

APPLETON HEALTH DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY REPORT January-March 2014

Executive Summary

The Health Department's day-to-day activities for the first quarter of 2014 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 15th, Weights and Measures Specialist Keith Verhagen made an unannounced visit to the Saturday Indoor Winter Farm Market held at City Center. There were a total of 25 booths. A total of 2,176 items were inspected with only four 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.

During the first week of March, Weights and Measures staff received eight complaints on Badger Avenue Gas located at 1201 North Badger Avenue. Complainants allege they were overcharged for regular unleaded gasoline. Our investigation revealed that the northernmost pump cabinet was clearly labeled with correct signage for regular with ethanol at the lower price and regular no ethanol at the higher price. The roadside sign with rates posted for both products however, was not clear and legible as to the difference in products. This constitutes a violation of Section 100.18 Wisconsin Statutes for misrepresentation. Weights and Measures Specialist Jim Richter met with station owner Charanjit (Charlie) Singh who expressed a desire to come into compliance. Richter worked with the station to change the roadside sign within 14 days to clearly identify each product. A letter was sent and a re-inspection conducted where everything is now code compliant and complaints have since stopped.

March 26th, a re-inspection of a local gas station, Appleton Citgo, 1717 West College Avenue was conducted by Jim Richter, Weights and Measures Specialist. He detected major violations during the re-inspection which revealed 3 pricing errors (2 overcharges) in a 25 item sample. As the National Price Verification Code tolerance is + or – 2%, the 9% overall error rate found in this inspection is a violation, and indicated problems with the store's price control system. Although, the store improved from its first inspection it still hasn't made the necessary steps to avoid 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”

In December 2013, the Department of Criminal Investigations, with assistance of the Appleton Police Department (APD) took down an active meth lab at the single family home 940 West Weiland Avenue. In January, APD, Health, Fire, Inspections and the Department of Justice met so that a plan could be developed on how to neutralize some of the risks in the residence while at the same time develop a written remediation plan for the property owner.

During this quarter, Appleton Health Department made updates to the Incident Command staff organizational chart. Discovering a need for our North East Wisconsin (NEW) Public Health Preparedness Partnership members to train additional staff in Incident Command System (ICS) at the intermediate and advanced levels, the ICS 300 course was held in our area on March 5th and 6th at the request of Appleton Health Department. The course was well attended by several partnership health departments, including five members of the Appleton Health Department staff (Kurt Eggebrecht, Jon Lee, Eric Maggio, Tim Mirkes and Ann Steele). The learning objectives from this two day course address the coordination of resources during an incident involving several jurisdictions and disciplines through the use of Unified Command.

Appleton Health Department participated in the Northeast Wisconsin 2014 Preparedness Exercise on March 25th. This region-wide functional, multi-discipline exercise for local public health departments and area hospitals focused on the response to a severe weather event with several casualties and multiple fatalities. The scenario allowed us to function from our office setting and communicate with area partners via phone and online to discuss our response actions and coordinate resources. This exercise addressed the 2013-2014 grant requirements for exercising.

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

January 29th, Public health nurses Jess Moyle, R.N. and Becky Lindberg, R.N. participated in the Lawrence University Wellness Fair. Educational information was presented to the 140 students and faculty in attendance which included Lead Poisoning Prevention, Safe to Sleep, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Immunizations, Influenza, Bedbugs, and Community Resources.

January 29th, Health Officer Kurt Eggebrecht and Peter Kelly from United Way, co-presented at the "Tackling Wicked Problems" training held in Oshkosh. The presentation focused on how the Weight of the Fox Valley initiative is using the collective impact model to address this health/social issue.

February 11th, Health Officer Eggebrecht and Paula Morgan from Thedacare presented to the 2013-2014 class at Leadership Fox Cities. The focus of the presentation was on the Weight of the Fox Valley initiative and how the collective impact model works.

March 1st, Kathleen Sprangers, R.N. presented information on immunizations to eleven moms with their babies at the Mommy and Me class at Appleton Medical Center.

On March 11th, Health Officer Eggebrecht presented to the Promoting Health, Healing and Crisis Intervention Impact Area committee of the United Way Fox Cities. The presentation centered on the County Health Rankings and the Weight of the Fox Valley initiative.

March 18th, Environmentalist Michelle Roberts, R.S. provided food safety training to 30 participants in preparation for the annual Xavier Food Fair. The event will be held on the first Sunday in May. Providing food safety education to individuals who do not normally cook for large gatherings helps to reduce mistakes that could cause a foodborne outbreak.

March 27th, Health Officer Eggebrecht presented at the "Healthy Food for All Summit" held in Neenah. Eggebrecht was invited to present on the Weight of the Fox Valley initiative and how local public health collaborates with other community agencies.

Also on March 27th, Deputy Fire Chief Gene Reece and Health Officer Kurt Eggebrecht presented at the police academy at Fox Valley Technical College. The topic was Incident Command Structure and Emergency Response.

March 27th, Tim Mirkes was asked to speak to residents of Oneida Heights. The topics included Food Safety, Noise and Bed Bugs and how to take precautions to prevent bed bugs from entering their apartments.

March 31st, Kathleen Sprangers, R.N. educated three moms with their babies on the importance of Lead Poisoning Prevention at the Mommy and Me class at Appleton Medical Center.

"Provides services in a cost effective and efficient manner"

Public Health Nurse Becky Lindberg, R.N. provided annual TB skin testing for 84 Fire Department employees. Twelve Health Department staff were also screened this quarter.

Our department has entered into a collaboration with the Appleton Area School District's Birth to Five Program. Public health nurses are participating in Birth to Five Outreach Learning through Play Parent/Child Playgroups at various school locations throughout the community. Nursing staff provides education, information on resources, and support.

February, Environmental Health Supervisor Tim Mirkes and Health Officer Eggebrecht met with Nate Loper, Department of Public Works, to discuss a means of communicating water main breaks to the Health Department (other than those that are communicated to us through the DNR). Licensed facilities must have working plumbing for important functions such as hand washing and toilets, in order to be open for business. A mutually workable solution was developed to minimize

additional work steps for DPW so that Health can learn about the breaks and then communicate food safety information to the affected businesses more proactively.

February 20th, Environmentalists Steve Kihl, R.S. and Michelle Roberts, R.S. conducted a lead inspection at a residence due to an elevated blood lead level in a child. Lead hazards were found and orders written. On March 5th, another dwelling was inspected for lead hazards, but none were identified.

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.

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.

“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 of this year we launched a new lead prevention outreach program to families of children who are six months of age and live in pre-1950 housing. This new focus builds on our lead prevention grant services. All Appleton families identified receive a letter and brochure informing them about lead paint and its hazards. A follow-up phone call is made a few weeks after this letter offering lead prevention education services. The overall goal is to create healthy and lead-free housing for Appleton city residents.

“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 value on continuing education. This quarter staff attended a variety of education sessions including:

January 30th, the annual Weights and Measures Policy and Procedure training was held in Madison. 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

Sealer Eric Maggio wrote a procedure for Taxi Meter Testing that was published in the 2014 Policy and Procedure Manual.

February 19th, Public Health Nurse Supervisor, Sonja Jensen, R.N. attended a cultural competency training on Congolese refugees held at the Partnership Community Health Center.

February 20th, Tim Mirkes attended Bed Bug Boot-Camp training to further aid in response to the increasing number of bed bug complaints the department has been receiving.

February 25th, Public health nurses Ann Steele, R.N. and Kris Eiden, R.N. participated in database training webinar for our Partner Services.

March 4th, the Prenatal Care Coordinators regional meeting was held at the Menasha Library. Public health nurses Jess Moyle, R.N., Tina Pelishek, R.N. and Trish Schuldes, R.N. participated.

March 6th and 7th, the Wisconsin Association of Lactation Consultants held its annual conference at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. Public health nurses Jess Moyle, R.N. and Becky Lindberg, R.N. attended the conference.

March 13th, Public health nurses Tina Pelishek, R.N. and Becky Lindberg, R.N. attended the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation's annual First Breath Conference in Pewaukee. The focus of the conference was smoking and alcohol interventions for women with mental health and substance abuse disorders.

March 19th and 20th, Public Health Preparedness Coordinator Jon Lee and Environmental Health Supervisor Tim Mirkes, R.S., attended the 47th Annual Governor's Conference on Emergency Management and Homeland Security. The conference provided an opportunity to learn about preparedness and response lessons from State and National experts. This conference was sponsored by Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs.

March 20th, Sonja Jensen, R.N. attended the Grants and Funding Opportunities Conference which was held at Fox Valley Technical College.

March 26th, Public health nurses Tina Pelishek, R.N. Trish Schuldes, R.N. and Ann Steele, R.N. attended the presentation on Current Drug Trends in the Fox Valley. This workshop was sponsored by the Community Action for Healthy Living Coalition.

March 26th, Public health nurses Becky Lindberg, R.N. Tina Pelishek, R.N. Trish Schuldes, R.N. Ann Steele R.N. and Jess Moyle, R.N. attended "Mental Health 101" training at the Healthy Infant and Child Alliance meeting.

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

This quarter our department has been working with World Relief out of Oshkosh. We welcomed the first family of an anticipated 75 refugees. The health department's role is to provide case management and referral surrounding the refugee health screening process. We partner with primary care providers and other specialists as deemed appropriate based on health history and screening results.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Eggebrecht, M.Ed., MCHES
Health Officer