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2016 Annual Report
Johnson County Department Of Health and Environment

Strengthening Our Future
Each year JCDHE takes a look back at both the division and department level to determine what we have accomplished that is consistent with departmental Mission and is moving the department closer to its Vision. Significant progress has been made in both efforts as exemplified by the following activities:

- In protecting the environment, redesign of the Green Business Assistance program involving 25 local businesses, launch of a cafeteria waste diversion program with the Shawnee Mission School District, and completion of the waste characterization study in order to understand the composition of trash entering landfills all demonstrate commitment to this important part of JCDHE’s vision and mission.

- In order to promote wellness throughout the community, JCDHE completed a new Community Health Assessment (CHA) in partnership with a wide and diverse number of community partners. Through this assessment three priorities were identified: Chronic Disease Prevention/Health Promotion, Access to Care and Mental Health. These priorities became the basis for a new Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Both documents (CHA/CHIP) can be found on the department’s website.

- Preventing disease and promoting wellness were also demonstrated through the department’s advocacy, in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City and the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, for adoption of Tobacco 21 policies in many municipalities. This policy will result in significant reduction of tobacco use initiation by youth and young adults under 21 by prohibiting the sale/purchase of tobacco products to young people.

- JCDHE’s pursuit of community health and environmental protection was also exemplified by its development of internal groups to promote Public Health Ethics in departmental policies and procedures and to pursue Health Equity not only in departmental practices but across the community.

- An additional example in pursuit of the department’s vision and mission as well as in support of a Board of County Commission strategic priority of improving the lives of vulnerable populations was the planning for initiation of the Nurse-Family Partnership program, an evidence-based program focused on low-income, first-time pregnant women. This home visitation program is initiated early in the pregnancy and continues to support this at-risk population through the child’s second birthday.

This sample of 2016 achievements is just that, a sample, as JCDHE continues to strive toward its vision of being The Innovative Leader for Community Health and Environmental Protection. JCDHE looks forward to continued work with community partners to protect the environment, prevent disease and promote wellness for all who live, work and play in Johnson County.
Cathy Shemwell, Assistant Director
Cris Loomis, Clinical Services Program Manager
Gary Martin, Public Health Emergency Planning Supervisor
Nancy Paul, Laboratory Supervisor
Amanda Hiatt, Administrative Supervisor

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. Program staff investigated 3,553 disease reports in 2016 and collaborated with the Public Health Emergency Program in active surveillance for unusual sets of symptoms and events.

The Immunization Program provides adult, childhood, school, and travel immunizations for vaccine-preventable diseases and screenings for tuberculosis. The most current information on immunization requirements and recommendations is also provided. In 2016, 23,152 vaccinations were administered to 12,284 individuals.

Public Health Emergency Program (PHEP) is responsible for continual readiness related to large-scale disease outbreaks, natural or man-made in Johnson County. PHEP develops, tests, and maintains plans to quickly receive and distribute life-saving medical supplies from the nation’s Strategic National Stockpile following a large-scale public health emergency.

The Prenatal Program is designed to improve pregnancy outcomes for mother and infant, promote early and ongoing prenatal, postpartum and newborn care. Comprehensive services are provided utilizing Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN), Registered Nurses, Social Workers, Registered Dietitians, and Kansas University OB Physicians. In 2016, 714 clients were served through 5,658 visits.

The Women’s/Men’s Health Program offers the following services: family planning, maternal health, sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment, colposcopy and employment physicals provided by a multidisciplinary team of APRNs, Registered Nurses and Social Workers. In 2016, this program had 15,529 client visits.

Laboratory Services supports clinical services at each location providing testing and specimen collection. The laboratories are Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certified to meet required quality and proficiency standards. In 2016, the total number of laboratory tests conducted in-house was 15,712, and 19,736 were sent out to reference laboratories.

Customer Service Specialists are responsible for answering client inquiries and entering client demographic, insurance and financial data. In 2016, a total of 27,798 client encounters were processed.

Program Highlights
- Upgraded WebEOC Health Request Board with enhanced capabilities for ordering, receiving, staging, storing, and distributing the strategic national stockpile within Johnson County.
- Increased Closed Point of Dispensing agreements, effectively reducing the open point of dispensing population who would have to stand in line during a public health emergency by 10%, (the goal for 2016).
- Responded to Zika outbreak by conducting a community wide educational campaign including open forum meetings, educational publications, website, and surveillance of mosquitoes.

Child Care Licensing Division
Eldonna Chesnut, Director

The Child Care Licensing Division provides health and safety information and educational classes to child care providers and parents. Child Care Surveyors complete initial, annual, and compliance check visits to all licensed child care facilities, and make recommendations regarding licensure to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Child Care Licensing Program. Facility complaints may be investigated solely by the division staff or in collaboration with police and fire departments and/or Department of Children and Families. Kansas requires child care providers to be licensed when caring for more than two children over 20 hours of combined care per week. Unregulated care complaints may involve the District Attorney’s Office as it is a misdemeanor to provide unregulated care in Kansas.

This division also coordinates the annual inspections of all Johnson County schools as required by state statute. The statute applies to all public and private schools offering K-12. All childcare inspections and school inspections are done electronically on site.

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Program Highlights

- In 2016, 2,354 visits were conducted. A total of 77 classes were offered, with 1,173 attendees. 31,216 kids are enrolled in 1,034 licensed child care facilities.
- Made a deliberate effort to reach out to parents and others to educate about the importance of child care regulations.
- Attended five community events to provide information on finding quality childcare care, accessing the KDHE database to view day care provider’s compliance history and other early education resources.

Community Health Division

Barbara D. Mitchell, Director, Public Information Officer
Laura Drake, WIC Program Manager
Carol Winter, WIC Site Supervisor
Dawn Mangan, Outreach Program Manager
Megan Foreman, Community Health Program Manager

The Community Health Division collaborates with community partners to promote and educate citizens about healthy behaviors and lifestyles and works to prevent illnesses and injuries through:

**Chronic Disease Prevention** efforts designed to diminish the incidence of chronic disease through tobacco cessation and promotion of good nutrition practices and active living habits.

The WIC program that prevents or corrects nutrition-related health issues through education and counseling, health screenings and the means to buy nutritious foods. WIC delivers nutrition services to pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, infants and children under age five, who are at or below 185% of the federal poverty level. In 2016, WIC served 10,254 clients.

Coordinating the Johnson County Food Policy Council. The council’s mission is to create a just, equitable and sustainable food system accessible to all in Johnson County through policy recommendations, education and collaborative work.

Offering Targeted Case Management services to pregnant and parenting teens. In 2016 over 300 clients received assistance with setting and reaching personal growth goals.

**Offering Outreach Nurse services** that include screenings, assessments, education, resource information, and referral services to seniors and new mothers. In 2016, nurses provided 644 senior adult home visits and 799 mother/newborn home visits. Fourteen monthly blood pressure screenings were held, reaching 2,245 people.

Coordinating Safe Kids Johnson County, a coalition dedicated to preventing childhood injuries. In 2016, more than 25,000 people received safety information on various topics.

Providing “Making A Difference” and “Let’s Get Growing,” parent/adolescent growth and development classes. In 2016, more than 790 parents and children received information on making good decisions, puberty/adolescence, and pregnancy and STD prevention.

Delivering current, timely public information, communications and press releases.

Program Highlights

- Offered healthy cooking classes and demonstrations, the Diabetes Prevention Program, blood pressure self-management tools and other lifestyle change education through “LiveWell Johnson County”.
- Started the LiveWell Johnson County Restaurant Program, featuring technical assistance to local restaurants to make healthier choices available to customers.
- Launched the Nurse-Family Partnership Program, an evidence-based program that serves low-income women pregnant with their first child. Each new mom is partnered with a registered nurse early in her pregnancy and receives ongoing nurse home visits.
- Continued collaboration with Johnson County Med-Act on the Lift Assist program, now called the Community Outreach Referral Program (CORP). This program offers additional health/social and mental health services/resources to vulnerable populations in Johnson County. CORP has expanded to receive client referrals from fire departments, hospitals, or Med-Act. In 2016, there were 107 Lift Assist referrals.
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 and 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 8,093 customers (residents and businesses), recycled 16,310 gallons of latex paint and processed over 380,000 pounds of material in 2016.

The On-Site Wastewater Treatment Program ensures that on-site septic systems are properly designed and operated. Inspections of new residential and commercial systems and existing commercial/residential systems subject to property transactions are completed, as well as investigation of complaints about malfunctioning on-site septic systems. In 2016, 288 resale inspections were completed and 154 permits for new systems were issued.

The Pool Program licenses commercially-operated swimming pools and operators, ensuring adherence to the 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 County solid waste management facilities. 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.

This year, a total of 608 volunteer hours were logged at the Household Hazardous Waste site. Thanks to all that volunteered.
The Business Operations Division supports all divisions through fiscal and inventory monitoring, grant coordination/reporting, budgeting, auditing, accounting, billing, data entry, operations/fleet management and payroll.

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Program Highlights:

- Private insurance revenue increased by 4.6% and departmental revenue increased by 3.6% over the previous year.
- Received funding through grants for 2.5 part-time navigators.
- Fees department wide were assessed and adjusted where appropriate.