



CHIPPEWA COUNTY
Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

2018

Annual Report



**Chippewa County
Department of Public Health**

MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH OFFICER

The Chippewa County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) had an energetic 2018. CCDPH completed a thorough update of all policies and procedures and completed a large agency self-assessment to prepare for Public Health Accreditation. After the agency self-assessment, staff found evidence to show how our health department is meeting the standards of Public Health Accreditation for 12 domains that are established by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). This work will continue into 2019 when CCDPH will have a site visit with PHAB.



The six divisions in the health department all experienced growth and change during 2018.

- ❖ The Community Health Division vaccinated 726 students during mass flu clinics and started implementing PreVenture, an AODA prevention program and Taking Care of You, a mental health prevention program in schools and the jail in Chippewa County.
- ❖ The Home Health Care Division hired a new manager, Jody Mooney. Jody and her team have implemented a Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement Program that looks at client satisfaction, patient and staff safety, and patient health outcomes.
- ❖ The Environmental Health Division started doing meth testing of homes to ensure a safe environment for people to live in.
- ❖ The Nutrition Division started using Coeffective, an evidence-based care model to prepare mothers for breastfeeding prenatally.
- ❖ The Western Regional Center for children and youth with special health care needs has worked diligently to identify and train parent leaders to help promote peer support in the region and state.
- ❖ The Fiscal/Administration division has been busy building the Vision, Mission, Services, and Goals (VMSG) dashboard that will be used by the entire health department to track activities and goals and promote quality improvement.

In partnership with the Eau Claire City-County Health Department, Mayo Clinic Health System, Hospital Sister Health Systems-Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's Hospitals (HSHS), Marshfield Clinic, and United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley, CCDPH completed the Community Health Assessment (CHA) process. In the summer of 2018, all of the Chippewa County partners came together to write action plans under Chippewa Health Improvement Partnership for the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which will be finalized in 2019.

CCDPH staff have worked thoughtfully and persistently in 2018 to move the strategic plan of the department forward. This includes Team Agency Outreach, Team Public Health, Team Quality Improvement/Performance Management, Team Communication Improvement, and in 2018, the department added Team Workforce Development and Team Health Equity. CCDPH is looking forward to continuous improvement in our department and serving the citizens of Chippewa County the best that we can!

Respectfully Yours,

Angela Weideman

Angela Weideman, LMFT
Director/Health Officer

Department of Public Health



Vision

- *The Healthiest County to Live, Learn, Work, and Play*

Mission

- *Prevent, Promote, Protect*

Values (P.R.I.D.E.)

- *Partnership, Respect, Innovation, Dedication, Excellence*

Accreditation Domains

-  Domain 1 - Assess
-  Domain 2 - Investigate
-  Domain 3 - Inform & Educate
-  Domain 4 - Community Engagement
-  Domain 5 - Policies & Plans
-  Domain 6 - Public Health Laws
-  Domain 7 - Access to Care
-  Domain 8 - Workforce
-  Domain 9 - Quality Improvement
-  Domain 10 - Evidence-Based Practices
-  Domain 11 - Administration & Management
-  Domain 12 - Governance

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Chair: Larry Willkom
Vice Chair: John (Jack) Halbleib

Nicole Clements
Steve Gerrish (not pictured)
Annette Hunt
Kari Ives
Larry Marquardt
Dr. Stacey Sperlingas
Tom Thornton



PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE



thank
you!

Kathy Cernohous
Jim Fenno
Linda Lorentz
Karen Maddox
Dr. Stacey Sperlingas

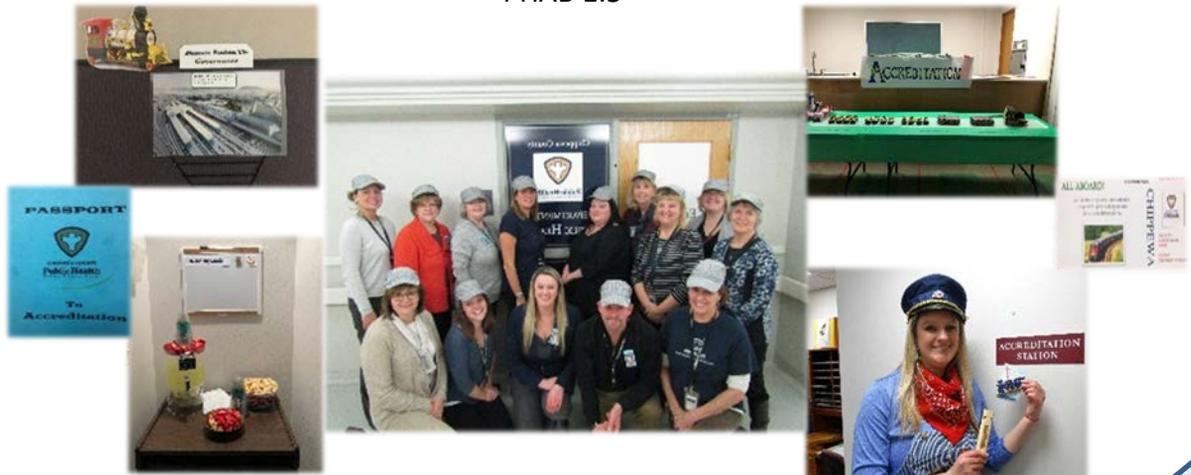
Judy Fedie
Jim Koehler (not pictured)
Carol Meagher
Jody Mooney
Dawn Stark
Angela Weideman

ACCREDITATION

Accreditation is the measurement of a health department's performance against a set of nationally recognized, practice-focused, and evidence-based standards. CCDPH has taken formal steps to move towards Public Health Accreditation.

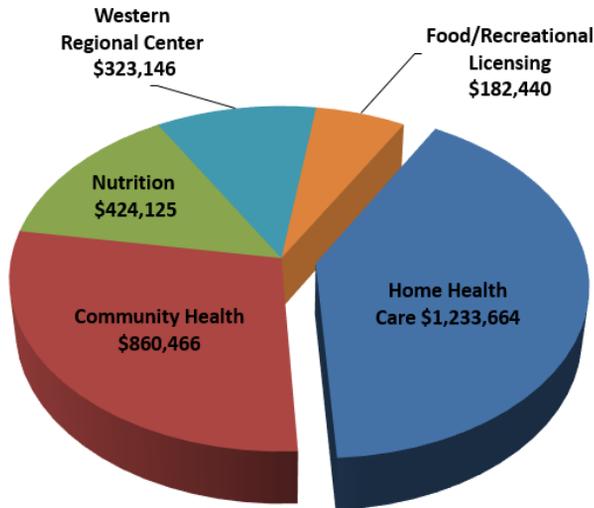
2018 Journey to Accreditation

- Agency Self-Assessment
 - Mission Monday
 - PHABulous Friday
 - Wisdom Wednesday
 - Refueling Station
- Monthly Domain Education to Staff & Board
- Passports to Staff & Other Partners
- Tickets for All-Staff Meeting
- March 21 - Submit Application to PHAB
- May 8-9 - AC Coordinator Training
- May 24 - Pushed the Button
- AC Station Used for Domain Meetings
- Mission/Vision Song Created
- Documentation Selection
- OPPA Accreditation Support
- PHAB 1.5



*Accreditation is a journey, not a destination.
Let us travel together and stay on track,
for our Accreditation journey.*

PUBLIC HEALTH EXPENDITURES



The pie chart at left shows Public Health's unaudited expenditures for 2018. Home Health Care has 44.80% of the department's expenditures with Community Health next at 28.46%. The total expenditures for 2018 was \$3,023,841.

COUNTY WELLNESS COLLABORATION

In 2018, Public Health collaborated with the Department of Administration for the Employee Wellness Program. Public Health's involvement supports both our department's mission as well as the County strategic plan by promoting and protecting the health of people in Chippewa County, coordinating and collaborating with government entities, as well as providing a safe, healthy and prosperous environment for County employees and our community. Achievement highlights include:

- 142 employee and spouse health assessments
- Six Lunch 'n Learn education sessions, including "That Sugar Film" series along with a 21-day Sugar Challenge and Fad Diet presentation
- Provided a Salad Bar event to celebrate National Healthy Lunch Day
- Planned and coordinated four onsite Red Cross blood drives, collecting almost 100 blood donations
- Prepared an Employee Wellness Team Strategic Plan for 2019-2020
- Facilitated yoga and boot camp after work at a reduced cost for all County employees
- Public Health provided numerous flu clinics for all employees and spouses
- Assisted in planning and serving the employee healthy Holiday Luncheon and Healthy Food Donation Drive yielding a donation of 1,302 items and \$449.00 to the Legacy Center

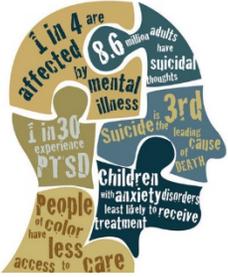
14,000 plastic water bottles, or an average of about 45 bottles/day in just nine months were saved as the result of installing a water bottle filler in the courthouse

Top 3 Health Priorities

Mental Health

Mental Health is our County's top health priority. Work on this priority includes two goals:

- 1) Collaboration and education of community partners about mental health issues
- 2) Collaborate with community partners involved with Mental Health Matters
 - ❖ Rachel Potaczek, RN, is a member of Prevent Suicide Chippewa Valley.
 - ❖ Lead agency for Child Death Review. No deaths reviewed in 2018. Childhood injury prevention calendar developed and implemented.
 - ❖ One staff person participates on the Suicide Death Review team.
 - ❖ Grant funding received from Marshfield Clinic to implement Postvention program (training to learn best practices in responding after a death by suicide or sudden death) into rural communities in 2019.
 - ❖ Three staff members participated on the Mental Health Matters Initiative. Our agency involvement provides a way for Chippewa County residents to benefit from this initiative.
 - ❖ Two staff members trained in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and resiliency by Mental Health Matters initiative. Continued education and outreach to the community occurred throughout the year.



Substance Abuse

Substance abuse refers to the use of and negative impacts from mood-altering substances. This health priority has two goals:

- 1) Collaborate with community partners to assess substance abuse issues
- 2) Increase the safety & health of homes in Chippewa County
 - ❖ Two staff members participated on the Drug Endangered Children Committee (DEC).
 - ❖ The DEC hosted Meth town halls to spread the word about meth and how meth affects our community.
 - ❖ Meth testing completed in four homes and distribution of materials about meth clean-up by Public Health Environmental staff.
 - ❖ Kristen Kelm, RN, became the Voices in Prevention Coalition Chair.
 - ❖ Did not receive Drug Free Community grant in 2018 and will apply again in the future.
 - ❖ Began implementation of PreVenture program (personality-targeted program to reduce unhealthy habits in students) into school districts.
 - ❖ Six Public Health staff, two schools, and one community partner were trained in PreVenture.



Alcohol Misuse

Alcohol misuse refers to high-risk alcohol consumption behaviors.

There are three goals for this health priority:

- 1) Collaborate with community partners to assess alcohol issues & education needs
- 2) Collaborate with schools to assess alcohol issues & education needs
- 3) Work with local government to establish a Social Hosting Ordinance
 - ❖ Staff participated on the Voices in Prevention Coalition.
 - ❖ Parents Who Host campaign materials were displayed in a booth at the National Night Out Event and distributed at county school district sporting events in the fall of 2018.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Chippewa Health Improvement Partnership



- Angela Weideman serves as Chair
- Staff members participated on and lead Action Teams
- Created a Health Equity Action Team
- Action plans were developed by Teams

Mental Health Matters



- Collaboration of twenty partners from the Chippewa Valley
- Aims to improve mental well-being for middle/high school youth
- Education and Awareness Action Team > 500 people trained
- Mindfulness Action Team-one school in each county trained
- Data Action Team-starting to collect data
- Funded by Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment at the Medical College of Wisconsin

County Schools



- School/parent outreach
- Event staff participation
- School/Public Health collaboration through human growth and development talks, QPR, ACES/Resiliency training, PreVenture, and Postvention programs

Northwest Wisconsin Breastfeeding Network



- Staff coordinated the NWBN Breastfeeding Conference
- Staff organized the 3rd Annual Breastfeeding Walk

United Way



- Grant Funding - Nurse Family Partnership, Bright Starts, Talking is Teaching
- Staff participated in education and health initiatives
- Angela Weideman is Vice Chair

Rutledge Charities



- Charity Outreach Funding
- Car seats, diapers, and transportation funding

Educational Institutions



- Host site for interns from UW-EC and UW-Stout
- Student Interns have been a vital part in moving our health priorities forward
- Interns did grant writing, created projects, outreach, and educational materials/presentations
- Career development education and outreach - local schools, BSN completion UW-EC, CVTC nursing students

Human Services Funded Programs



- PreVenture: aims to identify teens by personality type and teach them skills to cope and learn about their personalities.
- Nurses, school staff & community partners have been trained to teach the class
- Taking Care of You: a class for teens through older adulthood. Teaches body, mind spirit connection and provides skills to cope with life's stressors.

Strategic Plan 2017-2020 Team Updates

Our agency developed a Strategic Plan in 2016 and the leadership team created four teams to work on the prioritized needs of our department. These included Agency Outreach, Communication Improvement, Performance Management/Quality Improvement, Team Public Health. Workforce Development and Health Equity teams were created at the end of 2018 and added to the Strategic Plan.

Team Agency Outreach

2018 provided great opportunities for Team Agency Outreach to help coordinate outreach for staff to attend various events within the community to provide education and resources about the services and programs Public Health provides. Outreach and accomplishments include:

- ❖ Senior Americans Day-June 5
- ❖ Northern Wisconsin State Fair- July 11-15
- ❖ Hmong New Year-November 10
- ❖ Memory Care Café-November 15
- ❖ Updated the Home Health Care Brochure



Team Communication Improvement

Since the start of 2018, Team Communication has strived to build upon our “Besties” training in 2017 by scheduling follow-up trainings, as well as Colors Training to allow our staff to find out more about themselves, and how to best interact with others. Teamwork requires that each of us know our strengths, and appreciate the strengths of those around us! The Team completed the following:

- ❖ Updated and improved the Comprehensive Communication Plan
- ❖ Coordinated and scheduled the Real Colors Training for Martin Luther King Jr. In-Service Day January 21, 2019

Strategic Plan Team Updates Continued

Team Performance Management/Quality Improvement

The Team continues to encourage staff to write down their improvement projects so we can take credit for the great work they do at improving work flow and customer services. Highlights from the year included:

- ❖ Revision to Purchase Service Request Form completed as a QI project
- ❖ Review of employee survey results and QI planning as result of the Assess the Health of Our Workplace Survey
- ❖ Completed a QI project (using the Plan, Do, Study, Act Tool) to improve the Public Health Clinic waiting room environment.
- ❖ Suggested planning a HIPPA training for all staff, which was completed
- ❖ Recommended and delegated to Leadership Team the completion of our department's Performance Management Self-Assessment tool for Accreditation evidence
- ❖ Acquired a subscription for Survey Monkey to create surveys, and to help collect data from our customers and staff
- ❖ Provided education at All-Staff meetings on quality improvement techniques



Team Public Health

Team Public Health exists to make the work environment a priority. Our goal is to increase moral, create fun ways to memorize important items, and communicate better. Highlights from the year included:

- ❖ Built a wall of train tracks to visualize our Accreditation journey, which includes an engine that advanced to the Domain Stations as the department progressed
- ❖ Created lyrics/videos for two songs to memorize the Vision, Mission, and Values
- ❖ Recognized staff on their specific profession day
- ❖ Coordinated the celebration of staff journeys, milestones, holidays, and events
- ❖ In April, coordinated a celebration at the All-Staff meeting to “Push the Button” for the Accreditation journey to begin
- ❖ Collaborated on hosting the Director’s Panel event in October. Staff created the invitation, coordinated food preparation and decorations, researched the past Public Health Directors, and created a power point presentation
- ❖ Conducted team-building exercises to share at All-Staff meetings
- ❖ Staff created homemade greeting cards
- ❖ The ‘Guess Who’ poster wall continued to grow
- ❖ Coordinated Dress Down Day donations

Strategic Plan Team Updates Continued

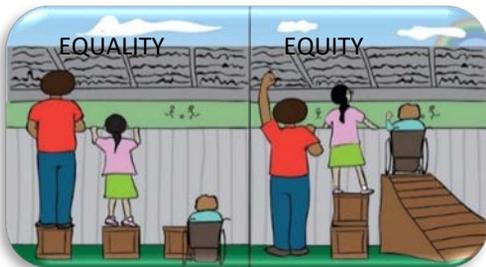
Team Workforce Development

The Workforce Development Team was recently re-established at the end of 2018 as part of revising our agency Strategic Plan. The Team was created to ensure a systematic process is in place so that Chippewa County professional staff are able to identify individual competency and training gaps, as compared to national standards, and institute corrective actions to fill those gaps.

Another driving force for the development of a comprehensive Workforce Development Team is the Public Health Accreditation Board's (PHAB) identification of standards and measures around Workforce Development Plans as requirements for national voluntary accreditation. According to PHAB, an accredited health department "must maintain, implement, and assess the health department workforce development plan that addresses the training needs of the staff and the development of core competencies."

The plan of the Workforce Development Team will be to have staff complete the Wisconsin Center for Public Health Education and Training (WICPHET) Core Competency Survey and identify strengths and gaps/weaknesses. The WICPHET can assist staff in identifying any gaps and trainings needed.

Team Health Equity



Team Health Equity was created because everyone in Chippewa County should have a fair and just opportunity to be healthy, no matter the conditions that people are born, grow, work, live and age. Team Health Equity has accomplished the following in just a few short months:

- ❖ All-staff training on an Introduction to Health Equity
- ❖ Staff took the By Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII) assessment to develop a baseline understanding of and benchmark CCDPH's capacity for advancing health equity
- ❖ Developed a Health Equity Policy, which is now approved and in place
- ❖ Members of Team Health Equity also are members of the Chippewa Health Improvement Partnership Health Equity Action Team

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Public health nurses comprise the largest professional segment of the public health workforce. They have an essential role in improving the population's health and delivering essential health services to individuals, families, and communities where they live, learn, work, and play.

By The Numbers

1,584

Immunizations Given

1,217

Flu Shots Given

726

Students Immunized
at Mass Influenza Clinics

1,188

Male Condoms Distributed

Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

The YRBS is conducted as part of a national effort by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention to monitor health-risk behavior of the nation's high school students, which in turn result in the most significant causes of mortality and morbidity during youth and adulthood.

In 2017, the Voices in Prevention Coalition & Public Health collaborated with all seven Chippewa County school districts and provided support and assistance as needed for the schools who completed the YRBS. Eighty-five percent of enrolled middle school students and 76 percent of enrolled high school students completed the survey. The results of the county-wide data was released in a report in 2018, and shared with schools and community partners.

In 2019, Public Health will continue to be the point person between Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the school districts in assisting with the YRBS.

PreVenture Program - Changing Behavior

PreVenture is a school-based prevention program that aims to identify personality-related risk factors associated with mental health and substance misuse and to deliver brief coping skill interventions to young people presenting with these risk factors.

In 2018, Public Health began implementation of the PreVenture program in Chippewa County school districts. Two "train-the-trainer" classes were completed by Angela Weideman, with three schools and seven Public Health staff being trained.

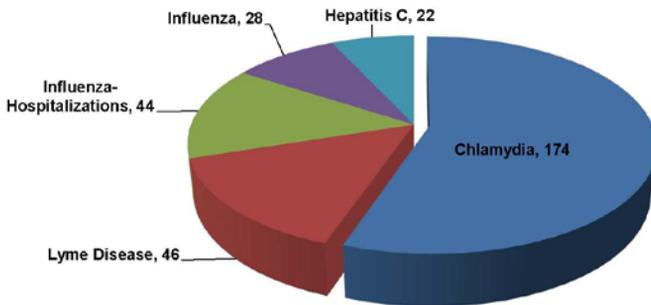
School Mass Clinics

Public Health nurses partnered with six school districts to host mass influenza vaccine exercises during school hours.

In 2018, the number of students vaccinated for influenza increased from 630 to 726 students.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CONTINUED

Top 5 Confirmed Diseases



Communicable Disease Control

In 2018, **1,212** cases of diseases were reported. As a result of follow up:

- 576 were confirmed cases
- 470 were not a case
- 127 were suspect cases
- 39 were probable cases

Collaborating with our Communicable Disease Partners

Health Alerts/Health Advisories-Information regarding communicable disease updates, trends, outbreaks, and guidance is sent out to community partners by email as a health alert or health advisory.

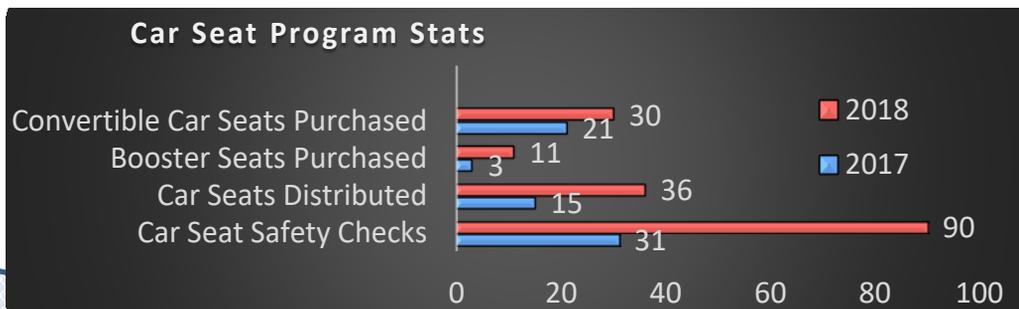
Trends in Disease-In May 2018, Chippewa County saw a significant increase in the number of reported Gonorrhea cases. Neighboring counties were also seeing this increase. A Health Advisory was sent out to medical and infection control providers recommending Gonorrhea testing be included in all sexually transmitted disease testing. We saw the number of Gonorrhea cases increase by 60 cases in 2018 as compared to 2017.

Annual Partner Meeting-On Sept. 27, 2018, Public Health held a meeting with local medical and infection control providers to provide collaboration, information sharing, updates, education, and outreach related to communicable disease in Chippewa County. Fifteen partners attended the event. Topics included Environmental Division, Influenza, Vaccine Reportable Diseases, Tuberculosis, Reporting & Surveillance of Communicable Disease, and Disease Trends. Public Health and providers will meet once a year with health alerts/health advisories being sent as needed.



Car Seat Program

Chippewa County Department of Public Health received funding from the Department of Transportation (DOT) for the purchase of car seats. Three public health staff, Jenny Lenbom, April Krumenauer, and Allie Isaacson, are Certified Car Seat Technicians. They provide outreach and education to community members to assure safe car seat use.



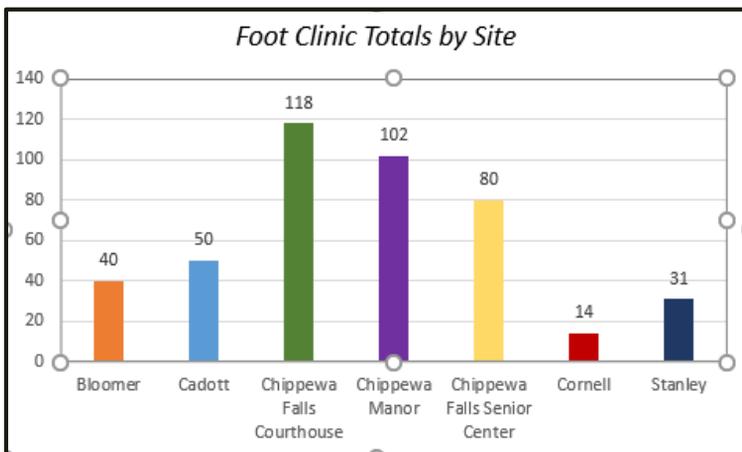
HOME HEALTH CARE

Access to home health care in Chippewa County is enhanced by our Home Health Care program and services. Through skilled nursing, personal care, and speech (ST), occupational (OT) and physical therapy (PT), individuals can recover safely at home, right where they want to be.

The home care program has made the following changes, which will assist to continue with the stabilization of the program:

- ❖ Now serving Chippewa, Clark, Barron, Dunn, Eau Claire, Rusk, and Taylor counties
- ❖ A new Home Health Care manager was hired
- ❖ Quality improvement programs were created to help improve the quality of care provided to patients
- ❖ Part of a pilot program with St. Joseph’s Hospital to use snapvacs for wound care which could decrease the cost of wound care supplies
- ❖ Foot clinic schedules were adjusted by moving a clinic from The Chippewa Manor to the Courthouse to make it more accessible to clients. The Cornell clinic was stopped due to decreased community interest

Please see the graph below to see the number of people seen at each Foot Clinic site during the year.



By The Numbers

225

Unduplicated People Served

2,662

Nursing Visits

1,328

PT, OT, and ST Visits

3,774

Home Health Aide Visits

435

People Served at Foot Clinics

635

Durable Medical Equipment Items Loaned Out

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Environmental health professionals prevent illness and promote health through inspections of human health hazards, management of elevated blood lead levels in children, and enforcement of applicable codes for various facilities in Chippewa County. The goal of the program is to reduce exposure to food-borne, water-borne, and recreational hazards in the community.

By The Numbers

635

Facility Inspections
Conducted

28

Human Health Hazard
Inspections

42

Radon Test Results
with Levels > 4.0
(81 Samples Tested)

25

Children (Less Than Age 5)
Received Lead Case
Management

4

Recommended Beach
Advisories
(10 Beaches Regularly Tested)

Three-Year DATCP Audit

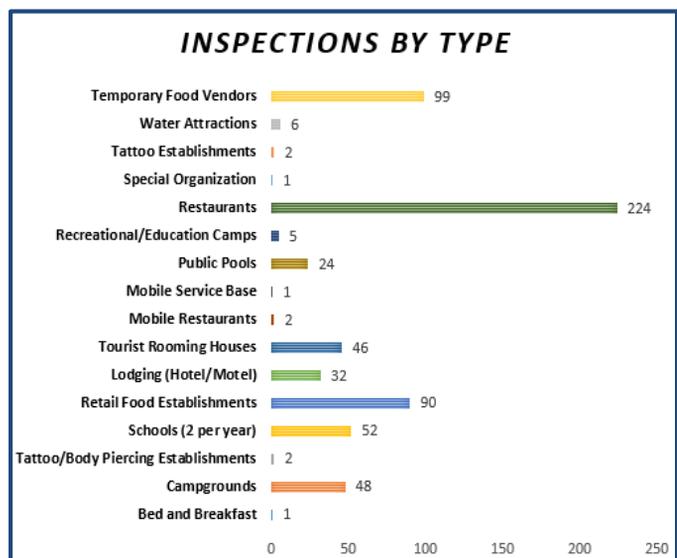
The state of the Chippewa County Environmental Health Program is “strong”.

The three-year Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Audit went very well. An upcoming meeting with DATCP and the Chippewa County Environmental Division has been scheduled for a joint review to close out the audit.

Chippewa County Department of Public Health acts as “Agents of the State”, which enables the department to license facilities in the county. During the program audit, DATCP reviews licensing, inspections, policies, procedures, contracts, and performs a standardization on the registered sanitarian.

Inspections

Each inspection entails reviewing over 50 checklist items that are crucial in food safety and operation. See the graph below for a breakdown of inspections by facility type.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CONTINUED

Food Safety Resolution

In 2018, DATCP was contemplating changing the laws allowing food vendors increased opportunities to serve food to the public during events that occur throughout the state of Wisconsin. CCDPH was concerned with the proposed change from three days to 12 days per year due to the inability to properly inspect and oversee such events, and the possibility for foodborne outbreaks and food safety awareness. Steps opposing the change included:

- Created a Resolution to dissuade lawmakers from supporting this change
- Received support from the Health and Human Services Board
- With the support of the Chippewa County government bodies, the legislature ultimately did not pass the proposal and the current law remains in place

This was a great example of local government taking action on the local and state level to help protect public safety.

Meth Testing

Human Health Hazards in Chippewa County can be quite diverse and ever-changing. In 2018, CCDPH began testing homes for meth use. This drug is increasing in use across all demographics of society. In 2018, four homes tested “positive”. When a home tests positive, CCDPH will placard the home until such time the property is properly cleaned and cleared.

Bed Bugs

In 2018, there was an increase in bed bugs, which posed a health hazard. Bed bugs were largely a non-issue up to the 1990s. Since this time, infestations have rapidly increased. Their vengeance does not necessarily cause disease, but is more likely a psychological vermin that no one wants as a house guest. Bed bugs affect rental properties, hotels, nursing homes, as well as private homes. The cost to evict these vermin also can be very cost prohibitive to many families.



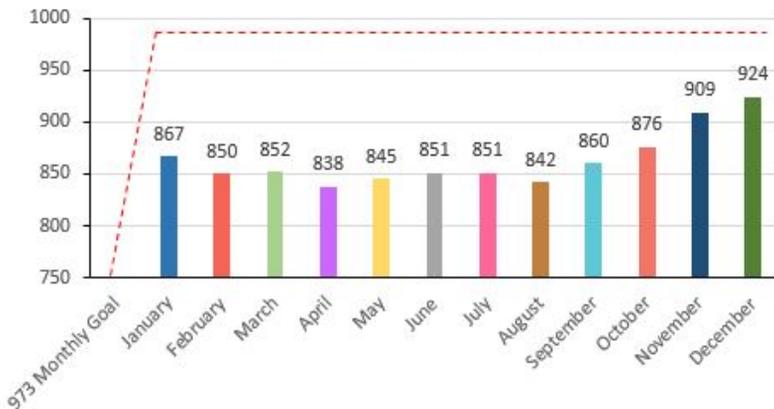
PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITION

Public health nutrition focuses on emphasizing the application of food and nutrition knowledge, policy, and research for the improvement of the health of populations.
“Making the Healthy Choice the Easy Choice”



WIC, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, is this nation’s premier public health nutrition program. WIC is a preventive public health program that provides nutrition and breastfeeding education, nutritious foods, and improved access to regular health care and community services to low and moderate-income women and young children with, or at risk of developing, nutrition-related health problems.

Monthly Participation



During 2018, the WIC Program focused on:

- ❖ Community outreach to increase monthly participation to serve more of the income-eligible county residents and reach contracted caseload
- ❖ Quality improvement for clinic operations and customer service
- ❖ A breastfeeding initiative known as “Coffective” to prepare WIC mothers to receive evidence-based care in the hospital by providing them with consistent messaging prenatally from WIC staff

By The Numbers

1455

Unduplicated Number of Women, Infants, and Children Served

63%

WIC-Enrolled Children Ages 2-4 were at a Healthy Weight

72%

Babies Started Breastfeeding

47.2%

Continued to Breastfeed 6 Months or Longer

3,088

Total Visits with a Registered Dietitian

\$656,452

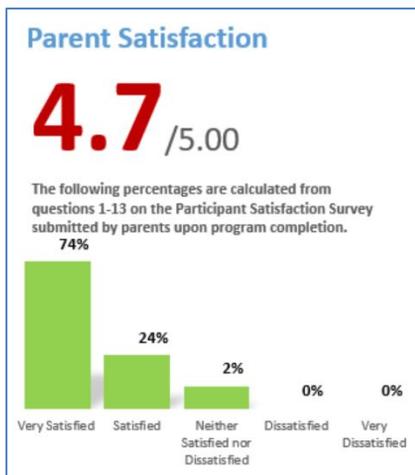
Revenue to Chippewa County WIC Program Vendors

PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITION CONTINUED



fit families

Fit Families, the successful behavior change program for WIC-enrolled families with 2-4 year old children, completed its sixth year of programming in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 here in Chippewa County. Overall, the program continues to have great evaluation results, including very positive feedback from participating families! There were 107 enrollees during FY 2018.



What parents said about Fit Families helping their children.....

- “He has started eating more veggies + drinking more water”
- “Lowered screen time. Got my other kiddo to eat more fruits + veggies”
- “Helped me be more conscious about what the kids are eating and has helped me make better choices for my family”

Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)

FMNP offers WIC-enrolled families fresh, locally-grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs from approved Wisconsin farmers markets and farm stands. Chippewa County Families:

- Received \$30 in vouchers to use June 1 – October 31
- Authorized locations included: Klinger Farm, Farm Stand at Bay Street Gordy’s Market, and downtown Chippewa Falls Farmers Market
- Purchased a total of \$7,560 in fresh produce
- 56% of benefits provided to families were redeemed; state average is 41%
- 82% redemption rate for families who spent some or all of the FMNP benefit; state average is 81%



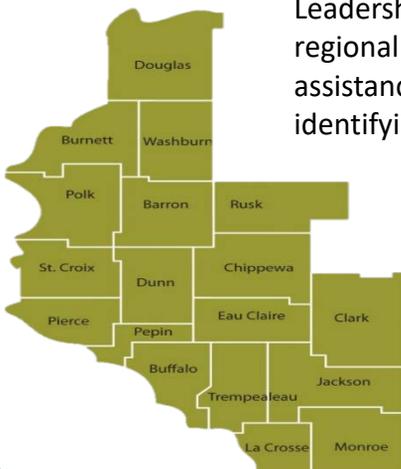
WESTERN REGIONAL CENTER

The Western Regional Center (WRC) for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) focuses on improving programs and services through promoting family partnership, medical home connections, adequate and consistent health insurance, early and continuous screening, accessible community-based services, and transition to adult services.

Western Regional Center (WRC)

WRC is part of a statewide network that is funded through Federal Title V grant monies. The primary roles of the Regional Center were:

- Provide consultations and assistance to families with timely and accurate information, referrals, and follow-up
- Promote Family Support and Family Leadership concepts through offering families opportunities to learn, develop skills, and partner with providers in decision making
- Collaborate with the Medical Home statewide hub to implement a regional component of the statewide plan
- Collaborate with the Access/Health Benefits Counseling hub to support families with complex health coverage situations
- Partner with the Youth Health Transition statewide hub by disseminating recruitment information/training opportunities, share transition needs with statewide partners
 - Provide Regional CYSHCN Leadership through provision of regional trainings and technical assistance for local agencies and identifying pressing issues



By The Numbers

18

Counties Served

2

Tribal Health Centers Served

9

Trainings Provided to Families and Professionals

68

Outreach Events

158

Consultations Provided to Professionals

512

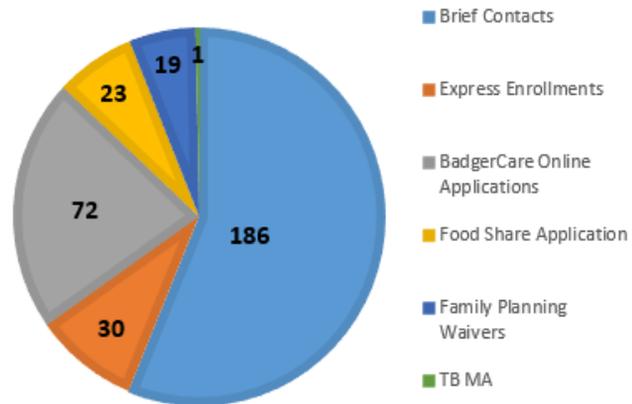
Referrals Provided to Families

WESTERN REGIONAL CENTER CONTINUED

ForwardHealth

The WRC assists people in Chippewa County with applications and renewals for Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, Family Planning Waiver, and Wisconsin FoodShare, which strongly supports the Chippewa County Department of Public Health's commitment to access to care. The WRC has received this grant since 2008. In efforts to reach underserved populations who may need these services, WRC works at the Open Door Clinic monthly, the Legacy Center, and also advertises in local publications.

**FORWARDHEALTH
TOTALS BY TYPE**



Wisconsin Sound Beginnings

Wisconsin Sound Beginnings (WSB) is the state's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program, ensuring that all babies born in Wisconsin are screened for hearing loss at birth, receive timely diagnosis of hearing loss, and are referred for early intervention.

Since April 2018, 78 families of newborns with potential hearing loss or deafness have been identified and services have been offered. The WSB staff work closely with Birth-To-Three staff in counties to better serve these children.

Single Point of Access

The WRC acts as the Single Point of Access for all children in Chippewa County with special needs. Chippewa County is the only county in Wisconsin who utilizes this model and the Western Regional Center is the only Regional Center in Wisconsin who provides this role, which includes managing referrals to Birth-To-Three, Children's Long-Term Waivers, Children's Comprehensive Community Services (CCS), and referrals for any children referred to the Community Services Team who may be eligible for additional services, including completion of Functional Screens to establish eligibility for programs.

There was a significant number of referrals for Children's Waiver and CCS in 2018. Children's Waiver/CCS referrals increased from 54 to 73, and Birth-To-Three referrals increased from 238 to 256. Numbers increased primarily due to the increase in referrals for children with mental health or substance abuse issues.

2018 RECOGNITION FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

Recognizing staff with 5 or more years of service

Judy Fedie, Nutrition Div. Mgr. – 32 Years
James Koehler, Environmental Health Div. Coord. –
31 Years
Carol Meagher, Community Health Div. Mgr. –
30 Years
Linda Ellis, RN – 29 Years
Sue Cooley, Admin Asst. – 22 Years
Dawn Braden, HH Aide – 21 Years
Cheryl Gast, Account Asst. – 21 Years
Rose Marsh, Program Consultant – 19 Years
Audra Knowlton, Admin Asst. – 18 Years

Stephanie Abbe, Nutritionist – 16 Years
Dierdra Lancor, Program Asst. – 16 Years
Tanya Sly, Account Asst. – 15 Years
Anna Jaenke, HH Aide – 14 Years
Jenny Lenbom, RN – 12 Years
Pat Hardwick-Smith, RN – 7 years
Dawn Stark, WRC Manager – 6 years
Sue Clemmons, Fiscal Mgr. – 5 years
Kristen Kelm, RN – 5 years
April Krumenauer, Admin Asst. – 5 years

Congratulations for a combined 324 years of service to Chippewa County!

RETIREMENTS



Linda Andresen, LPN
retired December 4
with 12 years of service

NEW HIRES

Pangya Thao, WIC Program Assistant – March 26
Loretta Moss, HHC Aide – April 23
Anita Amodt, HHC Intake – May 21
Tina Adams, HHC RN – July 30
Allie Isaacson, CH RN – November 19
Jody Mooney, HHC Div. Mgr. – December 17

CONTACT US

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