

Huron County Health Department



MISSION:

We are dedicated to promoting and protecting the health of individuals in our service jurisdiction by providing a wide range of quality health, human and environmental services.



2017-2018 Annual Report

1142 S. Van Dyke - Bad Axe, Michigan 48413

989.269.9721 - www.hchd.us

Health Officer Report



Ann Hepfer, RN, BS
Health Officer

On behalf of the Huron County Health Department, I am pleased to provide this report to the residents of Huron County. We have been providing public health services since 1966. As an accredited health department it is our privilege and honor to promote the health of everyone.

We work diligently to protect our residents and visitors from health threats, provide community education and work collectively with our community partners to ensure a comprehensive approach to the health of our community. The contents contained in this report are only a small reflection of the work being done by the employees, Board of Health and Board of Commissioners to protect, promote, and provide for health and safety.

Below is a small sample of the projects that your local health department worked on over the past year.

1. We said goodbye to Dr. Russell Bush, MD, MPH, who retired on September 30, 2018. He was our Medical Director for more than 6 years. On October 1, 2018 we welcomed Dr. Mark Hamed. Dr. Hamed will also serve as the Medical Director for Sanilac, Lapeer and District Health Department #2 (Alcona, Iosco, Ogemaw and Oscoda Counties), in addition to our county. Dr. Hamed's biggest goal in life is to improve the quality of healthcare delivery and access to healthcare, for as many people as possible in a sustainable manner. He is very knowledgeable and has seen firsthand the impact the Opioid Epidemic has on our communities. He continues to work diligently to ensure that the medical field is responsive to the needs of families, and that they institute the best practices of care. He continues to practice Emergency Room medicine at McKenzie Hospital in Sandusky, and for Henry Ford Hospital. We could not be happier to have such an accomplished physician on our leadership team!
2. This past fall we completed the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Accreditation and were successful in obtaining full accreditation status. This accreditation cycle is every three years. The Michigan Local Public Health Accreditation Program seeks to assure and enhance the quality of local public health in Michigan by identifying and promoting the implementation of public health standards for local public health departments, while evaluating and accrediting their ability to meet these standards. The program is a collaborative effort between the Michigan Public Health Institute; the Michigan Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development, Health and Human Services, and Environmental Quality; the Michigan Association for Local Public Health, and Michigan's local public health departments. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services provides oversight and funding for the Michigan Local Public Health Accreditation Program.

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VISION:
**The Huron County
Health Department
will sustain
partnerships with the
community and
other stakeholders to
provide an
innovative approach
to health
promotion and
protection.**

View all our programs on our website at www.hchd.us

3. We continue to reach across county lines to work with our neighbors through our work with the Michigan Thumb Public Health Alliance (MTPHA). The members of the Alliance include the health departments of Huron, Lapeer, Tuscola and Sanilac Counties. This year's accomplishments include:

- 1) Surveying and collecting data for a comprehensive Community Health Assessment
- 2) Implementing and installing a Telecommunications plan, where we installed polycom systems that bridge to each county, along with connecting the Medical Director. These connections will allow the Alliance partners to work across county lines, without leaving our offices. The system is HIPPA and Privacy compliant with the current regulations.

I would like to thank the Huron County Board of Commissioners and the Board of Health for their continued commitment to the health and well-being of our residents. I would also like to thank all of our community collaborative partners, schools, hospitals, townships, physicians, mental health, nonprofit organizations, businesses, law enforcement and restaurants, who work diligently beside us to promote a healthy living environment in Huron County. We do make a difference!

Sincerely,

Ann Hepfer, RN, BSN - Health Officer



Orlando Todd from MDHHS, presents a Certificate of Accreditation to Ann Hepfer, HCHD Health Officer at a Huron County Board of Commissioners meeting.

MEET OUR NEW HURON COUNTY MEDICAL DIRECTOR



Mark Hamed MD, MBA, MPH

Dr. Mustafa Mark Hamed, is responsible for the medical/health oversight of and participation in these programs. Problems arising may be either anticipated or unanticipated and be related to communicable/infectious diseases; all forms of environmental contamination, food/water-borne illnesses, and commercial products posing a threat to human health and well being, and animal health issues that have the potential for negatively impacting human health. Dr. Hamed is the Medical Director for Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, Tuscola and District #2 Health Departments (covering Alcona, Iosco, Ogemaw and Oscoda Counties).



HCHD is a part of the Michigan Thumb Public Health Alliance - MTPHA

Goals of Collaboration:

- Share Services
- Joint Learning
- Greater Grant Opportunities
- Standardization
- Cost Savings
- Develop common software platforms and infrastructure



Current Projects:

1. Standardized Standing orders for the Medical Director
2. Communicable Disease Learning Community
3. Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Training
4. Staff Training Inventory

The Health Departments from Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac and Tuscola County are participating in an Alliance in order to promote health, prevent disease and promote the environment within each of the respective jurisdictions and the region as a whole. This Alliance will afford more opportunities to write grants, achieve cost savings through bulk purchasing, share specialty services, and cost efficiencies. The Alliance was formed in 2017, with a mission to develop, implement and sustain models of shared public health services that increase capacity, contain costs, maximize assets, and more effectively impact health outcomes. The goal of the MTPHA is to strategically structure shared services, measure shared outcomes, purposefully engage the community of the Thumb, achieve positive health outcomes and collaboratively advance the health and wellness of the Thumb. The Alliance allows us to work together to achieve efficiencies as a region, but meet the unique needs of each community.

A large number of programs provided by local public health departments are designed to assist people who are low income or in poverty. Even staff that work in programs that are for the general public, have frequent contact with people who are living in substandard housing or low paying, entry level jobs. This project brought a certified Bridges out of Poverty trainer from the Harbor Beach Community Connections, to present the Bridges to Health and Health Care module to all staff of the health departments in the Alliance. The program is designed to examine the impact of economic class on resources, language, relationships and services. The project started in November 2017 with a two hour interactive introduction using distance learning technology. In February 2018, 115 staff members from all four health departments gathered for a full day training to build their knowledge and skills for dealing with people of various economic backgrounds. The project is part of building cultural competencies for staff related to economic diversity. The full day training is being followed up with small group learning communities that are working on specific issues. Topics for these learning communities was determined during the full day training and include work on issues such as policy change, service design, communication, accessing community resources, and referral systems. For sustainability, videos were created to be used in the future for orienting new staff. This training has been useful for staff, and daily client interaction.

Huron County Board of Health

The Huron County Health Department was formally established on April 12, 1965. Currently, the Board of Health is comprised of five members. They meet monthly, every 3rd Wednesday, at 9:00 a.m. Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings at the HCHD.

John Bodis, Chairperson, has been a member since 2011. He is retired from Law Enforcement, and a current member of the Huron County Board of Commissioners.

Robert Witherspoon, Vice-Chairman, has been a member since April 1988. He is a retired farmer and former member of the Huron County Board of Commissioners.

Carol Majeski, Secretary, has been a member since November 2006. Mrs. Majeski is employed with McLaren Thumb Region Hospital in Bad Axe.

Robert Siver, Member, has been a member since November 2006. Mr. Siver is currently employed as a Registered Nurse.



John Bodis
Chairperson

Member Lisa Pridnia, has been with the Board since April 2009. She was employed by the Michigan Department of Community Health and was the former executive Director of the Thumb Rural Health Network. She is a member of the Human Development Commission Board and is a co-developer of the Farmers Market in Port Austin.

We thank our board members for the tremendous support they continue to give HCHD. They lead busy lives - providing for their families, working jobs, but remain committed to our great county .

Left: At our March meeting this spring, we took a few moments to honor and thank Mr. Robert Witherspoon for his over 30 years of time, commitment and service to the Board of Health. His vast knowledge and history with our community has made him a valuable asset and we hope he will continue to serve for many more years. Thank you Mr. Witherspoon, we are so blessed to have you!



Finance Division

The Finance Division of the HCHD performs all general accounting functions, including accounts receivable, accounts payable, budgeting, purchasing, payroll, and financial reporting. The financial operation of this agency conforms to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governmental units.

- DeLilah Sheldon, Finance Director

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
State/Federal Grants	47%	49%	46%
Fees	37%	35%	38%
County Appropriations	16%	16%	16%
Expenditures (% of Budget)			
Health Services	74%	75%	77%
Environmental Health	14%	13%	15%
Other	12%	12%	8%

Public Health Services

PUBLIC HEALTH/COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

There were 2 outbreaks in nursing homes that suspected Norovirus, but there was no confirmatory testing. These suspected Norovirus outbreaks affected 38 adults.

There was 1 confirmed outbreak of Influenza A at a nursing home involving 10 residents.

Huron County has had no known cases of Hepatitis A in 2017-2018. We have continued to promote vaccination of everyone, especially those at greatest risk for Hepatitis A. This includes those working with the Huron County Sheriff Department, Huron Behavioral Health, port-a-potty distributors, restaurants and the general public.

The table below shows the number of investigations based on confirmed cases of the listed communicable disease:

Communicable Disease	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Bacterial Meningitis	1	1	0	1	0
Campylobacter	10	17	11	9	7
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0	1	0	0
Drug Resistant	1	0	0	0	0
Giardiasis	1	0	0	1	1
Hepatitis A	1	0	0	1	0
Hepatitis B Chronic	1	1	0	0	1
Hepatitis C	0	0	0	0	1
Hepatitis C Chronic	12	6	13	12	6
Influenza	-	-	10	22	33
Meningitis - Aseptic	0	3	1	3	2
Pertussis	3	2	1	0	0
Salmonella	3	3	0	2	4
Shiga toxin E. coli non-0157	0	0	1	0	0
Shigellosis	0	0	0	1	0
STEC, E. coli H & :0157	1	0	0	0	0
Streptococcus pneumonia, invasive	2	1	1	4	2
Varicella (Chickenpox)	4	0	0	0	0

Public Health Services

**Promote Health,
Protect Life,
Prevent Illness.**

Immunizations

We received a grant to promote immunizations in our region. We chose to target children, teens and older adults to increase immunization coverage levels. With this grant we mailed out immunization reminders to an additional 1,000 Huron County residents each quarter. We also had a large media campaign; which included billboards, radio, newspaper, theatres, placemats and Facebook.

There was a new Shingles vaccine approved which we have provided to residents of our community. Due to an overwhelming demand, a waitlist was started as the manufacturer was unable to meet the demand.

Huron County immunization waiver rates are higher than the state average and we have worked to educate the community to decrease those rates, and protect our community from vaccine preventable diseases.

WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor/Maternal Child Health Breastfeeding Support



Our Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Breastfeeding Peer Counselor became a Senior BF Peer Counselor after completing additional training from the State. This was the 1st Senior Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Training in Michigan. We purchased two

breastfeeding chairs for our clinic. We promoted breastfeeding in Huron County by displaying our support team on local billboards. We also signed an agreement with Sanilac County Health Department to provide IBCLC (International Board Certified Lactation Consultant) services for their WIC program. Most significantly, we have begun to visit McLaren Thumb Region Hospital to see all new babies and their moms. We are there to encourage, offer support and educate about breastfeeding and the benefits for both mom and baby. This has been well received, and gets our moms (and babies) off to a great start!



Other Program Highlights:

- ◆ A nurse in WIC and MIHP (Maternal Infant Health Program) attended a Certified Lactation Specialist training.
- ◆ We have continued WIC Outreach to Sebewaing and Harbor Beach. The Sebewaing Outreach Clinic is held monthly at a church, and they see WIC as part of their community outreach.
- ◆ Our staff in the WIC office added privacy screens to their computer monitors. We take the privacy of our clients and their confidential information, very seriously.
- ◆ The Family Mentor program has moved to a Parent as Teachers (PAT) Curriculum. Due to staff changes and training availability, the new Family Mentor was unable to complete the PAT training in this fiscal year.
- ◆ We partnered with the HISD to provide trusted advisor services. The Trusted Advisor connects young children and their parents with their local school district. They also provide information to parents to prepare children for school, so they are healthy and ready to learn.

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Mitzi Koroleski, RN
Health Services
Director



Cindy Rochefort, RN
Health Services
Director

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Public Health Services, *continued*

Family Planning

The Family Planning program has a goal of developing a reproductive health plan with all clients in the program. This is done to assist them in planning their pregnancies to foster a more positive outcome. The program is also supporting LARC's (long acting reversible contraceptives) such as IUD's, to give clients a higher degree of effectiveness with their goals.

HIV/AIDS/STIs (Sexually Transmitted Infections)

The most commonly reported STD in Huron County is Chlamydia, with 71 cases last year. Gonorrhea cases remain unchanged from the previous year. We offer HIV testing to the general public as well as mandated court ordered testing. There was a total of 19 HIV tests completed, with no positive tests.

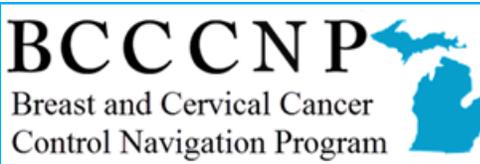
Colorectal Cancer Screening Program

The Colorectal Cancer Screening program provides at home stool test kits or colonoscopy services to men and women ages 50-64. We were also able to enroll clients with a positive fecal immunochemical test (FIT) outside of the program on a limited basis. The program covers services for Huron, Sanilac, Tuscola, Bay, Saginaw and St. Clair counties.



Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Navigation program continues to provide mammogram and pap smears to women age 40-64, as well as accepting referrals for women age 21-39 for abnormal breast or cervical test results. We have been seeing an increasing amount of referrals for clients with abnormal tests results. With having more clients who are insured (due to the Affordable Care Act), many are not eligible for the program because preventative services are covered. However, if they have insurance with a deductible, they are able to enroll if further tests are needed (that will apply to a deductible). Because of this, we are able to help many more individuals who are underinsured. We have built a



strong community referral network in Huron, Sanilac, Tuscola, Bay, Saginaw and St. Clair counties to offer these

services where they are needed.

Environmental Health Services



Tip MacGuire
Environmental
Health
Director

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, WHY WE NEED IT?

What is Environmental Health and what does Environmental Health do? Environmental Health is the improvement of health through the management of the environment. Adverse environmental factors have a direct influence on humans. Impacts can be disease transmission through exposure to pathogenic organisms, or by exposure to toxins having a physiological effect on humans. Lesser environmental factors such as living conditions can affect the overall well-being of the persons subjected to a given environment.

The Environmental Health Division has the task of protecting the environment in Huron County through administering and regulating approximately 30 programs. The four main programs include On-Site Sewage Disposal, Private Groundwater Supplies, Type 3/ Type 2 Public Water Supplies (Restaurants, Schools, Churches, Day Care...etc.) and the Food Service Program.

The Private Groundwater program's main objective is to protect groundwater. Huron County issued 83 well permits this year. Safe drinking water is the most important element to sustain life. Groundwater is extracted from aquifers beneath the ground surface using water wells. Michigan has more wells in service than any other state and 5.8 million residents rely on groundwater for their drinking supply. The location, construction, testing, and abandonment of water wells are regulated through the state well construction code (Part 127, 1978 PA 368, as amended). These services help ensure that water wells remain a safe and reliable source of drinking water for future generations.



Environmental Health Services, *continued*

Huron County issued 101 on-site sewage system permits this year (commonly called septic systems) and are a significant component of the State's wastewater infrastructure. On-site sewage systems can be an effective option for protecting public health and the environment if properly designed, installed, and managed. They can be a significant threat to public health and



the environment if they are not. The Environmental Health Division provides the regulatory oversight for the design, construction, performance, and the operation of on-site sewage systems. The estimated annual volume of on-site sewage in Michigan is 96 billion gallons (264 million gallons per day). The enacted standards all seek to protect the safe treatment of domestic and other non-industrial wastewater in Huron County that is not served by municipal sewage treatment.

The Food Service Program's main objective is to enforce the Food Law of 2000 as amended and the 2009 Food Code. Enforcement of the Food Law and Food Code includes inspecting licensed food establishments and completing plan reviews. Foodborne illness in the United States is a major cause of personal distress, preventable death and avoidable economic burden. Huron County completed 381 inspections of Food Service Establishments this year. It is estimated that 6.5 to 33 million people become ill from microorganisms in food, resulting in as many as 325,000 hospitalizations and 5,000 needless deaths every year.

From the brief summaries of services provided by the Environmental Health Division it is very easy to see that Environmental Health affects everyone everyday. It starts with the water used in your coffee, the toilet you use during break and the burger you eat at lunch. Environmental Health is a major part of public health and that is why it is a mandated program which will always need to be funded.



Summer 2018 - Beach Testing

Number of Samples Collected - 468

Number of Beach closures - 12



2017-2018 LIST OF HURON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>HIRE DATE</u>
Alexander, Katilyn	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator	06/18/2018
Aymen, Kasey	Secretary II/Clinic Assistant; Family Mentor; CSHCS	06/18/2018
Booms, Lois	Nurse Practitioner	10/30/2013*
Bush, Russell, MD, MPH	Medical Director	01/01/2008**
Champagne, Kayla	Health Nurse II	09/17/2012
Deciechi, Amber	Social Worker	06/11/2018*
Glass, Amy	Bookkeeper II	12/08/2010
Goszdzinski, Melinda	Nurse Practitioner	05/16/2008*
Grifka, Shelly	Prevention Educator/Social Worker	05/11/2015
Helewski, Chad	Maintenance Technician	07/15/2016
Helewski, Kelly	Secretary II/Clinic Assistant; Breast Feeding PC	03/01/2014
Hepfer, Ann	Health Officer	11/18/2016**
Howard, Andrea	Secretary II	06/10/2010
Karg, Aaron	Sanitarian I	02/13/2006
Keyser, Cindy	Secretary II/Clinic Assistant; Technician	11/18/1991
Koehn, Juliann	Health Nurse II	12/08/2010
Koglin, Vicki	Secretary II/Clinic Assistant; Technician; CSHCS Representative	11/18/1991
Koroleski, Mitzi	Health Services Director	02/01/1993
Kozlowski, Kelli	Secretary II/Clinic Assistant; Technician	03/15/2010
Kubacki, Robert	Sanitarian II	05/05/2003
Lesperance, Nicole	Health Nurse II	07/11/2018
MacGuire, Eugene "Tip"	Environmental Health Director	11/09/2009**
Maurer, Jamie	Health Nurse II	12/05/2017
Maurer, Jessie	Health Nurse II	01/04/2016
Middaugh, Kristin	Bookkeeper II	09/13/2004**
Myers, Connie	Health Nurse II; CSHCS Representative	06/27/2005
Osentoski, Judy	Secretary II/Clinic Assistant	05/04/2011
Pitts, Kristi	Prevention Educator	01/28/2000
Rochefort, Cindy	Health Services Director	11/09/1992
Sheldon, DeLilah	Finance Director	04/24/1995
Suber, Jon	MIS Manager	03/13/2014**
Wolschleger, Connie	Administrative Services Coordinator	01/03/2012

* Specially Funded Employee ** Associated Employee



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