

CRAWFORD COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
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2008 ANNUAL REPORT

DEAR CITIZENS AND INTERESTED PARTIES

I present to you the Crawford County Public Health Department year 2008 in review. Our staff have worked hard to work toward a safe, healthy community to live in. We have collaborated with many community partners and have been gratified by the guidance and trust put in us.

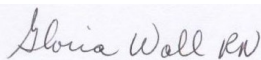
Crawford County Public Health has a goal to assess our community every five years, including evaluation of the programs we provide. Two thousand seven was the year of the assessment.

As a director, I am blessed to have the support system provided by the Crawford County Public Health Team. The team includes a dedicated staff, an interested Board of Health, the County Board of Supervisors, community volunteers including clinic assistants, fire and EMS volunteers,

co-workers at Crawford County Government and interested partners and community members. I must also applaud the Southern Region Department of Health and Family Services for the technical assistance they provide.

In the following pages you will read a sprinkling of what our dedicated staff of four nurses, one administrative assistant, and one part-time support staff can accomplish for Crawford County in one year, with the help of our friends.

Respectfully submitted,



Gloria Wall RN, Director
Crawford County Public Health Dept.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

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SERVICES TO CHRONICALLY MENTALLY ILL

The county nurses directly services the chronically mentally ill (CMI) population on a routine basis. Through a contract with Human Services Department, primary case management services, medication setup and injections, education, symptom monitoring and supportive psychotherapy are provided to CMI clients in the certified Community Support Program (CSP).

The CSP nurse makes routine home visits. Monthly social gatherings are also provided to this isolated population. Sample medications and drug assistance programs are offered to our clientele. The CSP nurse arranges and provides this service as prescribed by Human Services Psychiatrist. Medication boxes are filled weekly for 25 people.



Nurses Change Lives

POSTPARTUM VISITS (PPV)

Home visits or contacts were made to all postpartum mothers and babies upon referral from Boscobel, Vernon, and LaCrosse hospitals. Issues addressed during these visits include normal growth and development, immunizations, feeding and nutrition, well water testing, car seat safety, health insurance, day care, second hand smoke and early brain development. Thirteen phone contacts or visits were made in 2008.

FLUORIDE

The fluoride program continues to be a successful service for providing low cost fluoride supplements to children six months to 16 years. Natural fluorination is not found in our county. Soldiers Grove is the only municipality that supplements its water supply with fluoride. This preventative measure is open to all children. Fourteen children took advantage of this program in 2008.

WAISMAN

Crawford County contracted with the Waisman Center to find and refer children with special health care needs. We utilized the contracted dollars to work with juveniles in the jail and juveniles with diagnosed sexually transmitted disease

WISCONSIN WELL WOMAN PROGRAM

The Wisconsin Well Woman Program (WWWP) continues to provide free: Preventative breast and cervical cancer screenings to women age 45-64. Those ages 35-44 continued to be screened under special circumstances due to the clinical/or personal finding for breast cancer. The Family Planning Wavier Program continues to work in

cooperation with WWWP for reproductive health. In 2008 new provider agreements were established as well as adding an additional provider to Crawford County. ForwardHelath Interchange was implemented late in 2008. The goal is to achieve better access of information throughout all providers, coordinators, state and

clients.

Coordination of WWWP continues to be funded through the consolidated grant. In 2008, our grant objective was to screen 58 women ages 45-64 for breast cancer. We were able to achieve this goal!

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH / COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

The flood affected not only Gays Mills and Soldiers Grove, but most communities with issues such as overflowing sewers, water quality issues, questions about food safety as well as human disease from mold and contamination.

Two homes were declared unfit for human habitation. One of our schools had indoor air quality issues. Barking dogs, dog feces in eating places, animal filth and neglect in private homes are ongoing problems.

Noxious odor complaints, homeless living in storage units, bedbugs, derelict property, welfare checks on elderly and self-neglect persons also were issues.

Sewage problems continue to be a common source of complaint. DNR has partnered in cleaning up two contaminated properties which included tires, hazardous chemical and materials including medical waste.

I appeal to the County Board to continue the tire pick-up.

IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

Immunization clinics are held twice monthly at the Crawford County Administration Building in the nurse's office and bimonthly in Gays Mills and Seneca at the Community Buildings to provide an opportunity at no charge, for children to receive their vaccinations. Clinics are also held during the year at schools to give children a chance to be up-to-date on their immunizations. Vaccine for the immunizations is provided by the state of

Wisconsin. We have evening hours in Prairie du Chien to accommodate the needs of working families due to an immunization grant which was written to expand our services and provide better tracking of children in need of immunizations. 992 clients were served and 1,799 immunizations were given in 2008. We also extended our offering of flu vaccine in the community.

PERSONAL CARE PROGRAM

Medical Assistance Personal Care is a program financed by federal dollars through the medical assistance budget to answer the necessity of long-term care due to disabilities and an increasing aging population.

The Human Services Department contracts with this nursing agency for nursing expertise mandated by this program. The requirement being that each client on the program must be visited by a Registered Nurse on a bimonthly basis to assess and supervise the patients' medical problems and care provided by a personal care worker in the home. The program involves much coordination with the social worker, hospital, nursing home, Homeward Bound Agency, Lori Knapp Inc., and the client and family.

The nurses continue to make mandated fifty -sixty day supervisory visits and extra visits for orientation of new workers as needed. This past year marked a change in the medical assistance prior authorization process. To obtain PA for personal care services, providers are required to submit documents to ForwardHealth that accurately and completely demonstrate the need for the requested personal care services. In 2008 the number of clients served was 60. Number of supervisory visits made was 434 along with 185 extra visits. Medication boxes were filled for one person 50 times throughout the year.

PRENATAL CARE COORDINATION

Prenatal Care Coordination (PNCC) is a Medicaid benefit that helps pregnant women get the support and services they need to have a healthy baby. The primary target population may include young or first time mom, moms with limited knowledge, low income, risky behaviors, poor support, difficulty accessing healthcare, or any issues that may affect the woman having a healthy pregnancy and baby. Routine contacts

are made with the nurse and pregnant women at home, school or office. Health assessments, information and counseling are offered at each contact.

In 2009 nursing services will be at WIC clinic sites and screening for PNCC clients will be done with hopeful enrollment and follow-up in the program to follow.

HEALTH CHECK

The Health Check program is designed to provide preventative health to children under the age of 18 enrolled in Medical Assistance (MA). A general head to toe physical assessment, hearing, vision, blood tests, dental inspection, analysis of growth and development, anticipatory guidance, immunizations if needed and nutritional counseling are all included in a Health Check. The Health Check program is federally funded under MA. The State of Wisconsin reimburses the county a set amount for services provided. MA requires HMO enrollment. Our service area includes two HMO's: Atrium and Greater LaCrosse. A major barrier is that Atrium (Gundersen Clinic/Hospital) will not contract with county agencies and a large number of area recipients are enrolled in Atrium. We continue to advertise and promote Health Check services especially with Human Services.

COMMUNITY OPTIONS PROGRAM

The C.O.P. program is a mandated, state funded program to enable people who would ordinarily be in an institutional facility or nursing home to live independently as long as possible.

Prior to being eligible for the C.O.P. program, a client undergoes an assessment by a nurse and a social worker. Nineteen eighty-seven was the first year for C.O.P. in Crawford County. The county nursing department performed three new admission C.O.P. assessments in 2008.

TB TESTING

Tuberculosis tests are available upon request for children attending Head Start, camp physicals, and college entrance exams, teachers and school personnel. Skin tests are also given to personnel at the Opportunity Center, group homes, new clients at Villa Success, foster home applicants, Wyalusing Academy employees and residents, EMS volunteers, and the general public. Three hundred and two TB tests were given this year.

PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

Two thousand eight has been another successful year for the six county Consortium that we have been a part of for over four years. We have seen more of a trend toward an All Hazards approach in preparedness. This year we included planning for a possible flu pandemic.

Crawford County continues to be one of the

best prepared counties in the areas due to the fact that interest remains high by most of the residents that we work with. During 2009, we will continue to utilize the consortia structure to further our advances toward preparedness. Crawford county continues to be fiscal agent of consortia activity.

LEAD

Testing for the presence of lead in children ages 1 and 2 continues to be done routinely at WIC clinic sites and on a walk-in basis at the Public Health Office. This screening is done free of charge and information regarding the hazards of lead is addressed with each client. Since lead exposure may harm a child's learning ability any elevated results requires follow-up screenings and confirmatory venous samples. We also follow-up on the blood lead screenings done in the doctors' office. We had no confirmed elevated blood lead results in our county in 2008. 113 children were screened at county WIC sites and through our office.

FLU AND PNEUMONIA CLINICS

The government is asking public health to educate the public regarding possible pandemic flu which would affect approximately 10 percent of the population. Flu clinics continue to be held throughout our county.

EMS ASSOCIATION

Crawford County Public Health, Crawford County Emergency Government and Crawford County 911 coordinator joined forces to start an EMS Association. This association represents the First Responders and Ambulance system in Crawford County. The meetings are utilized to provide training, problem solving and any other emergency medical related problem that comes before it. This association continue to be a valuable tool of communication and training for the EMS system in Crawford County.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE

It is an ongoing responsibility of the county nurse to follow up on people diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease. Individuals are interviewed and instructed on mode of transmission and prevention. Their sexual contacts are also interviewed if possible to stop the spread of the disease. In 2008 there was a 42% increase in reported sexually transmitted diseases from the previous year. These variations may just be cyclical and not indicate any trends.

Crawford County Public Health has attempted to address this increase in STD's through education and group presentations to at-risk populations.

PARTNER REFERRAL PROGRAM

County Nurse contacts referred HIV infected clients, providing education, referrals and notifying sex partners. In 2008 there were two newly diagnosed HIV positive individuals. The public health nurse was unable to locate one person. The other person was an inmate in the county jail, and services were provided to this individual before the person was transferred to another county's jurisdiction

JAIL HEALTH

State law mandates that jail inmates receive adequate health care. Nurse visits are made to the jail for health assessment and supervision of medication dispensing and health care for inmates. In 2008, 143 jail health visits were made. Special effort to meet the health needs of inmates aged less than 21 years were made.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Crawford County Public Health Nurses are available to present educational programs to community groups related to health and wellness topics. Topics presented for groups have been Healthy Heart Living which includes a CPR demonstration, first aide, home safety, chemical safety, head lice, breast cancer, explanation of the duties and responsibilities of the Public Health Department, child abuse/neglect, car seat safety, perinatal substance abuse, and early childhood brain development

Crawford County Public Health worked closely with day cares to assist them in assessing the health and safety of the day care environment and help write policy and procedures.

WIC

The WIC Program is a nutrition, information, and supplemental food program available to pregnant and nursing women as well as children under age five.

In 2008 the Prairie du Chien WIC clinic site was moved to our office on the first two Wednesdays of each month. This provided us the opportunity to reach this young population. A clinic is also held the last Wednesday of the month at the Community Building in Gays Mills. The main WIC office serving this area is located in Dodgeville.

If women and their families meet the WIC income guidelines, they are eligible to receive a short physical evaluation along with a blood test for iron. They are also eligible to receive coupons redeemable for milk, eggs, cheese, fruit juices, peas, beans, fortified cereal, fresh vegetables and formula. Being present at the WIC clinic sites allows us to expand other program areas such as immunizations, lead, PNCC, fluoride, health check, and First Breathe assess for Smoking Cessation.

WATER QUALITY

Water quality is an issue every year. Water test kits are provided in cooperation with the State Lab of Hygiene for pregnant women and infants at risk who have a private, untested water supply.

High nitrates in water have been linked to birth defects, "blue baby syndrome", learning disorders, and can lead to coma and death if left untreated.

Boiling concentrates the nitrates in water therefore, finding the source of contamination and taking steps to reduce further contamination is very important. Russ Hagen of Natural Resource Conservation Service has been very cooperative in the area of water quality. Water samples were supplied to homes of referred newborn babies not on public water.

BLOOD PRESSURE

The clinics are held at the nutrition sites to accommodate senior citizens. We service four sites--Eastman, Gays Mills, Soldiers Grove, and Retired Teachers.

The blood pressure screening often involves health education and counseling by the professional nurse. The number of blood pressure screenings completed in 2008 was 208.

Due to low numbers, the Ferryville site is no longer participating in the meal site or blood pressure clinics.

HOME VISITS TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

Home visits consist of follow-up nursing supervision of clients and care providers following illness, surgery or long-term care. Referrals for nursing visits are received from many sources. These sources include hospitals, home health agencies and Department of Aging, Human Services and Sheriff.

In 2008, 1542 contacts were made in their homes, communities, or in our offices, serving 747 clients.

VISION

Vision screening is also conducted each school year. In the school districts employing school nurses, the nurses do the screenings. The private schools are screened by a volunteers trained by this office. As with hearing, picking up visual problems with school children is very important to the child's learning capabilities. Our nurses rescreened several children for the schools. Proper referrals to parents and physicians were made.

MCH 2008 REPORT

OBJECTIVES 1 & 2

Crawford County Public Health MCH priority area for 2008 was dental health. Public Health was a member of "Oral Health for a Better Community" dental coalition. The active role was on the education initiative.

On February 26, 2008 Crawford County Public Health participated in a presentation to the Prairie du Chien Committee of the whole (City Council). The presentation was on community water fluoridation. March 18, 2008 the city council voted unanimously to take the fluoridation recommendation to referendum at the November 2008 election and to incur the cost associated with the referendum ballot question. The referendum was voted on as a non binding referendum. Public Health participated in canvassing of Prairie du Chien neighborhoods with educational materials and brochures two weeks prior to the November election. Public Health also had fluoridation displays at the county administrative building and health department suite. Unfortunately, the fluoridation referendum campaign was not a success. There were 1014 "Yes" votes and 1542 "No" votes.

Public Health was involved with McKeever Dental Clinic who participated in the WDA Give Kids A Smile Day. Our role included providing the space for prescreening to be done, being available at the prescreening providing educational materials and displays, and to assist with referrals. The prescreening took place January 11, 2008. In January letters were mailed to six dental offices in Crawford County requesting support and direction for our community education efforts. By February, Dental Associates and McKeever Dental expressed support and offered direction related to our dental health education efforts. In June a correspondence was sent to four dental clinics requesting support in assisting our public health with supplies for our dental health education. Also enclosed in the correspondence was the dental health curriculum to be used to teach basic dental hygiene. We asked that the dental professionals review the curriculum and share their comments and suggestions with us. In general the dental professionals suggested adding fluoridation and nutrition education to the curriculum. With nutrition the flowing comment was made by Dr. Frye, "focus more on sugar intake and good dietary habits, stress avoidance of sugars in solution". In response a brochure was developed specifically regarding sweetened beverages. As far as supplies for our educational efforts Dental Associates allowed us to use their puppet, tooth models and dental tools. Shantz Dental donated dental floss. Doral Dental donated child sized tooth brushes, tooth paste and case.

The basic dental hygiene curriculum was presented three community entities. A total of 37 children were served through Head Start, child care center, and preschool. The breakdown is as follows three year olds – 11, four year olds – 19, and five year olds – 7. Head Start currently performs tooth brushing with the children, the day care is considering implementing tooth brushing into their day and the preschool will implement tooth brushing in 2009. The teaching was completed in two sessions at each entity. The presentations included discussion, visual aids, reinforcement of messages taught and demonstration of tooth brushing. Prior to the educational presentations a survey was sent home to parents assessing current dental health practices of their child then after the second session a survey was sent again to assess for a behavior change. All the entities had difficulty getting parents to hand in the second survey. Several times I had heard from parents about the information their child was talking about at home after I had been to the day care center. Children were also sent home with teaching sheets and brochures for parents that reinforced the information discussed at the sessions. It also included information on the public health fluoridation supplement program.

Respectfully submitted

Deanna Wallin-Sander BSN, RN

SCHOOL HEALTH

Consultation with school nurses regarding communicable diseases and conditions, immunizations and state rulings have been utilized by all school districts in our county.

The Wisconsin Student Immunization law changed this fall with the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year. Two different vaccine requirements were added. The Wisconsin Student Immunization Law requires:

- * 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap) for students entering 6th, 9th and 12th grades, and
- * 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine for students entering Kindergarten, 6th and 12th grades.

Crawford County Public Health assisted the school districts by offering immunization clinics on site in the spring of 2008 at each school.

The Wauzeka-Steuben school nurse contract continues to be 9.5 hours per week for 38 weeks and 15 hours during summer months.

This year the nurse was the primary instructor for Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention education that became mandatory in 2006 with the passing of the Prevent Violence Against Children Act, Wisconsin Act 165. The Act requires each school board to provide or arrange with a nonprofit organization or health care provider to provide age-appropriate instruction relating to shaken baby syndrome in one of grades 5 to 8 and in one of grades 10 to 12.

The nurse also works closely with The School District of Wauzeka-Steuben to maintain the automatic – external defibrillator (AED) in the school building.

Emphasis continues to be placed on diabetes management, asthma, autism and medication management and staff training. Student assessments include but are not limited to hearing, vision, height, weights, BMIs, head lice, and early childhood screening.

Crawford County Communicable Disease Report

