

APPLETON HEALTH DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY REPORT January – March 2016

Executive Summary

The Health Department's day-to-day activities for the first quarter of 2016 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 30, 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 20 booths that were inspected. A total of 1,404 items were inspected with only 2 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.

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

In March, Steve Kihl, RS and Michelle Roberts, RS, issued lead abatement orders to the owner of 622 West Fifth Street. The deadline is June 1, 2016. This was in response to an elevated blood lead level in a child residing there.

Public Health nursing staff worked with World Relief Fox Valley and various partners in the Appleton community to welcome four refugees during the months of January, February, and March 2016. These new residents came from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Cuba.

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

This quarter department staff provided a variety of education sessions to the public including:

January 16, Health Officer Kurt Eggebrecht was a guest on the WHBY radio station, Good Neighbor Show, discussing the role of public health and emerging issues of importance.

February 15, Public Health Nurse Becky Lindberg, RN, presented on, "Safe to Sleep", at Thedacare Regional Medical Center-Appleton's Mommy and Me group. Three Moms and their babies were in attendance.

February 23, Sonja Jensen, RN, provided annual training to all health department staff on blood borne pathogens and clinical laboratory packaging.

March 7 and 14, Becky Lindberg, RN, trained 17 Appleton Area School District Employees in Youth Mental health First Aid at Appleton East High School.

March 15, Jess Moyle, RN, and Becky Lindberg, RN, trained the staff at Faith Childcare Center on the Ten Steps to Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care Centers. 19 staff members attended the training.

March 17, Health Officer Kurt Eggebrecht presented to the participants of the newly formed Citizen Academy. This was an eight week course for interested residents to learn more about how their property taxes translate into quality city services. Eggebrecht spoke about the role public health has played historically in Appleton and how today we work to promote health and eliminate communicable disease.

March 21, Jess Moyle, RN, and Becky Lindberg, RN, trained the staff at Thedacare Child Learning Center on the Ten Steps to Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care Centers. 22 staff members attended the training.

"Provides services in a cost effective and efficient manner"

January 17, Public Health Nurses Ashley Rankin, RN, and Becky Lindberg, RN, provided TB skin testing for employees at Homeless Connections. 7 screenings were completed.

Public Health Nurses Becky Lindberg, RN, and Kris Eiden, RN, provided TB skin testing for Appleton Fire Department employees in January and February. 79 screenings were completed.

February 11, the Northeast Wisconsin Preparedness Consortium met. During this meeting, the group discussed the Volunteer Management checklist portion of the Public Health Emergency Plan (PHEP). The group made suggested changes to the checklist. Sarah Burmeister, RS, amended the checklist, brought back to the group for approval of the final edits.

“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, Health Department staff became more aware and educated on the Zika virus outbreak outside of the USA. Staff has been requested to provide community education to help residents better understand the risks, modes of transmission, symptoms and how to reduce the risk of contracting the disease. High risk groups are pregnant woman and couples engaged in unprotected sex after returning from impacted areas where Zika mosquitos thrive.

January 4, Health Officer Kurt Eggebrecht and Preparedness Coordinator Sarah Burmeister, RS, along with the other partners from the Preparedness Consortium, met with Diane Downie, CDC Public Health Advisor, for the Midyear Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant review. This meeting provided an opportunity for the Consortium to share what capability gaps have been worked on over the past six months, and what challenges have been met during that time.

In coordination with the Fox Valley Family Medicine Residency Program at Mosaic, two resident Physicians met with Environmental Supervisor Tim Mirkes, RS, on February 17 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.

This quarter, Health Officer Eggebrecht participated in the NEW Regional Poverty Outcomes and Improvement Network Team (POINT) Initiative. The POINT is an 18th month regional and community process improvement initiative to enhance the effectiveness of non-profit organizations who are working to address the root causes of poverty and achieve breakthrough results for individuals and families in the region. Kick off and training took place February 17-19.

Preparedness Coordinator Sarah Burmeister, RS, is serving on a statewide work group for revising the organization of the Public Health Emergency Plan with other Preparedness Professionals around the State of Wisconsin. On February 16 and March 4, Sarah Burmeister met with the work group. The work group plans to make the Public Health Emergency Plan more organized and easier to use once reorganization is complete.

This quarter, Health Officer Kurt Eggebrecht participated in a study with other city staff resulting in recommendations for the new Appleton Downtown Mobility Study. March 21 public comment was collected on this project. Part of this project would result in a built environment more supportive of bike and pedestrian forms of transportation.

March 30, Health Officer Kurt Eggebrecht participated in a newly formed advisory board for the YUSA Diabetes Prevention Program. The local north side YMCA is offering a program to pre-diabetes individuals to lower risk and prevent disease.

Preparedness Coordinator Sarah Burmeister, RS, provided Fatality Management training to three members of the Northeast Wisconsin Preparedness Consortium. Sarah provided training to Appleton on January 21, Waushara County on

February 8, and Marquette County on March 18. Sarah provided ICS review to Waushara County and Marquette County on January 18 and March 18, respectively.

This quarter Public Health Nurse and Lactation Specialist Jess Moyle worked with Deputy Director of Human Resources Debra Vandenbogart to establish and implement a city policy that supports nursing mothers. The City also established a devoted private area for milk expression for working mothers.

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

In February, Environmental Supervisor Tim Mirkes, RS, 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.

This quarter staff participated in a variety of education opportunities including:

January 26, public health nurses Sonja Jensen, RN, Kathleen Sprangers, RN, and Trish Schuldes, RN, attended Volunteer Reception Training at the Neville Public Museum in Green Bay.

January 28, 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 Sealer Eric Maggio was a member of the Policies and Procedures Committee that oversaw and implemented the changes.

February 10, public health nurses Becky Lindberg, RN, Ashley Rankin, RN, and Jess Moyle, RN, attended Disaster Family Assistance Specialist Training at Liberty Hall in Kimberly.

February 23, public health nurses Jess Moyle, RN, Trish Schuldes, RN, and Ashley Rankin, RN, attended the Prenatal Care Coordination regional meeting at the Menasha Library.

March 3 and 4, Jess Moyle, RN, and Becky Lindberg, RN, attended the annual Wisconsin Association of Lactation Consultants Conference at the Oshkosh Convention Center.

March 9 & 10, Environmental Supervisor Tim Mirkes, RS, attended the 49th Governor’s Conference on Emergency Management and Homeland Security. The theme for the conference was “Preparing with the Whole Community”.

March 10, Trish Schuldes, RN, and Jess Moyle, RN, attended the Annual First Breath Program conference in Madison, WI. The conference focused on relationships with participants in the program, including the importance of building trust and rapport.

This year, the state of Wisconsin Department of Health provided scholarships to allow for two Public Health Preparedness trainings of Health Department staff to further address capability gaps. January 26, public health nurses Kathleen Sprangers, RN, Sonja Jensen, RN, Tricia Schuldes, RN, along with Preparedness Coordinator Sarah Burmeister, RS, attended the first training on how to support Volunteer Reception Center training which was held in Green Bay. The training focused on how to set up a Volunteer Reception Center, what the center does, and how it operates. The second training was the Disaster Family Assistance Specialist training held at Liberty Hall in Kimberly. February 10, Becky Lindberg, RN, Ashley Rankin, RN, Jess Moyle, RN, and Eric Maggio attended this training. The training focused on what the different types of Family Centers are and how public health might be involved in the activities at the centers.

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

This quarter the health department hosted a dietetic intern named Nicole Kabat, MSN, who learned more about the field of Public Health. Nicole created a display and age appropriate curriculum for reducing sugary drinks. This display is currently outside the City Common Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Eggebrecht, M.Ed., MCHES
Health Officer