Our Vision:
The Innovative Leader for Community Health and Environmental Protection

Our Mission:
To Protect the Health and Environment, Prevent Disease and Promote Wellness for All who Live, Work and Play in Johnson County through Exceptional Public Service

2014 was certainly a year for moving forward for Johnson County Department of Health and Environment!

As part of Johnson County Government, our department (as well as all the other departments and agencies) continued to pursue the goal of training all employees in the principles of working together to leave our community better than we found it...empowering each other to do the right thing for the right reason for the public good. JCDHE is committed to offering comprehensive, quality health and environmental services to the residents of Johnson County. We strive to always enhance ourselves and our organization through a continual process of quality improvement.

In June of 2014, JCDHE was very excited to learn that we had received accreditation status by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Accreditation means that our department has completely met all of the stringent standards and measures set forth by PHAB. JCDHE was among the first forty-four health departments in the nation and the first in Kansas to receive accreditation.

JCDHE will continue to move forward in 2015 as we endeavor to better serve the residents of Johnson County.

Lougene Marsh, Director
James Joerke, Deputy Director

Johnson County Department of Health and Environment is designated as a Safe Haven Site for Newborns, where parents can safely hand over a newborn without prosecution.
Program Highlights

- Completed an Employee Vaccine Resolution in collaboration with Johnson County MedAct.
- Began working on a new care coordination initiative “Health Homes” with Johnson County Developmental Supports, Johnson County Mental Health Center and the Kansas Managed Care Organizations.
- Worked with numerous local and state partners to create a coordinated response to any possible Ebola cases in the metro area.
- Received a score of 100% on the annual Division of Strategic National Stockpile Local Technical Assistance Review for emergency preparedness procedures for the fourth year in a row.

The Immunization Program provides adult, childhood, school, and travel immunizations for vaccine-preventable diseases and screenings for tuberculosis. Education about the most up-to-date information on immunization requirements and recommendations is also provided. In 2014, 25,699 routine vaccinations were administered.

The Outreach Nurse Program provides registered nurses who offer screening, assessment, education, resource information, and referral services to seniors and new mothers. In 2014, 713 senior adult home visits were made and 821 mother/newborn home visits were provided. The Outreach Nurses conducted screenings and completed the installation and education of Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) phones to 114 individuals. The TAP program provides those living with a disability a free specialized telephone. The Outreach Nurses also offered 18 monthly blood pressure screenings reaching 3,216 people and provided refugee assessments to 54 individuals. They also provided health information through group presentations to 353 people.

The Disease Containment Program works to prevent, contain, and control the transmission of disease, including tuberculosis (TB), through education and investigation of disease patterns in our community. This program also collaborates with the Public Health Emergency Program in active surveillance for unusual sets of symptoms and events.

Public Health Emergency Program (PHEP) is responsible for ongoing readiness related to large-scale disease outbreaks. PHEP collaborates with community partners and other County departments to assess and support responses to natural and man-made disasters.

In 2014, 2,331 visits were conducted. A total of 70 classes were offered, with 1,821 attendees. 29,045 kids are enrolled in 1,096 licensed child care facilities.

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The Child Care Licensing division served as a pilot site for KLIS survey process (Kansas Licensing Indicator Survey). KLIS is a survey tool that measures compliance with specific regulations that statistically predict compliance with the entire set of child care program regulations. It provides a measure of compliance with regulations in a fair and equitable manner and increases consistency. This type of survey process will increase quality of child care services by allowing for an increase in technical assistance and support from the licensing surveyor.

Environmental Division
Todd Rogers, Director

On-site Wastewater Treatment and Pools, Bob Fields, Program Manager
Household Hazardous Waste and Solid Waste Programs, Julie Davis, Program Manager

The Air Quality Program contracts with the Kansas Department of Health & Environment to conduct inspections and ensure compliance with federal/state air quality regulations. The County’s Internal Ozone Reduction Campaign encourages employees to reduce driving, car engine idling and use alternative transportation during the summer ozone season.

The Household Hazardous Waste Program allows County residents to bring their unwanted hazardous materials, at no charge, for safe disposal, recycling, or reuse to the Philip J. Wittek Hazardous Materials Collection Facility (HHW). The facility is open year-round by appointment only. HHW served 6,830 customers (residents and businesses), recycled 13,237 gallons of latex paint and processed over 600,000 pounds of material in 2014.

The On-Site Wastewater Treatment Program ensures that on-site septic systems are properly designed and operated. Inspections of new residential and commercial on-site septic systems/existing commercial/residential systems subject to property transactions and investigation of complaints about malfunctioning on-site septic systems are completed. In 2014, 285 resale inspections were completed.

The Pool Program licenses commercially-operated swimming pools and operators, ensuring adherence to the Johnson County Environmental Sanitary Code. Water quality is ensured through a rigorous inspection program, constant and consistent operator education and collaboration with community partners.

The Solid Waste Program inspects, monitors, permits and conducts oversight activities pertaining to all solid waste management facilities in the County. It assures investigation and proper cleanup of illegal solid waste dumps and serves as staff support to the Solid Waste Management Committee. The Solid Waste Program promotes recycling, composting and waste reduction.

Efforts in Sustainability

Johnson County Government defines sustainability as “the responsible management of resources to meet the environmental, economic, and human needs of today and for generations to come.”

Composting is an important part of Johnson County’s waste reduction efforts. Food waste makes up about 17 percent of all the waste going to the landfill. Johnson County composts at five facilities: Central Booking, New Century, Administration Building, Sunset Office Building, and Health Services Building.

At the three locations with cafeterias, the County participates in a commercial food composting program where food and other compostable materials (food containers, flatware, cups) are picked up as needed and taken to a recycling center for composting.

In 2014, about 172,000 pounds (86 tons) of food waste were collected from Johnson County facilities and turned into high quality compost, used on landscaping across the region.
Family Health Services Division

Victoria Hanley, Director

Maternal Child Health, Maria O’Sullivan, Program Manager
Women’s and Men’s Health, Millie Tringale-Murray, Program Supervisor
Supplemental Food and Nutrition Program for Women/Infants/Children (WIC), Laura Drake, Program Manager
Laboratory Services, Nancy Paul, Laboratory Supervisor

The Prenatal Program is designed to improve pregnancy outcomes for mother and infant, promote early and ongoing prenatal, postpartum and newborn care, and decrease subsequent unintended pregnancies. Comprehensive prenatal services are provided utilizing a multidisciplinary team that includes APRNs, RNs, social workers, registered dietitians, and KU OB Physicians. In 2014, 697 clients were served through 5,251 visits.

The Women’s/Men’s Health Program offers comprehensive reproductive health services, including contraception, pap smears, colposcopies, prevention education, screening for STDs, HIV testing and counseling and promotion of optimal family planning. In 2014, 11,775 clients were served in 11,772 visits.

WIC prevents or corrects nutrition-related health problems by providing nutrition education and counseling, health screenings and the means to buy nutritious foods to pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women and to infants and children under the age of five who are at or below 185% of the federal poverty level. In 2014, WIC served 11,442 clients.

Laboratory Services provides testing and screening services at both clinic locations. The laboratories are Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certified to meet required proficiency program standards. In 2014, the total number of laboratory tests conducted in-house was 16,961 and 22,003 were sent out for results.

Program Highlights

- Through the Early Detection Works (EDW) program, five cancer cases were identified: two breast and three cervical.
- The newly revised Safe Haven for Newborns law expanded the list of locations for infant surrender to include police stations, sheriff’s offices and law enforcement centers.
- Based on client requests, a new type of long acting reversible contraceptive (Nexplanon) is available. All APRNs and JCDHE’s health medical officer, Dr. Le Master have been trained in this method.

Health Education Division

Barbara D. Mitchell, Director

The Health Education Division promotes healthy behaviors through classes, presentations, programs, screenings, workshops, health fairs, webinars, professional seminars and policy change initiatives throughout the community.

Program/Project areas include:

- Chronic disease risk reduction, with an emphasis on tobacco reduction
- Community wellness, with an emphasis on access to healthy foods
- Senior wellness education
- Targeted Case Management, for pregnant and parenting teens
- Safe Kids Johnson County, childhood injury prevention programs and events
- Making A Difference /Let’s Get Growing, parent/adolescent growth and development classes
- Continuing Nursing Education workshops
- Student internships—66 students from 14 schools spent 5,618 internship hours with JCHDE
- Public information, communications, press releases and media inquiries

Program Highlights

- Began a Safe Sleep clinic that teaches safe sleep practices to parents of infants.
- Conducted a health literacy study to understand how seniors best receive health information.
- Partnered with the American Heart Association to support early childhood programs in improving nutrition, physical activity, screen time and infant feeding policies and practices in Johnson County childcare facilities.
- Created a Making a Difference Facebook page for class details, information for parents and a question and answer forum.
- Facilitated monthly support group meetings for pregnant and parenting adolescents to offer information and resources.
- Provided Brief Tobacco Cessation Intervention training to JCDHE staff, local KanCare dentists and other health care providers, resulting in an increased usage of the Kansas Tobacco Quitline locally.
Administrative Operations Division
Richard Brewington, Director

The Administrative Operation Division supports all divisions through fiscal monitoring, grant coordination and reporting, budgeting, auditing, accounting, statistics, billing, data entry, payroll, front desk operations, inventory monitoring and medical chart preparation.

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Accomplishments:
- Private insurance revenue increased by 2.3 times over the previous year.
- Participation in a second Kaizen Quality Improvement Event to increase efficiency in placing administrative and clinic supply orders.

Quality Improvement/Informatics
Debra Whiteman, Coordinator

Quality Improvement/Informatics JCDHE’s epidemiological structure was strengthened this year with the acquisition of population based databases, allowing for complex statistical analysis of public health measures.

Team Highlights:
- Increased productivity in the On-Site and Pool Programs by having access to documents in the field and the ability to create reports directly in the database.
- Increased efficiency of Outreach BP Clinics through the use of modern technology.
- Increased school district participation in the Making a Difference Health Education Program by providing a brochure that depicts geographical areas of teen pregnancy trends across the County.
- Increased efficiency of Child Care Licensing data collection/reporting by compiling information into one centralized database.
- Increased incidences of Tobacco Cessation Counseling in Family Health Services clients presenting for care and subsequent increase in the number of health care provider referrals reported to Kansas Quit Line.