Stobbe and Kurt Eggebrecht completed CPR training. This support will improve our response capacity at our immunization clinics. The class was taught by Appleton fire Staff.

“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”

January 29th the annual Weights and Measures Policy and Procedure training was held in Madison, WI. Local City Sealers and State Inspectors attended the meeting with State Management. The meeting provided information regarding recent changes in policies as well as the yearly schedule for training and state surveys. City of Appleton City Sealer Eric Maggio wrote a procedure for Taxi Meter Testing that was published in the 2015 Policy and Procedure Manual. Eric also gave a presentation of the procedure to Wisconsin Department of Trade and Consumer Protection staff and other municipal Sealers at the training.

In coordination with the UW Fox Valley Family Medicine Residency Program, two resident Physicians met with Environmental Supervisor Tim Mirkes to learn about the Environmental Health responsibilities at the Health Department. By providing this in-service, Resident Physicians gain awareness of rabies follow-up, food safety and food borne illness investigation as it relates to their practice, as well as other areas where the environmental section can be a resource.

During this quarter, Appleton Health Department met with Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) for our Midyear Report meeting for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant year. The meeting was hosted by Appleton at Fire Station #6 on February 12, 2015 and included several other local health departments from throughout northeast Wisconsin. The Midyear Report meeting allowed Appleton Health Department to highlight our planning efforts toward the priority capabilities of Community Recovery, Mass Care and Fatality Management and pose questions to DHS regarding strategies to further implement these capabilities into our preparedness program.

One of the focal points in our Community Recovery capability is mental and behavioral health of affected individuals following a disaster event. On February 19th two members of Appleton Health Department attended training by National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Fox Valley regarding Trauma-Informed Care held at Riverview Gardens. On March 23rd three staff members attended the Disaster Behavioral Health course provided by University of Minnesota School of Public Health at Liberty Hall in Kimberly.

Health Officer Kurt Eggebrecht was recently requested to serve on the State Health Innovation Plan (SHIP) Population Health Advisory Panel. This Wisconsin initiative is to develop and test a framework for transformation that includes new models of population health management, healthcare delivery and payment modeling.

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

In February, Michelle Roberts, RS and Steve Kihl, RS successfully completed the Wisconsin Food Code Standardization Maintenance exercises with Tim Mirkes as the evaluator of the exercise. The purpose of standardization maintenance is to promote statewide inspection uniformity and establish proof of Inspector proficiency in the food establishment inspection process. It focuses on risk factors that contribute to foodborne illnesses. It also allows for the State standardized inspector to conduct the standardization exercise with local staff.

In March, Tim Mirkes provided annual respirator fit testing to the Health Department staff. The annual fit testing is conducted not only for preparedness planning, but also assures respirators are being correctly fitted to provide effective protection from contaminants such as TB and asbestos.

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

January 22, public health nurse Kris Eiden, RN attended a presentation on a Peer Run Certified Peer Specialist program at Goodwill. This presentation was sponsored by NAMI Fox Valley.

March 11 and 12, Environmental Supervisor Tim Mirkes, RS, attended the 48th Governor’s Conference on Emergency Management and Homeland Security. The theme for the conference was “Preparing with the Whole Community”.

March 11, public health nurses Tina Pelishek, RN, Jess Moyle, RN, Ann Steele, RN and Pam Wampole, RN attended the presentation “Good Drugs Gone Bad” at the Appleton Housing Authority.

March 12, Tina Pelishek, RN and Trish Schuldes, RN attended the Annual First Breath Program conference in Rothschild, WI.

March 12 and 13, Jess Moyle, RN attended the annual Wisconsin Association of Lactation Consultants Conference at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton.

March 13, Sonja Jensen, RN and Becky Lindberg, RN attended an educational training, “Congoese Refugees: Culture, Experiences and Resettlement Issues – The Fox Valley Effort” at the Hmong-American Partnership in Appleton. This presentation was sponsored by World Relief Fox Valley.

During the week of March 15 to 21, Preparedness Coordinator Jon Lee attended training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Alabama on Healthcare Leadership during emergencies. Jon worked with over 60 other healthcare and public health professionals from Wisconsin during the FEMA-sponsored course paid for through the Department of Homeland Security budget. This intensive week of training and exercises focused on responding to a variety of health emergency scenarios, culminating in a full-scale exercise on the final day, where Jon worked alongside four other North East Wisconsin (NEW) Public Health Preparedness Partnership members in the public health Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Hospital workers and first responders from throughout Wisconsin, including systems in the Appleton area also participated in this training, strengthening our community’s ability to respond to all facets of a health emergency by training professionals from several disciplines in how to respond efficiently and cohesively.

March 23, public health nurses Ann Steele, RN and Tina Pelishek, RN attended training on Disaster Behavioral Health at Liberty Hall in Kimberly.

March 26, Kris Eiden, RN attended a presentation on the Oxford House Community Outreach Center at Goodwill Center in Menasha, sponsored by Valley Packaging.

This quarter our department recognized the many contributions and celebrated the retirement of Renee Krajna.

Encourages the individual to share the responsibility for their health and the health of their family”

March 24th, Health Officer Kurt Eggebrecht participated in a community panel asked to provide insight to Appleton Area School District. The Health education program is looking to update and make changes to the health curriculum that better reflects current issues and needs of students.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Eggebrecht, M.Ed., MCHES
Health Officer