

APPLETON HEALTH DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY REPORT October – December 2015

Executive Summary

The Health Department's day-to-day activities for the fourth 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”

October 12-14, City Sealer, Eric Maggio, and Weights & Measures (W&M) Inspector, Keith Verhagen, represented Appleton and the East Central Weights & Measures Consortium by attending the annual conference in Stevens Point. This conference provided various package and labeling inspection trainings, City Sealer Maggio provided ice cream novelty inspection training. At the conference W&M Inspector, Keith Verhagen, was voted as Wisconsin Weights and Measures Association President.

This quarter City Sealer, Eric Maggio, and Health Officer, Kurt Eggebrecht, met with the eight contracted Consortium municipalities of Ashwaubenon, Berlin, Kaukauna, Kimberly, Little Chute, New London, Ripon and Waupaca. The yearly meetings provide a chance to have dialog regarding services, staff performance, budgets and answer any questions about the work we've done during the year. We continue to hear positive feedback regarding this partnership.

In November, we mailed the annual Weights & Measures survey to a random (70) 1/3 of all businesses. Businesses were given 30 days to complete and return.

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

In September, the Health Department sent letters and posters to faith based congregations in hopes of partnering to prevent the spread of influenza (flu). Many locations responded by requesting hand sanitizer and additional posters. The response was a 26% increase over last year. There were 170 flu prevention posters and 91 hand sanitizers given out prior to this year's seasonal influenza.

This quarter, our Public Health Preparedness Coordinator, Sarah Burmeister, worked on a Mass Care Operations checklist to close multiple gaps in the Mass Care capability. The Mass Care Operations checklist assists contracted local health departments should the need for a temporary shelter arise during a disaster. The consortia partners (comprised of Menasha, Waushara, Green Lake, Marquette and Appleton) also collaborated on updating the Hazard Vulnerability Assessment. The assessment determines what emergencies are most likely to occur in our community.

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

Public Health Nurses Ann Steele, RN, and Kathleen Sprangers, RN, 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 15, Public Health Nurses, Becky Lindberg, RN, and Kris Eiden, RN, presented at the Lawrence University Wellness Fair. This event was held at the Warch Campus Center and the theme of their presentation was, “Preventing Disease”. Topics included Influenza, handwashing, and sexually transmitted infections. There were 75 students and staff in attendance.

October 16, Ann Steele, RN, taught handwashing at a session of “Little Learners”, an Appleton Parks and Recreation program. There were 14 children and 2 adults in attendance.

October 19, Becky Lindberg, RN, presented at Stronger Together Fox Valley’s Good Early Start Team. She discussed the role of the Appleton Health Department and work that we do with families in Appleton. There were 12 professionals in attendance.

November 2, Health Officer Eggebrecht presented to the Appleton Noon Lion’s Club. He spoke on the topic of core public health services and history of last summer’s blastomycosis outbreak.

“Provides services in a cost effective and efficient manner”

This quarter, health department nursing staff provided 330 doses of influenza vaccine to City of Appleton employees, elected officials, their partners and children nine years of age and older.

This quarter, nursing staff continue to provide directly observed therapy to residents being treated for active and latent tuberculosis (TB).

“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, Public Health Nursing Staff were certified in Youth Mental Health First Aid after attending trainings on October 27 and November 3. This training was provided by public health nurse, Becky Lindberg, RN, and Valerie Drier of the Appleton School District.

In November, Steve Kihl, RS, was asked to assist on the State Pool Code Committee. This committee is charged with categorizing each pool code violation into the various risk categories.

In December, Environmental Supervisor, Tim Mirkes, RS, successfully completed a Wisconsin Food Code Standardization maintenance exercise with a state evaluator from the Department Health Services. The purpose of standardization and maintenance is to promote statewide 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.

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

The Appleton Health Department hired a new Public Health Nurse, Ashley Rankin, who started on October 27, 2015.

This quarter staff attended a variety of continuing education opportunities including:

October 1, Becky Lindberg, RN, Jess Moyle, RN, and Trish Schuldes, RN, attended the First Breath Regional Practice session at the Appleton Public Library. The topic was, “The Significance of Stress”.

October 6, Public Health Preparedness Coordinator, Sarah Burmeister, attended Disaster Behavioral Health training in Green Bay. This training discussed the results of a disaster on mental health, and what can be done to lessen the impact for both survivors of a disaster and responders.

October 7, Steve Kihl, RS, and Michelle Roberts, RS, attended the Lead Risk Assessor Refresher meeting in Green Bay.

October 14, Kathleen Sprangers, RN, and Sonja Jensen, RN, attended the Vaccines for Children Workshop at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in Green Bay. This annual training was sponsored by the Wisconsin Immunization Program.

October 20, Jess Moyle, RN, and Trish Schuldes, RN, attended the Prenatal Care Coordination regional meeting at the Menasha Library.

October 22, Environmental Supervisor, Tim Mirkes, RS, Michelle Roberts, RS, Steve Kihl, RS attended the annual DATCP fall Agent meeting.

November 4, Public Health Nurses, Sue Larson, RN, Becky Lindberg, RN, and Kathleen Sprangers, RN, attended, "Caring for Refugees: What the Healthcare Team Needs to Know". The event was held at Appleton Medical Center.

November 6, Health Officer Eggebrecht attended the Wisconsin Bike Federation Annual Conference held on the Lawrence Campus.

November 9 and 10, Nursing Supervisor, Sonja Jensen, RN, Becky Lindberg, RN, and Jess Moyle, RN, attended the annual MCH/Keeping Kids Alive in Wisconsin Summit. The Summit was held in Madison and the theme was, "Moving the Needle".

November 18, Ashley Ranking, RN, attended the STD Summit in Milwaukee. The summit was sponsored by the Milwaukee Health Department.

December 16, Environmental Supervisor, Tim Mirkes, RS, Environmental Supervisor, Steve Kihl, RS, and Michelle Roberts, RS, attended an Emergency Response Planning Tabletop Exercise regarding Wisconsin's ability to respond to a simulated Food Safety Emergency.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Eggebrecht, M.Ed., MCHES
Health Officer