

Lorain City Health Department's 2006 Annual Report for the City Of Avon Lake

Commentary from the Health Commissioner...

I respectfully submit the 2006 Annual Report of the Lorain City Health Department for the City of Avon Lake. This report is prepared by the staff of the Lorain City Health Department, in an effort to make the public become more aware of the services provided by the health department.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact me at your convenience; (440) 204-2315.

Terrence J. Tomaszewski

Health Commissioner

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ADMINISTRATION

Terrence J. Tomaszewski
Health Commissioner

Dr. Craig Chapple, MD
Medical Director

J. Jack Kurowski
Director of Environmental Health

Kathy Loughrie
Director of Nursing

Ann Boehnlein
Administrative Assistant

HEALTH EDUCATION has emerged as a crucial strategy of public health policy in the nation's efforts to promote health and prevent disease. Health Education is a profession capable of providing the leadership necessary for improving health in a rapidly changing, culturally pluralistic and technologically complex society.

Lorain County Tobacco Prevention Partnership:

Lorain City Health Department leads the Ohio Tobacco Prevention Foundation (OTPF) Community grant initiative. The grant funds programs whose goals are to prevent youth tobacco use, support adult cessation programs, raise awareness on the health issues related to tobacco use, and to reduce exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke. A community-based coalition, Lorain County Tobacco Prevention Partnership, coordinates tobacco prevention initiatives in Lorain County. The coalition has representatives from community groups, social service agencies, health departments, hospitals and non-profit organizations. The coalition welcomes individuals interested in tobacco prevention and control. Monthly meetings are held at the Lorain City Health Department. **Contact Mary Jo Burns, Project Director, at 204-2318 for additional information.**



Lorain County H.E.A.R.T.:

Lorain City Health Department also initiates an Ohio Department of Health Cardiovascular Health Project. Lorain County H.E.A.R.T. (Heat, Education, Awareness and Resource Team) is a coalition that includes local agencies, businesses, health care facilities, schools, community members, and service, religious, and volunteer organizations. The mission of Lorain County H.E.A.R.T. is: *To Increase Heart Health among Lorain County Residents through Education, Advocacy, and Awareness.*

Lorain County H.E.A.R.T. is comprised of the following sub-committees: Nutrition, Clinical Risk Factors (diabetes, cholesterol, and high blood pressure), Physical Activity, and Tobacco. The Lorain County H.E.A.R.T. coalition and sub-committees meet throughout the year to coordinate services and initiate programs to improve heart health in Lorain County. **Contact Jessica Miles, CHES, Project Director, at 204-2317 for additional information.**



Essential Public Health Services:

- Monitor health status
- Diagnose and investigate
- Mobilize community partners
- Develop policies and plans
- Enforce laws & regulations
- Link people to needed services
- Assure competent workforce
- Evaluate services
- Research insights & solutions to problems.

Lorain City Health Department

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ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

J. Jack Kurowski, RS—Director of Environmental Health

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH STATS

Field Sanitarian Inspections

PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCES

Garbage	3
Refuse	1
Sewage	0
Food	0
Animals	0
Insect/Vector	1
Housing	1
All Other	1

RABIES CONTROL

Animal Bites Reported	15
Animals Quarantined	15
Strays	0

INSTITUTIONS, POOLS, ETC.

Schools	14
Public Pools	56
Institutions	1

FOOD PROTECTION

Food Service	218
Vending Machines	12
Food Borne Illness	0
Temporary Operations	4

OTHER SERVICES AND REGULATIONS

Rodent Control	1
Mosquito Control	29
Solid & Infectious Waste	5
Private / Public Sewage	1
Hazmat	1
Other	1

The Environmental Division, in working towards protecting the health, welfare and safety of the citizens of Avon Lake, administers a broad range of regulatory, inspection, consultation and direct service programs. These programs are designed to protect the public's food supply, manage municipal wastes, eliminate public health nuisances, assure safe housing, assure safe recreational water use and control and eliminate vector-borne illnesses. The Environmental Division is staffed with Registered Sanitarians who through education, inspection and consultation, ensure all environmental programs meet minimum standards as established by law.

Program Highlights

SMOKE FREE OHIO

On November 7, 2006, the voters of Ohio passed Issue 5 creating Chapter 3794 of the Ohio Revised Code which regulates smoking in public places and workplaces. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) designated each local health department as responsible for managing smoking complaints within their jurisdiction. Local health departments must perform administrative tasks associated with Chapter 3794. The tasks include investigation of all complaints, provide a monthly report to ODH and provide educational information to places of employment and the public. Once the final rules are completed, local health departments will take enforcement action as required by Chapter 3794.



WEST NILE VIRUS/ MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM

During the 2006 mosquito season, the Lorain City Health

Department remained an active participant in the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) surveillance program. The surveillance program included the submission of dead birds and mosquitoes to the ODH lab for testing and the identification of West Nile Virus (WNV). The final totals from the 2006 mosquito season tallied only one (1) confirmed case of WNV in Lorain County for the second consecutive year. All surveillance results from Avon Lake were negative for the presence of West Nile Virus. Over 200 man hours were dedicated to the mosquito control program in the City of Avon Lake during the 2006 season.



RETAIL FOOD INSPECTION PROGRAM

Throughout the City of Avon Lake, over 82 retail food locations are licensed and inspected by Public Health Sanitarians. The role of the

Environmental Division is to inspect Retail Food Service Operations as mandated by Ohio Revised Code. Inspections are randomly conducted throughout the year. The purpose of the inspection is to determine compliance of Ohio Food Service Law(s) related to safe preparation, cooking and serving of food from a retail food service location. In 2006, the Lorain City Health Department, Environmental Division, conducted 218 inspections of licensed retail food establishments in the City of Avon Lake. During 2006, 445 inspection hours were recorded in the retail food program. It is the goal of the Environmental Division to protect the public from food borne diseases caused by unsafe products. In 2006, the number of food-borne illnesses associated with licensed operations in Avon Lake totaled zero (0).



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



NURSING DIVISION

Kathy Loughrie RN, BSN—Director of Nursing

The nursing division of the Lorain City Health Department works towards fulfilling the three core functions of public health: assessment, assurance and policy development. Our mission is to improve the health status of the community at all levels in a manner that maintains their dignity, promotes their self-reliance and cultural integrity in order to enable individuals, families and communities to be healthy and productive. Public health nursing services are available to all citizens of Lorain but in particular very young children, medically under-served families and the elderly. It is our intent to offer services in a manner that maintains the dignity of individuals while promoting their self-reliance and cultural integrity. Service priorities are based on community needs, available resources, and staff capacity. The division provides a wide variety of health assessment, health promotion, and disease prevention services and program management in the broad categories of:

- ♥ Infectious Disease
- ♥ Health Data Assessment
- ♥ Home Visiting for Families with Children 0-3 years of age
- ♥ Home Visiting for Families with Children who have Medical Disabilities
- ♥ Quality Assurance

Policy Development The broad based public health knowledge and experience of public health nursing helps reduce health care costs through early detection and prevention of health problems. Lorain City Health Department's eight (8) public health nurses have intimate knowledge of local community resources, community leadership, and family structures essential to public health functions such as communicable disease control. Their skills and knowledge combined with the trust of individuals and professionals in their communities are valuable in working with health and environmental issues. The PHN presence at the local level assures timely intervention. Brief overviews of some of our services we provide are listed below.

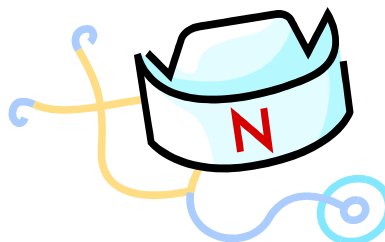
Program Highlights

CHILD HEALTH CLINICS: Well-child care for infants, children and adolescents up to age 21 years is offered by appointment at The Administration Building in Avon Lake on the first and third Friday of each month. As per established protocols and under the guidance of a physician, certified pediatric nurse practitioners provide physical examinations, blood and urine tests, immunizations, developmental testing, and hearing and vision screening. Families receive guidance and counseling on growth and development, parenting, nutrition, and management of childhood diseases. Children may be referred to; speech and hearing therapy through Easter Seals, and to nutritional support programs through WIC. Referrals are made to social service agencies for families in need of those services. This clinic is funded in part by the Ohio Department of Health. Child Health Clinic fees for services are on a sliding fee scale based on the ability to pay, however, no one is refused care.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS: Local health departments have strong mandates and broad authority to control communicable diseases. This responsibility is carried out by collecting and analyzing disease reports, investigating cases and outbreaks of disease, and applying established control measures. These activities require understanding of disease processes, administrative processes, and contemporary meas-

ures for prevention and control. The Lorain City Health Department is an active member of the Lorain County Tri/Health Department Communicable Disease Task Force. The Lorain City Health Department participates in regional bio-terrorism and communicable disease surveillance and response planning to coordinate response to naturally occurring or artificially introduced threats in our community and the 5-county region of Lorain, Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Geauga and Lake County.

BCMH: This is a state program in the Ohio Department of Health that receives federal, state and county funds. The mission of BCMH is to assist children with special health care needs and their families. Public Health Nurses are in-serviced monthly by an Ohio Department of Health liaison who keeps the nurses updated on this complex bureaucratic system. Their main purpose is to guide families into and through the system.



HELP ME GROW: Help Me Grow is a home-visiting program funded in part by Ohio Department of Health grant funds. Its purpose is to help families whose children are birth to 3 years of age. Early Start links families to existing early childhood programs and services and supports Ohio's school readiness goal. Professional nurses provide in home visits, supportive counseling and parenting education. Parents are linked to existing services in the community based on their needs.

2007 CHANGING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES:

In 2007, the nursing division will continue to be prominently involved in the provision of services in the prevention and control of communicable diseases, immunization activities, home visiting programs for families with children at risk or with medical issues and the immediate response to epidemics and other catastrophic disasters and traumatic emergency events in the community. Through current nursing programs, staff will target care coordination services to the most vulnerable population of special needs infants, toddlers, children, elderly, and other populations having difficulty accessing the health care system due to the ever changing societal challenges.



NURSING DIVISION—continued

Kathy Loughrie, RN, BSN—Director of Nursing

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICES

HELP ME GROW.....	268
BCMh visits:	16
Child Health Clinics Visits (0-21 years):	40
Adult Health Clinics:	1
Adult Immunizations:	207
Child Immunization:	97

Lorain City Health Department Communicable Disease Report for the City of Avon Lake

January - December 2006

