



2014

SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE

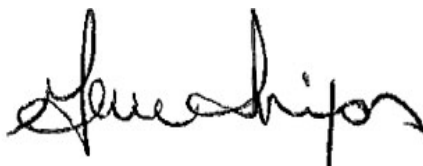
from the Commissioner and President of the Board of Health

2014 was a notable and historic year for Summit County Public Health. We completed renovations and moved into our new offices at Fairway Center in West Akron in October. On May 12th, our Graham Road offices suffered a catastrophic flood that resulted in the loss of equipment, furniture and records. On October 16th, we became aware of a diagnosed asymptomatic Ebola case that had traveled to and stayed in Akron. This began three weeks of intense disease investigation and response. Despite these watershed events, we maintained high quality and uninterrupted services. Staff bore these issues professionally and adjusted as necessary.

Predominant health issues in 2014 included the significant rise in local opiate abuse, continued high infant mortality, the obesity epidemic and of course ongoing Ebola monitoring. Expanding health care options under the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion provided us new opportunities to promote access to services and care coordination options. Our many community partnerships provided us leveraged ability to focus our efforts on particular at-risk populations, families and individuals.

We continued purposeful efforts to target the social, economic, educational quality and environmental factors that influence health and wellness. Public policies and decisions can have a significant impact on population health and we are systematically building the capacity to positively influence policies, programs and services to encourage the promotion of health equity and to avoid harmful and unintended outcomes.

Looking forward, we seek to be even more effective in addressing these significant social disparities and health inequities that impact different socioeconomic groups in our neighborhoods. We recognize our basic responsibility to improve the overall health of our community and to promote a culture of wellness for all. We continued to transform as a premiere local public health agency and remain committed to demonstrating excellence and representing the emerging direction for contemporary public health.



Gene Nixon, R.S., M.P.A.
Health Commissioner



Leon T. Ricks
President, Board of Health



ASSURING ACCESS

Assuring access to care is one of the cornerstones of the work being done in Summit County and is often more than just having a doctor or being connected to a hospital.

CARE COORDINATION

In anticipation of the Affordable Care Act and expanded Medicaid, Summit County Public Health established a Care Coordination Unit, linking individuals to needed health and social services. The staff assists residents with their applications for insurance through the Marketplace; educates the community on how to schedule appointments for primary and specialty care; and conducts in depth screenings for housing, food, and transportation needs.

CLINIC SERVICES

Summit County Public Health staff is uniquely qualified to serve diverse populations that require specialized care including immunizations, refugee health, latent tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections. Residents seeking clinic services may continue to schedule appointments, but are now also able to be seen without an appointment for acute situations. Other strategies that support assuring access include providing interpreter and translation services, assessing for additional health and behavioral health issues, and screening for social service needs.

UNITED WAY UTILITY PROGRAM

Summit County Public Health, in partnership with a generous donation from United Way of Summit County, facilitates the restoration of utilities for individuals in a disconnect status for utilities, as well as referrals for additional groceries and other community-based services as needed.

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

Summit County Public Health, in partnership with Northeast Ohio Medical University and other community partners, has developed a program for individuals seeking to become Certified Community Health Workers. SCPH is the training ground for these individuals who will address health disparities in neighborhoods with high rates of chronic disease and social isolation. These community drivers serve as a liaison between health and social service organizations and the community in order to facilitate access, increase bi-directional referrals, and improve quality and cultural competence.





ADDRESSING SOCIAL INEQUITIES

Achieving health equity requires creating fair opportunities for health and eliminating gaps in health outcomes between different social groups. Public health professionals look for solutions outside of the health care system, such as in the transportation or housing sectors, to improve the opportunities for health in communities.

CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Summit County Public Health has created a Care Coordination Unit to assure access to services for all residents. Programs like Million Hearts and Creating Healthy Communities offer community-based services that provide healthy lifestyle choices regardless of location or the ability to pay.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT / HEALTHY HOMES

Summit County Public Health is committed to healthy environments for neighborhoods and communities. The way neighborhoods are designed can affect both physical activity and mental health. SCPH partners with local school districts on Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School Projects. The Healthy Homes Project seeks to assure that all homes are lead-free and suitable for living.

INFANT MORTALITY / EARLY CHILDHOOD

Summit County Public Health has joined the Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality to address the high rates of infant mortality and improve the health of women of childbearing age and infants throughout Summit County. Strategies include promoting effective health care for all women before and during their childbearing years, employing evidence-based approaches to the reduction of infant mortality, and education initiatives. Help Me Grow

Programs provide services that promote growth and development and support expectant mothers and families with children from birth to three years of age during these important early years of a child's life.

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES / ELDER HEALTH

In partnership with Summit County Department of Jobs and Family Services, Summit County Public Health delivers a community-based response model for the most vulnerable elderly. Community agencies, safety forces and probate court all partner to assure the on-going safety of residents through coordination with Adult Protective Services staff.





PREVENTING DISEASE

Summit County Public Health implements multiple programs with the goal of reducing the prevalence of disease and injury.

HIV/STD PREVENTION EFFORTS

In 2014, the Summit County Public Health HIV/STD Prevention Program offered a comprehensive sexual health series to students at the middle and high school levels in the Akron Public School system.

Partner Services were offered in Summit County by the Disease Intervention Team (DIS) to 47 persons newly diagnosed with HIV and 29 persons diagnosed with syphilis. The DIS and Linkage to Care Case Manager worked with two local AIDS service organizations and Summa Health System to link persons in need of HIV care and to reengage those who had fallen out of care and needed help to return to HIV care.

EDUCATION AND COMPLIANCE

SCPH is the local consultant and regulator for many business and residential activities that can significantly impact health and contribute to disease. The focus is first and foremost on education. Healthy Home efforts include addressing asthma triggers, radon, safe drinking water, lead hazards, household chemicals and safety hazards, and proper wastewater treatment and air quality.

Facility inspections in 2014:

- 7,326 food safety inspections
- 994 public pool and spa inspections
- 301 air quality inspections
- 1,338 inspections of discharging septic systems
- 549 storm water outlet inspections

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS

Disease investigators collect data on reportable diseases and review serious communicable diseases diagnosed in Summit County, the type of disease and the potential modes of transmission. In 2014, the Communicable Disease unit tracked 5,479 communicable disease reports resulting in the investigation of 636 of these illnesses.

Disease investigations in 2014:

- Notified ODH of 5,479 reportable diseases
- Investigated 636 disease reports
- Investigated 27 possible disease outbreaks



IMPROVING HEALTH



Our responsibility to improve community health is ambitious, requiring coordinated efforts to address the complex challenges of assuring wellness.

HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES

The broad goal of achieving better health has resulted in a call to action across Summit County that encompasses everything from promoting healthy behaviors to creating environments that make it easier to exercise and access healthy food. The Summit County Health in All Policies (HiAP) initiative works to incorporate health considerations into decision and policy making across all sectors.

HEALTH IMPROVEMENT ALLIANCE

Summit County Public Health is proud to be a member of the Institute for Health Improvement (IHI) Leadership Alliance, a commitment of local health care leaders to create a new vision for health care and health care delivery systems. This Alliance provides a forum for members to innovate, share promising approaches and learn from experts in the field to accelerate and promote effective systems change.

DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND COMMUNITY REPORTS

Summit County Public Health is committed to bringing current data and meaningful analysis to community members. Often data is available, but not analyzed or collected at a scale relevant to Summit County. Having this data available allows community agencies and leaders to develop strategic solutions. Over the last year, SCPH created two new community reports addressing early childhood issues and health

disparities. In partnership with the Summit County ADM Board and Case Western Reserve University, SCPH also conducted the Youth Risk Behavior Survey to collect risk behavior data from 9,000 middle and high school students.

SUMMIT 2020: A QUALITY OF LIFE PROJECT

Summit 2020: A Quality of Life Project is a collaborative partnership with the Summit County Social Services Advisory Board, the county's levy-funded agencies, non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, government agencies, and local businesses. Through this partnership, an assessment of the entire Summit County community has been conducted. A comprehensive health and social service plan is in place to serve as a road map to improve the health and quality of life for residents.



UNIQUE CHALLENGES

Summit County Public Health was presented with some uncommon occurrences in 2014:

GRAHAM ROAD FLOOD

On May 12th, our offices located on Graham Road Circle in Stow suffered a catastrophic flood, causing the loss of equipment, records, and the relocation of all staff. The building has since reopened following significant renovation.



EBOLA

On October 16th, we became aware of a diagnosed asymptomatic Ebola case that had traveled to and stayed in Akron. This began three weeks of intense disease investigation and response. Our communicable disease activities were balanced against efforts to distribute credible information and manage external political agendas.

FAIRWAY CENTER OPENING

We opened our new headquarters to the public in October and held our grand opening on schedule on November 21st. The facility is a comfortable and stimulating work environment for staff and a convenient and comprehensive public health resource for the community. We are also proud to share space with the Summit County Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board as a critical community health partner.



AND OPPORTUNITIES

Meanwhile, we strove to improve our service delivery model and remained steadfast in our ability to adapt to meet the new emerging needs of the community.

YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY

In partnership with the Summit County ADM Board and local school districts, SCPH facilitated the administration of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey to middle and high school students. Valuable data was collected which can be used to guide programs and services to youth and families most at risk.

HEALTH EQUITY UNIT

The changing role of Austen BioInnovation Institute of Akron (ABIA) created the opportunity for Summit County Public Health to continue the capacity work that was central to Community Transformation. The newly created Health Inequity and Social Disparity unit will identify strategies to address chronic disease management in the community. In addition, promoting the adoption of Health in All Policy legislation will assure the consideration of health impact on governmental decisions.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

The Performance Management Initiative will coordinate organization-wide efforts to ensure that performance management (PM) and quality assurance (QA) programs are developed and managed using a data-driven focus that sets priorities for improvements aligned with ongoing strategic priorities, improving operational and program efficiencies and effectiveness.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Emergency Preparedness Unit will expand and continue to provide information, education and planning efforts to mitigate damage and loss of life from all hazards, with a special emphasis on infectious disease containment and mitigation. With the changing global impact of infectious diseases such as Ebola and with regional hospital planning, public health needs to rapidly respond to all potential infectious disease outbreaks.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT

During 2014, plans were developed for the completion of Phase II of the Summit County Environmental Health Assessment, which began in 2010 with the release of Phase I. Completion of the assessment is anticipated in 2015.

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG SAFETY PREVENTION

The Counseling unit plans two new programs in 2015: Project DAWN and a syringe exchange program (SEP). Project DAWN is an overdose education and Naloxone distribution program. When administered during an overdose, Naloxone blocks the effects of opioids and restores breathing. SEP provides free sterile syringes and collects used syringes from injection-drug users to reduce transmission of blood-borne pathogens, including human immunodeficiency virus, hepatitis B virus, and hepatitis C virus.

FISCAL REPORT

Financial Statement 2014

Cash Receipts	General Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Total
Local Taxation	3,230,675	-	3,230,675
State Subsidy	102,079	-	102,079
Environmental Health Fees	2,445,843	274,896	2,720,739
Vital Statistics	427,752	-	427,752
Personal Health Services	1,593,655	225,464	1,819,119
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,119,337	1,089,312	2,208,649
Federal Funds Reimbursement	78,934	8,753,016	8,831,950
Local Contracts (Including Akron)	4,227,894	125,000	4,352,894
State Fees	872,917	-	872,917
TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS	14,099,086	10,467,688	24,566,774
Cash Disbursements			
Salaries	5,859,065	4,798,058	10,657,123
PERS/Workers Comp/Medicare	953,543	772,045	1,725,588
Health Benefits	1,159,614	893,449	2,053,063
Travel	155,005	81,634	236,639
Supplies	548,621	273,184	821,805
Contracts-Services/Repairs	1,653,921	3,205,740	4,859,661
Building Rental	110,688	102,521	213,209
Advertising and Printing	12,815	63,509	76,324
Other Expenses	1,187,353	31,092	1,218,445
Equipment	875,462	126,707	1,002,169
Remittance to State	849,833	-	849,833
Debt Service-Building	172,868	-	172,868
Client Services	107,372	100,635	208,007
TOTAL CASH DISBURSEMENTS	13,646,160	10,448,574	24,094,734
RECEIPTS LESS DISBURSEMENTS	452,926	19,114	472,040
Transfers/Advances-In	1,800,000	1,403,508	3,203,508
Transfers/Advances-Out	1,743,500	1,460,008	3,203,508
Reserve for Encumbrances	3,627,166	2,799,689	6,426,855
FUND BALANCE	4,136,592	2,762,303	6,898,895

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