



CRAWFORD COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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2017 ANNUAL REPORT

April 5, 2018

Crawford County Board of Supervisors
225 N. Beaumont Road
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821

Dear Supervisors:

The Health Department has submitted this annual report describing the services provided during 2017. As part of this report I need to describe the significant change that this department went through in 2017. In October of 2017, Crawford County's Health Department went through a significant change. Personnel losses in the Public Health Department resulted in my role expanding temporarily to cover administrative functions in the Human Services and Health Departments. As the personnel issues were finalized, this role became permanent. In December of 2017, Crawford County Board of Supervisors combined the Health and Human Services Department. This department will be administered by the Director of Health and Human Services. The Public Health Unit will have a supervisor hired who will also fulfill the statutory role of Public Health Officer for Crawford County. This is a significant change that has impacted how both agencies operate. Further changes will come in the future that will help combine the operations of the agencies, the efficiencies by which they provide services and will leverage strengths from both agencies' approaches to make an impact on community issues. At this time, the agencies have become one but the boards remain separate for these agencies.

We will continue to adapt to changes that occur in staff, programming and agency structure to provide the best services possible in our county.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel J. McWilliams

Daniel J. McWilliams, Director



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WIC

The Woman Infant & Child (WIC) Program is a nutrition, informational and supplemental food program available to eligible families that have children under age five, women who are pregnant and nursing women. The WIC mission is “Working Together to Create Healthy Families”.

The WIC office and staff serving our area is the Southwest Community Action Program (SWCAP), located out of Dodgeville. Three clinics a month are held in Crawford County. The first two Wednesdays of the month are held in Prairie du Chien at our Public Health office and the fourth Wednesday of the month in Gays Mills at the Community Building.

Crawford County Public Health Nurses screen all families for Public Health services that may be of benefit to promote health and wellness. Nurses are present at each clinic which allows us to expand on programs and services areas such as immunizations for children and adults (Tdap), lead testing, Healthy Beginnings (formerly known as Prenatal Care Coordination (PNCC), fluoride varnishes - oral health, infant well water testing and First Breath and My Baby & Me (programs for pregnant women related to smoking cessation and alcohol exposed pregnancy). Educational resources and referrals to other programs are also often made and include: areas related to early childhood education programs (Head Start), Family Resource Center, Birth to Three, food pantries, Human Services (BadgerCare, counseling, energy assistance, child care assistance, etc.), Couleecap, adult and child oral health, child vision, Catholic Charities – Domestic Violence, reproductive services and more. In 2017 393 (265 in 2016) unduplicated individuals received WIC benefits. CCPH will continue to collaborate with SWCAP and provide services and resources to our WIC families in 2018.

HEALTHY BEGINNING PLUS

Healthy Beginnings Plus (HB+), formerly known as the Prenatal Care Coordination Program (PNCC), is a BadgerCare benefit that is offered and provided to Crawford County pregnant women. The program assists pregnant women and their families in receiving support and services necessary for a positive birth outcome for both mom and baby. Women are identified as early as possible in their pregnancy and receive support services, health and nutrition education and referrals to appropriate community resources. Program referrals can be and are received from WIC, school nurses, medical providers, BadgerCare HMO's, Human Services or other community partners. CCPH nurses are all trained providers of the First Breathe program that facilitates smoking cessation and the My Baby & Me program that addresses pregnant women at risk for an alcohol exposed pregnancy. In 2017 our department received 24 HB+ referrals with 3 eligible PNCC clients agreeable for enrollment. All moms are screened for First Breath and the My Baby & Me program.

POSTPARTUM VISITS (PPV)

Crawford County Public Health (CCPH) offers home visits or support through phone contacts to all postpartum mothers and babies upon referral from Boscobel, LaCrosse, Prairie du Chien and Vernon hospitals. Issues addressed during these visits and/or contacts include: normal growth and development, immunizations, feeding and nutrition, safe sleep, shaken baby syndrome, postpartum depression, well water testing, car seat safety, health insurance, day care, second hand smoke, early brain development and more.

HEALTH CHECK

The Health Check program is designed to provide preventative health counseling 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. Private clinic settings are the primary providers for these services. We continue to advertise and promote Health Check services especially with Human Services and provide routine physical screenings for childcare services.



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Crawford County Public Health is mandated by State of WI (DHS Chapter 145) to follow-up on over 70 communicable diseases and illnesses that includes, but is not limited to, the following: foodborne & waterborne, respiratory, vaccine-preventable and sexual transmitted diseases. Prompt identification and control of illness can reduce further illnesses, death and health care costs as well as and protecting and improving the overall health of our communities. In review of 2017 communicable disease report several illnesses were identified as concerning and include: E-coli, Salmonella, Pertussis, Tic borne illnesses and seasonal influenza.

Tic borne illnesses such as Lyme's Disease and Ehrlichiosis again in 2017 have been abundant and is thought to be due to the great number of tics and those infected themselves and the increased frequency of exposure to human contact. This year the most prominent tic borne illness was Ehrlichiosis as we seen over a 150% increase from 2016. Preventative education is provided with each case identified. Wisconsin Department of Health (DHS) will continue to have public health departments investigate tic-borne illnesses in 2018.

Gastrointestinal illness caused by E-Coli and Salmonella was also on the rise in 2017. Specifically, a 100% increase for Salmonella and over a 200% increase for E-Coli. Due to these significant increases additional investigation and research was conducted to try and find a common source of infection, however, none was found. Education and guidance was provided on proper handwashing, food storage and cooking methods.

To help combat the 2017 seasonal influenza CCPH conducted over 60 office and county wide influenza vaccination clinics for adults including local business, municipalities and Crawford County School's teachers and staff. Over 650 adults were immunized by these clinic efforts. Through the Emergency Preparedness Mass Immunization Exercise over 500 Crawford County school aged children were also immunized against influenza. Even with our best efforts to combat this illness by providing immunizations and education we continued to see hospitalized influenza cases; at least 21 individuals were hospitalized, which was a 200% increase compared to 2016 and unfortunately three deaths.

There was an outbreak of Pertussis (Whooping Cough) that included 30 close contacts. Age of Pertussis cases ranged from 2 months to 10 years of age and majority of children were unimmunized or too young for the DTaP vaccine. All children were treated with appropriate antibiotic and close contacts/family members were also treated prophylactically. Additionally, families and children affected were isolated to prevent spreading of disease. Support and education regarding immunizing against this vaccine preventable illness was provided.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE

It is an ongoing responsibility of our Public Health nurse to follow up on persons diagnosed with sexually transmitted infections (STI's). Individuals are interviewed, provided with education and preventative measures to help maintain overall health and wellness. Resources are made known and referrals are made as needed. Sexual contacts are attempted to be contacted and interviewed in the same manner with the goal being to stop spread of disease. Confidentiality is important and always maintained.

Crawford County has seen an increasing trend of STI's over the past five years, specifically a 57.7% increase from 2012 to 2017. Our county is not alone as an increasing trend is also seen across the entire state of Wisconsin. Additional analysis was conducted to further investigate specific populations and trends related to STI's in our county. The two most prevalent STI's are Chlamydia and Gonorrhea with Chlamydia accounting for well over 97% of the total cases. The ages of reported cases ranged from 15-54 with the most predominant ages being 18 and 21 and predominant population being female. The CDC comments that "Preventing STI's among youth is a key priority" and that sexually active individuals, "Must take steps to protect themselves". Testing, treatment, using condoms consistently and correctly, and limiting the number of sex partners are all effective strategies for reducing the risk of infection and consequence to health. Crawford County will follow CDC guidelines in regards to providing education and guidance to help combat this growing health risk

LEAD TESTING

Testing for the presence of lead in children ages 1 and 2 continues to be done routinely at our WIC clinic sites. This screening is done free of charge and information regarding the hazards of lead is addressed with each client. Any Crawford County child with venous blood level of ≥ 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ receives a risk assessment of the environment and/or home assessment, along with follow-up blood lead screenings. In 2017 we had 5 reported elevated blood lead tests. 59 children were screened through our office. The number of children being screened by private providers have increased.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Crawford County Public Health Nurses are available to present educational programs to community groups related to health and wellness topics. Topics presented to groups have been Bloodborne Pathogen, Radon, CPR, Know your Poisons, Improving our Community, Flu, Cancer Clear and Simple, Stepping On, CPR demonstrations, first aid, mine safety training, oral health, code red training, tobacco education, Zika education, opiate education, chemical safety, head lice, winter safety, carbon monoxide, perinatal substance abuse, early childhood brain development and other current health trends. Health issues relating to the season and interest are also provided to the radio, newspapers, senior sites and newsletters.

The community also informs us of current issues of interest in their respective communities.

SERVICES TO CHRONICALLY MENTALLY ILL

The Human Services Department has contracted nursing services through the Public Health Department to assist in providing mental health support and services which includes: primary case management services, medication monitoring and setup, administration of injectable psychotropic medications, and supportive psychotherapy to our chronically mentally ill clients through the certified Community Support Program (CSP) and mental health clinic. The nurse acts as a facilitator of the mental health clinic that occurs weekly providing necessary follow up to meet our clients' mental health needs.

PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

Crawford County continues to work with multiple community partners including surrounding public health units from Iowa and Wisconsin as well as Emergency Management, the Coroner, Sheriff's Office, hospitals and other health care units. Through 6/30/2017 our focus was 1) Medical Surge, 2) Mass Care, 3) Non-pharmaceutical interventions and 4) Volunteer management.

We began a new 5 year grant period on 7/1/2018 with the focus being on Community Resilience (Community Preparedness and Community Recovery)

WATER QUALITY

Water quality is an issue every year. Well 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. Five water samples were supplied to homes of referred newborn babies not on public water.

The State Lab of Hygiene also provides water test kits in the event of a major flood. We handed out nine water test kits during the 2017 flood

IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

Immunization clinics are held twice a month at the Crawford County Administration Building in the Public Health office and bi-monthly in Gays Mills and Seneca at the Community Buildings to provide an opportunity for children and adults to receive immunizations. The health department also offers vaccinations requiring payment to adults such as flu, Hepatitis B and Zoster (Shingles). Crawford County Public Health is able to offer the Shingles vaccine free of charge to eligible individuals through a patient assistance program offered by Merck.

A total of 1739 immunizations were given in 2017. 958 of these were childhood immunizations given through the VFC program.

Vaccines supplied to our department from the Wisconsin Immunization Program are funded through a combination of funds from the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program and PHSAS 317. VFC vaccine can be administered to individuals that are 18 years of age and younger that, 1) have no insurance or 2) are on Medical Assistance or 3) are Native American or 4) are Alaska Natives.

FLU CLINICS

Flu clinics continue to be held throughout our county. We continue to work very hard to educate and immunize the public. 1201 of Crawford County's population has been immunized. We also provide flu vaccinations to several business that want to offer flu vaccinations to their employees.

The Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) block grant creates partnerships across the federal, state and local levels that address challenges that are facing women, children and families. The 2015 State MCH Needs Assessment identified MCH priorities and performance measures for 2016-2020. Objectives identified address National Performance Measures related to breastfeeding, safe sleep, developmental screening, smoking and adolescent injury prevention (suicide and transportation related injury).

A review of Crawford County's 2014 Needs Assessment, the 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment, the 2015 WI County MCH Profile along with current and past Crawford County Health Ranking and Roadmaps (adult & pregnancy smoking rates) undoubtedly indicated that smoking and tobacco use commanded out attention.

The 2017 MCH Program objectives and strategies concentrated on ways to increase access to, awareness of and education of evidenced based smoking cessation services that provide clear, constant and consistent education and messaging for women and their family members who smoke. With collaboration from the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation and the UW Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention (CTRI) office we have successfully been able to educate several key community partners/providers on evidenced based smoking cessation interventions that included First Breath and CEASE (Clinical Effort Against Secondhand Smoke Exposure).

First Breath is a smoking cessation program specifically for pregnant women and CEASE is an intervention utilized by providers; especially child care providers, to address the whole family in regards to tobacco use and exposure. Many of our providers/partners have already been implementing the first steps of the CEASE intervention which is to ASK or ASSESS for tobacco use and/or exposure and to ASSIST with prescribing nicotine replacement therapy. The last step, which has been our main training focus, is to CONNECT to the WI Tobacco Quit Line/ FAX to Quit Line or First Breath. These services are and have been underutilized throughout the Crawford County as well as the entire State of Wisconsin.

Community providers/partners have responded favorably to additional education, awareness and resources. We will continue to engage and educate our providers/partners and community groups throughout the next year as our MCH objective for 2018 will be to continue concentrating on decreasing smoking rates and tobacco use for a healthier individual, family and community.

FLUORIDE VARNISH PROGRAM

Crawford County Public Health offers an Early Childhood Cavity Prevention Program to children through age six. This program includes oral health screening, education, fluoride varnish application, and referral for any necessary dental problems. Fluoride has been found to prevent or reduce cavities in primary and permanent teeth of young children.

Crawford County Public Health's Early Childhood Cavity Prevention Program targets WIC participants and Head Start. In 2017 there were a total of 85 fluoride varnish treatments done by the public health nurses.

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINICS

The blood pressure clinics are held at the nutrition meal sittings to accommodate senior citizens. We service three sites-- Eastman, Soldiers Grove and Prairie du Chien. The blood pressure screening often involves health education and counseling by a Public Health nurse. The number of blood pressure screenings completed in 2017 was 217. Community education is also provided during these clinics.

JAIL HEALTH

State law mandates that jail inmates receive adequate health care, this includes medication administration which must be done under a Medical Professionals license. The County nurse fills that role in Crawford County. Nursing visits or consultation are provided at all times for health assessment and supervision of dispensing medication and health care for inmates. In 2017, 51 jail health visits were made. Logging of all telephone requests and cases of requested assessments that were later refused were not tallied. CCPH will not provide jail nursing services in 2018. The Sheriff's Department has entered into a contract with an outside entity that will provide more complete and required services for jail health in 2018.

TB TESTING

Tuberculosis skin tests are available upon request for camp physicals, college entrance requirements, teachers and school personnel. Skin tests are also given to personnel at the Opportunity Center, group home workers, new clients at foster homes, EMS volunteers, and the general public. One hundred twenty six tests were given in 2017. In 2016 there were 110 tests given.

Consultation with school nurses regarding communicable diseases and conditions, immunizations and state rulings continue to be utilized by all school districts in our county. Again this year we were able to offer free flu vaccinations for students by conducting the Mass Clinic Preparedness Exercise. We were also granted the ability to offer Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis), Meningococcal, and Hepatitis A vaccines to adolescents in grades 6-12.

Due to budgetary cuts within the Wauzeka-Steuben School District the school nurse contract was decreased by 50%. Nursing duties include but are not limited to: diabetes management, asthma, medication management, immunization assessment and administration, member of the Wellness Committee and staff training. Student assessments including: hearing, vision, height, weights, BMIs, head lice, and early childhood screening.

VISION

Public Health Nurses are certified by Wisconsin Prevent Blindness to perform vision screenings for children. We are a resource for both public and private schools to assist in annual vision screening of children. The resources include initial screening, retesting, and referral of children. Our vision screening program continues to partner with area Lions Clubs to serve the community by providing Early Childhood Vision Screening. The goal is to help identify pre-school children (ages 1-5) who may have or be at risk for amblyopia "Lazy Eye".

The collaboration between Lions Clubs Zone 5 and Crawford County Public Health has resulted in a stronger, more effective vision screening program in our county. The vision screening device employs state of the art technology in vision screening of young children, it has exceptional accuracy, provides a detailed printed report to aid the eye care professional in follow up examinations and the ability to quickly and simply screen children. The most important benefit is that when eye problems in children are identified early, when treatment can be most effective, it ensures that children's vision is optimal for learning and in some cases can even prevent permanent loss of vision. Timely referral have improved the overall vision of our Crawford County children.

2017 MASS IMMUNIZATION FUNCTIONAL EXERCISE

Crawford County Public Health (CCPH) recognizes the significance of prevention and promotion of health in our communities, county and state; especially for our children whom are more vulnerable. CCPH joined many other local public health agencies across the state of Wisconsin to conduct and take part in a Public Health Emergency Preparedness Immunization Exercise to provide the 2017 -2018 influenza vaccine as well as vaccines for Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap & DTaP), Meningitis (McV4), Polio (IPV), Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR), Varicella (Chickenpox) and Hepatitis A & B to school aged children. The exercise scenario and the After Action Report/Improvement Plan is determined by WI Department of Health Services. The scope was defined as a functional exercise that included up to three, thirty-day dispensing campaign phases. This would be Crawford County Public Health's fifth year in participated in this Emergency Preparedness Exercise.

During the 2017 Immunization Exercise 495 school aged children were vaccinated against influenza. This is an increase of 10.7% when compared to 2016. This is a great accomplishment to have vaccinated and protected that many more children from the influenza. All influenza vaccine administered was via an injection as recommend per the State of WI and the CDC.

Throughout the first and second immunization dispensing phases CCPH provided an additional 48 vaccines to protect children against Tetanus, Diphtheria & Pertussis, Meningitis, Hepatitis A & B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Polio and Varicella (Chickenpox). These vaccines brought many children up to date with the current immunization recommendations. The HPV vaccine was not offered during this exercise, as in previous years, as it was not made available from WI DHS for this exercise specifically due to its high cost. With the goal to immunize additional school aged children outreach was conducted to smaller private and preschools again this past year. We will continue to work closely with our schools on ways to improve this exercise and vaccinate more children. This exercise also provides the opportunity to be present in our communities and provide education and awareness regarding the importance of immunizations. All Crawford County schools were collaboratively involved and their cooperation was significant to the success of this exercise.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Environmental health is one of the 10 essential services provided by Crawford County Public Health. Environmental health focuses on the relationships between people and their environment; promotes human health and well-being; and fosters healthy and safe communities. Environmental health is a key part of any comprehensive public health system. Reduction in chemical and other environmental exposures in air, water, soil and food to protect people and provide communities with healthier environments.

Crawford County Public health receives and investigates environmental complaints and collaborates with other agencies to reduce environmental health hazards. In 2017 CCPH responded to complaints for food safety (3), unsafe water (3), unsanitary/unsafe housing (11), meth (1), lead exposure (5), welfare checks for medical concerns (2), mold (1), excessive animals (1), burning junk cars (1), unrimmed tires(1), excessive noise and dust (1). Multiple stray/feral cat complaints were received. One bird was sent in and was tested for West Nile Virus and 8 animal bite reports were followed up on (3 dogs, 3 cats, 1 bat, 1 raccoon). Multiple nuisance complaints were received on bedbugs, fleas and cockroaches.

Safe air and water quality continue to be of significant importance. Our Crawford County Health Department provides well-water test kits for pregnant women and babies as well as citizens that had or have been impacted by flooding. Additionally, radon test kits are available to homeowners, also free of charge.

Animal bite investigations are initiated through the Sheriff's Office and followed up on by Public Health The follow-up includes: proper veterinarian surveillance and following up on lab testing where there may be a concern for a rabies infection. Dogs, cats and bats account for many of the investigations, but raccoons, possums and other animals have also been investigated.

LIMITED AGENT

Crawford County Public (CCPH) Health contracts with WI Health Service Food Safety and Recreational Licensing Department to conduct inspections, re-inspections and complaint follow-ups under the supervision of a WI Registered Sanitarian to Crawford County's hotels/motels, vacation home rentals, campgrounds, and prepackaged food establishments. Along with the inspections, additional education is provided to help promote the health and safety of the public and have included: smoke and carbon monoxide detection/safety, well water testing/safe water and bed bugs. In 2017 CCPH conducted inspections for 16 hotel/motels, 15 vacation home rentals, 14 campgrounds, and 3 prepackaged food facilities. The limited agent contract ended at the end of June. The DHS and Department of Agriculture inspection programs have merged and as a result of the merger Health Departments are no longer able to operate as Limited Agents. Health Departments must become Full Agents of DTCAP to continue inspections. The county has decided not to pursue becoming Full Agents at this time.

CPR-FIRST AID EDUCATION

Heart disease and cancer are the leading causes of death in Crawford County. To prevent and protect the population a decision was made to become a training site for CPR, as we know, bystander CPR is critical in the effort to save a life endangered by cardiac arrest. We have enlisted help from Prairie du Chien EMS, Prairie du Chien Schools and Prairie du Chien Prison to increase community CPR in Crawford County. Staff has been trained. 253 people have been trained in 2017. In November the CPR training site has moved from CCPH to the Eastman EMS.

PHARMACEUTICAL ROUND UP

Public Health has teamed up with the coroner and sheriff's office to have a pharmaceutical round up. The Public Health Office continues to accept and collect medications throughout the year for proper disposal. The 2017 pharmaceutical round up held at the Crawford County Highway Department remains successful. Drug collection has been discontinued at Public Health in October 2017. The lock box across the street at the Sheriff's Department continues to be used and is available 24/7 for the disposal of medications.

RADON

Radon is a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas that is the nation's second leading cause of lung cancer and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Radon is naturally present in the ground and can enter buildings through their foundations. Both old and newer homes can be susceptible to radon. Crawford County has a high incidence of lung cancer, therefore Public Health is very concerned about the radon levels in persons homes. Research shows that radon causes more lung cancer among non-smokers than even second-hand tobacco smoke. Fortunately, this cause of lung cancer is largely preventable; the first step is to test your home. If elevated radon is found, it can be easily and effectively corrected. Radon concentrations in air can be measured with simple, inexpensive test kits available from hardware stores and local public health agencies. Crawford County provides kits to homeowners free of charge at this time through a radon grant for the 6 surrounding counties of Vernon, Iowa, Richland, Lafayette, Grant, and Crawford. This year we provided radon education to Crawford County residents and 67 test kits were given out. State statistics indicate that between 5 and 10 percent of homes in Wisconsin have elevated airborne concentrations of radon in significantly occupied spaces. Radon concentrations vary greatly from home to home, so any home, no matter its age, should be tested.

JANUARY-OCTOBER 2017 HEALTH COMMITTEE

Dr. Walter Boisvert, Medical Advisor

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Wayne Jerrett, Jr.

Don Stirling

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Lisa Cummer, BSN, RN

Sharon Steele, Admin Assistant

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NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2017 PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

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