



Health Department
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Annual Report 2017

Message from the Staff

The 2017 Annual Report of Lafayette County Health Department provides a snapshot of the many ways in which our organization touches the lives of Lafayette County residents each and every day and provides an answer to many who ask us... “What do the county nurses do?”

Although the multitude of our programs and activities may not often be visible, public health staff can frequently be found working *behind the scenes* on our mission to promote, protect, preserve health and provide care to our population. We would like to inform the public about the services we provide and hope that this report will clarify the important work we do and the important impact we have on our community.

The “Protection of Public Health” is a statutory requirement whose activities are carried out by county health departments. Health Departments are required to design and implement seven main programs around five required public health services:

1. Public Health Nursing - general prevention programming
2. Communicable Disease Prevention & Control
3. Health Promotion and Injury Prevention
4. Chronic Disease Prevention
5. Environmental Human Health Hazard Control & Prevention.

The 10 Essential Services of Public Health also provide a basic description to others as to “What Public Health does” and the services provided by our department. Our goals are to continue to sharpen and develop the tools and methods we need to ensure the safety and health of the population that we serve.

In summary, we deliver important services to the community at large as well as to individuals and their families. Our daily activities require community partnerships. Thank you to all our community partners, our dedicated health department staff and our Board of Health for their support throughout 2017.



The 10 Essential Services of Public Health

- ① Monitor health status & understand health issues facing the community.
- ② Protect people from health problems & health hazards.
- ③ Give people information they need to make healthy choices.
- ④ Engage the community to identify & solve health problems.
- ⑤ Develop public health policies & plans.
- ⑥ Enforce public health laws and regulations.
- ⑦ Help people receive health services.
- ⑧ Maintain a competent public health workforce.
- ⑨ Evaluate & improve programs & interventions.
- ⑩ Contribute to & apply the evidence base of public health.



In 2011, we decided to take a new approach to our agency's goals. Instead of adopting annual goals, we are taking a broader approach, and have adopted a 5-year strategic plan which includes our Mission, Vision, Values, Initiatives and Objectives.

Each component of our overall plan has a different time-frame, and all of them together will hopefully drive our agency toward our overall goals to Promote, protect & preserve health.

Our Mission

“Promoting, Protecting & Preserving Health while Providing Care with Partnerships throughout our Communities”

Our Vision

“Live Well Lafayette” – People of all ages, abilities & cultures living, playing and working together

Our Values

- ◆ Prevention & promotion
- ◆ Collaboration
- ◆ Social justice & diversity
- ◆ Quality care to those we serve
- ◆ Data-driven, science-based services
- ◆ Skilled, appreciated and innovative employees



2017 Health Department Staff

Jeff Kindrai

Interim Director/Health Officer

Annie Timmerman RN, BSN

Director/Health Officer (through 10/2017)

Lee Gill RN, PHN

Danielle Steger RN, BSN

Cara Biddick RN, BSN

Christy Gilbert RN, BSN (through 09/2017)

Troy Moris

Registered Sanitarian/Environmental Health Consultant

Erin Hastert

Public Health Technician

Jackie Ragotzkie

Administrative Deputy

Kari Liddicoat BS

Administrative Deputy (through 08/2017)

Board of Health

Robert Boyle, Chair

David Hammer

Carol Korn

Tony Ruesga

Lois Finnigan

Chris Fortin

Kristie Lueck

Medical Advisor

Dr. Martin Cleary

Family Health/Memorial Hospital of Lafayette County



What does Lafayette County Health Department do for you and your community? Dozens of things, but most people don't realize how many vital services they receive from their local health department. The benefits have become such an integral part of the American standard of living that most people take them for granted.

Protect, Educate and Provide

Public Health is the science of protecting and improving the health of communities through education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and research for disease and injury prevention. Public Health focuses on improving the health of the general population through broad-based interventions, as opposed to the health care system, which primarily focuses on the treatment of individuals. The population-based services provided by public health departments are a major contributor to the overall improving of a community's health status.

PROTECTS the community from health threats, the everyday, and the exceptional.



The Lafayette County Health Department guards multiple fronts to defend you and your community from any health threat, regardless of the source, and works to prevent disease outbreaks. The Health Department's Environmental Health Program ensures the tap water that everyone drinks and the air everyone breathes is safe. Public Health Staff are ready to respond to any health emergency—be it bioterrorism, SARS, West Nile Virus, H1N1 or an environmental hazard.

EDUCATES you and your neighbors about health issues.

The Lafayette County Health Department provides information that allows people to make healthy decisions every day, such as: exercising more, eating right, quitting smoking or simply washing their hands to keep from spreading illness. The nurses provide information through public forums in our community, public service announcements in the media, programs in schools, health education in homes and clinics, and detailed websites. During a public health emergency, the Health Department provides important alerts and warnings to protect you and your community's health.

PROVIDES healthy solutions for everyone.



The Lafayette County Health Department offers the preventive care needed to avoid chronic disease and to help maintain health. Public Health Nursing provides flu shots for the elderly and target groups, and helps mothers obtain prenatal care that gives their babies a healthy start. The Health Department also helps provide children with immunizations, prevention education and good nutrition to help them grow and learn. Health Promotion is also our mission when we coordinate and participate in community health fairs and health screening.

Advances community health.

The Lafayette County Health Department and its governing board, the Board of Health, play a vital role in addressing challenges to your community's health. They do this by developing new policies and implementing evidence-based practices to control the challenges while enforcing a range of laws intended to keep everyone safe. The Health Department is constantly working through research and rigorous staff training - to maintain its unique expertise and deliver up-to-date, cutting-edge health programs while evaluating program effectiveness. These efforts cannot be done alone, but through community partnerships focusing on health priorities identified in the community.

Since 1900, the average lifespan of persons in the United States has lengthened by greater than 30 years; 25 years of this gain are attributable to advances in public health. - Centers for Disease Control & Prevention



Lafayette County Health Department Programs

Prevention Programming

Lafayette County Health Department implements programs and coalition work with preventive strategies based upon the “Let’s Get Healthy, Lafayette County” Community Health Needs Assessment and community health improvement plan. We deliver public health services to citizens by qualified health professionals in a manner that is family centered, culturally competent and consistent with best practices. Examples of prevention programming and coalition work include: *Highway Safety Committee, Lafayette County Emergency Preparedness Task Force, Child Death Review, Live Well Lafayette, Sharps Container Program, Rural Safety Coalition and Quarterly Newsletter*. The Health Department is also involved in many health fairs and community education events such as: *Lafayette County Dairy Breakfast, Lafayette County Fair and Senior Affair*.

Public Health Preparedness & Response

These federal grants allow local health departments to train staff in many activities such as: Incident Command Roles, Epidemiology for disease follow up, mass clinic operation and communication skills during a crisis. The Health Department must also plan and participate in exercises throughout the year to evaluate our level of preparedness. The grant objectives, as defined by the Federal government, have been satisfied for the 2016-2017 Grant. Preparedness allows the Public Health staff to be equipped to handle crisis and/or epidemics whenever they may present.

Community Support Program (CSP)

Community Support Program (CSP) provides residents of Lafayette County, who suffer from chronic mental illness, medication management services in attempt to reduce the impact of suffering and health disparity of mental illness. Public Health Nurses (PHN), provide medication management, and skilled nursing services through Lafayette County Human Services in an ongoing effort to serve the needs of mentally ill residents within Lafayette County. During 2017, PHN's assisted 23 unduplicated county residents in proper medication management enabling these residents to live more full and independent lives. PHN's also meet with case managers on a weekly basis, meet with the psychiatrist on a bi-weekly basis, and perform client education and skilled nursing assessments, while acting as a clinical liaison between the client and health care providers.

Tobacco Control & Prevention

In 2017, LCHD was very active in taking action to provide education regarding tobacco, e cigarettes & other nicotine devices. Lee Gill, public health nurse, works with area schools in programs such as FACT (Fight Against Corporate Tobacco). Middle & High School students are educated on the evidence based scientific facts of tobacco, e cigarettes & other nicotine devices. In turn, these students provide peer education on the facts of these products. The ultimate goal is reduction of youth experimentation with these products. In the most recent community needs assessment, Lafayette County was found to have the lowest number of youth using tobacco products in WI. Monthly meetings are held to keep youth aware of current trends in the tobacco industry. Two legislative meetings were conducted in 2017 giving FACT youth the opportunity to interact with SW WI legislators and discuss facts & concerns of tobacco, e cigarette & nicotine device laws and pending legislation.



Oral Health

Oral health is essential to the general health and well-being of all Wisconsin residents. In order to establish a sound foundation for dental health for area youth, we conduct fluoride programs that are safe and effective in preventing and controlling dental caries. The Fluoride Varnish program partners with Southwestern Community Action Program (SWCAP) targeting four year old students enrolled in Head Start. Twice each academic year, we visit with participating students to check their teeth and gums, then apply the fluoride varnish. The Fluoride Rinse program in association with local school districts focuses on first through fifth or sixth grade students. During the school year, participating students are provided with a weekly fluoride mouth rinse that is conducted while they are in school.

Communicable Disease Program

We track communicable diseases through a channel of communications at the local, state and regional levels between public health, private physicians, hospitals, schools and labs. This communication channel allows for prompt investigation of possible outbreaks and unusual situations, and to implement control measures to minimize further transmission of disease to others. In 2017, Lafayette County staff received approximately 133 reports of communicable diseases.

Cases of Reportable Disease for 2017

ARBOVIRAL ILLNESS, DENGUE	1
ARBOVIRAL ILLNESS, WEST NILE VIRUS, NEUROINVASIVE	1
CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS	19
CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS INFECTION	34
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	6
E-COLI, SHIGA TOXIN-PRODUCING (STEC)	2
GIARDIASIS	1
GONORRHEA	3
HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE, INVASIVE DISEASE	2
HEPATITIS C, CHRONIC	7
HISTOPLASMOSIS	2
INFLUENZA-ASSOCIATED HOSPITALIZATION	8
LEGIONELLOSIS	1
LYME DISEASE (B.BURGDORFERI)	6
LYME LABORATORY REPORT	11
MEASLES (RUBEOLA)	1
METAL POISONING (NON-LEAD)	1
MUMPS	9
PERTUSSIS (WHOOPING COUGH)	6
Q FEVER, ACUTE	1
Q FEVER, unspecified	1
SALMONELLOSIS	4
SHIGELLOSIS	1
STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIAE, INVASIVE DISEASE	2
SYPHILIS REACTOR	2
VARICELLA (CHICKENPOX)	1



Immunization For Children & Adults

Immunizations are one of the most important public health victories of the 20th century - defeating or sharply reducing diseases such as smallpox, polio, measles, diphtheria, rubella, and pertussis (whooping cough). In 2017, the Lafayette County Health department gave a total of total of 2083 immunizations. The Health Department gave 1538 immunizations in the 0-18 age group, and 545 to the 19 and up age group. Lafayette County Health Department receives grant money to work on every child by 2. Our 2017 objective was to have 61% of all children turning 2 up to date on immunizations. We fell short at 53% but our late up-to-date result was 64%, meaning 11% became up to date shortly after their 2nd birthday. For most of 2017, we held clinic hours on Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings (by appointment). The Lafayette County Immunization Coalition was established in the fall of 2017. Partnering with Memorial Hospital of Lafayette County, MHLC Primary Clinics and Hartwig Drug will allow us to emphasize immunization requirements and recommendations.

Rabies Prevention Program

Rabies is a viral disease affecting the central nervous system. The rabies virus is transmitted from infected mammals to humans (typically via a bite) and is invariably fatal once symptoms appear. It is important for bite victims to notify their local health department (or local law enforcement when public health staff are unavailable) whenever a bite occurs to ensure that the biting animal is appropriately and legally observed or tested for rabies. It is also vital not to release or destroy a biting animal until a public health official or an animal control officer is consulted. The victim's physician should also be notified promptly. In 2017, our staff worked closely with local law enforcement agencies, veterinarians, bite victims, animal owners and health care providers to successfully complete 40 reports of animal bites. 90 contacts were made in total from those reports.

MCH Grant (Maternal Child Health) Child Death Review

Injuries are a significant public health problem in the nation, Wisconsin, and Lafayette County, causing needless pain and suffering as well as emotional and financial stress. Each year, injury accounts for over 50,000 hospitalizations in Wisconsin. The leading causes of injury deaths in Lafayette County are motor vehicle crashes, falls, and self-harm. In 2014 Lafayette County Health Department created a Child Death Review (CDR) team. This team has been formally recognized by Lafayette County Board of Supervisors and consists of professionals from many agencies with team coordination being done by a public health nurse. The goals of a CDR team are to improve understanding of how and why children die, identify the need to influence policies and programs, improve child health, safety and protection and ultimately to prevent other child deaths in our county. The CDR team meets quarterly and reviews deaths of children from age 0-21. Lafayette County Rural Safety Coalition was developed in early 2016. It was decided by the Lafayette County Child Death Review Team to develop a coalition that can work on the prevention programs to keep Lafayette County residents safe from injury related deaths. The mission statement of the coalition is to "Provide safety education to all Lafayette County residents – through cooperating with Area businesses, County agencies, educational agencies and professionals." The coalition assisted with the Shullsburg Bike Rodeo, providing bike helmets to all of the students that participated. The coalition also purchased signage and life jackets that will be added to a Kids Don't Float display to be located at Yellowstone State Park in 2018.



WIC (Women Infant & Children)

WIC is the special supplemental nutrition program for Women, Infants and Children. WIC helps income eligible pregnant and breast-feeding women, women who recently had a baby, infants and children up to five years of age who have health risks due to inadequate nutrition. The program improves pregnancy outcomes by providing or referring women to support services necessary for full-term pregnancies. The program also reduces infant mortality by reducing the incidence of low birth weight (infants under 5 ½ pounds are at greater risk of breathing problems, brain injuries and physical abnormalities) and provides infants and children with a healthy start in life by improving poor or inadequate diets, ultimately saving the family from long-term medical costs. The WIC Program provides essential health programs for women during the prenatal period and until the child's 5th birthday. In 2017, an unduplicated count of 334 individuals (women, infants, children) residing in Lafayette County received WIC.

Childhood Lead Testing

There is no safe level of lead in the human body; even very low levels of lead exposure can cause permanent brain damage and negatively affect health throughout the child's life, especially those between 6 months and 6 years of age. Many lead hazards still exist in homes and the environment, including paint, vinyl mini-blinds, chalk, candlewicks and others. These hazards are commonly present during painting and remodeling of pre-1978 housing. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines lead poisoning as a blood level of 5 or greater. In Lafayette County, children with a lead level of 5 or greater are provided with follow-up and consultation by a Public Health Nurse. Follow-up may include phone calls, home visits, consultation with the primary health care provider and a home lead risk assessment. The ultimate goal is to reduce environmental lead exposure and lead poisoning.

Lafayette County Children Tested in 2017:

Total Number of Blood Tests: 152

Home Investigation Inspections: 1

School Health

The health, well-being and safety of children in school districts are a top priority for the Health Department. Nurses from the Lafayette County Health Department provide school nursing services for students in 6 of the 7 school districts in Lafayette County. Our Public Health Nurses (PHN's) play a crucial role in a child's health care needs at school, home and in the community. School nurses facilitate positive student responses to normal development; promote health and safety; intervene with actual and potential health problems; provide case management services; and actively collaborate with others to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self-management, self-advocacy and learning. Healthy children are successful learners. School Nursing Services provided include: Immunizations, hearing & vision education, fluoride mouth rinse, employee health, lice screening and follow up, communicable disease follow up, emergency nursing, human growth & development education, blood borne pathogen prevention education, and much more.



Community Human Health Hazards

To protect the health of the citizens of Lafayette County, we investigate situations with the potential of a human health hazard and bring them to resolution. Enforcement of the State of WI Human Health statutes is the role of Lafayette County Board of Health, County Health Officer and Environmental Sanitarian. In 2017, 27 home visits were conducted to investigate complaints of human health hazards. Additionally, 262 other contacts were made.

Breakdown of Environmental Health Contacts & Home Visits

	Food	Hazard	Air Quality	Animal	Solid Waste	Housing	Water	Radon	Asbestos	Lead	Sewage	Totals
Home Visits:	1	1	5	0	5	8	0	2	4	1	0	27
Contacts:	0	0	44	22	28	31	10	32	32	36	27	262

Total: 289

To help avoid future Human Health Hazards, the Lafayette County Health Department participates in the following programs:

- Sharps container program – Partnering with the ADRC, the Lafayette County Health Department offers a **FREE** program to provide *and* safely dispose Sharps Containers to Lafayette County residents.
- Arboviral prevention
- Radon – **FREE** Radon Test kits are provided to Lafayette County residents.
- Water – **FREE** Water Test kits are provided to Lafayette County residents. If there is a pregnant woman or a child UNDER one year of age in the household, testing is FREE. All other tests are billed through the WI State Lab of Hygiene.

Transient Non-Community Water Systems (TNC Program)

In 2016, LCHD was contracted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to annually partner in ensuring that county establishments who provide their own private well water to the public be safe for human consumption and use. By definition “Transient Non-Community Water Systems” serve at least 25 people for at least 60 days/year, but not the same 25 people over 6 months. These establishments are better known as: campgrounds, restaurants, taverns, churches, parks, golf courses, etc.... We worked with 27 facilities to ensure the well water served or available to the public met the acceptable standards set forth in the Federal Safe Drinking Water ACT (SDWA). Specifically, two water samples were collected at each facility: 1) to test for the presence of total coliform bacteria; and 2) to measure Nitrate levels. A positive presence of coliform bacteria would indicate that the well structure is compromised and the potential for contaminants to enter the water column exists. One particular coliform: Escherichia coli, better known as E. coli, indicates fecal contamination from a warm blooded source: either animal or human; possibly an unlined manure pit or a poorly functioning septic tank. In humans, E. coli can lead to abdominal cramps along with severe diarrhea. Elevated Nitrate levels in well water samples are an indication of excessive nitrogen from fertilizers or animal wastes combining with oxygenated water. Nitrate levels above the Maximum Concentration Level (MCL) of 10mg/L are considered to be unsafe for infants less than 6 months of age and pregnant women or women who may become pregnant.

2017 TNC Report

Annual Site Visits	25	Seasonal Sites	5	Follow Ups	3
Additional Nitrates	4	Additional Bacteria	5		



Water Quality Program

In 2017, Lafayette County Health Department offered a Drinking Water Testing & Education Program. This program offered a convenient opportunity to test county resident's private well water and learn about potential threats and proper techniques to keep drinking water safe. With full County Board support and some financial backing – Lafayette County offered to pay 25% of the testing costs; LCHD chose two townships (Seymour & Wiota) to start this program. Residents could choose the Homeowner Package which tested for Bacteria and Nitrates; the Metals Package which tested for Arsenic, Lead & Copper, Iron and Zinc; the Triazine-Type Pesticide Screen or they could do all three packages. UW Stevens Point tested and summarized 36 samples. Below is a summary of a few of the more common screenings.

<u>Nitrate</u>			<u>Coliform Bacteria</u>			<u>Atrazine Screen*(ppd)</u>		
None Detected	4	11%	Bacteria Samples	35		None Detected	16	57%
...-2.0	7	20%	Positive Bacteria	16	46%	...-0.3	10	36%
2.1-5.0	3	9%				0.4-10	2	7%
5.1-10.0	14	40%	<u>E. Coli Bacteria</u>			Average <0.1 for 28 Samples		
10.1-20.0	6	17%	E. Coli Samples	16		*Triazine screen before June 2008, then		
20.1-....	1	3%	Positive E. Coli	4	25%	Diaminochlorotriazine (DACT).		
Average 6.4 for 35 Samples								

Loan Closet

The Lafayette County Health Department houses a Medical Equipment Loan Closet. Through the loan closet, people are able to borrow various pieces of medical equipment to use in their homes. The service offers a nice alternative to people within the county who do not have the money to pay for expensive equipment, or for people who need equipment on a very short-term basis.

The following equipment is available through the LOAN CLOSET:

- Wheelchair
 - Toilet Elevation
 - Commode
- Walker
 - Wheeled walker
 - Walking canes
- Crutches
 - Bath Bench

The loan closet is funded by donations from residents in the county. We ask for a small donation when an individual borrows a piece of equipment, and are always accepting donations for used equipment that is in good shape to use in the loan closet.

2017 Financial Summary

Revenues	\$155,621.71
Expenses	\$483,273.97
Levy	<u>\$327,652.26</u>
Year End Balance	\$10,755.74

