

# Board of Health

## 2014 Annual Report



### Current Health Department Staff

#### WIC

Mary Smith  
Amy Gabriel  
Erin Connolly  
Lucinda Robinson  
Deb Smith  
Kay Higgins  
Angie Wentz  
Cheryl Hopkins

#### Administration

Larry Hanna, R.S.  
Kathie Whitlock

#### Vital Statistics

Cindy Sharpe  
Pauletta Krieger

#### Environmental

Steve Deeter, R.S.  
Deb Kilbarger, R.S.  
Jen Valentine, R.S.  
Dennis Oliver  
Kerri McReynolds, R.S.  
Kevin Barlow, R.S.  
Dana Fox, S.I.T.  
Cindy Sharpe

#### Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)

Merrilee Taylor

#### Health Commissioner/ Medical Director

Dr. Mark Aebi

#### Nursing

Gwen Shafer, RN  
Diana Stover, RN  
Jenny Grove, RN  
Pat Garrett, RN

#### Fiscal

Paulette Tiller  
Kelly Donley

#### Administrative Support Staff

Sheri Johnson  
Laura Schlabach  
Rachél Martindale

## 2014 Fairfield County Health Department Funds

Funds	Revenue	Expenses	Balance
General Fund	790,881.96	638,364.97	152,516.99
Camps/Parks/ Pools	24,780.04	20,761.25	4,018.79
Solid Waste (CFLP)	30,790.37	28,837.42	1952.95
Food Service	188,868.96	191,882.08	(3,013.12)
C&DD/Landfills	276,851.84	189,390.21	87,461.63
Water	62,591.41	45,924.17	16,667.24
Plumbing	105,511.46	69,874.32	35,637.14
Sewage	74,714.21	83,343.01	(8,628.80)
Immunizations	146,352.83	133,146.21	13,206.62
IAP Grant	36,827.29	39,351.88	(2,524.59)
PHEP/CRI	148,063.32	135,487.90	12,575.42
CFHS Grant	39,962.44	30,457.14	9505.30
Help Me Grow	28,183.70	37,345.06	(9161.36)
WIC	332,513.44	396,182.91	(63,669.47)
Vital Statistics	223,201.31	181,554.01	41,647.30
BCMH	13,630.57	16,892.76	(3,262.19)
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$2,523,725.15</b>	<b>\$2,238,795.30</b>	<b>\$284,929.85</b>
<i>All funds except "General" are restricted in use for special programs</i>			



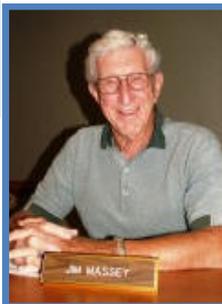
Paulette Tiller and Kelly Donley  
Fiscal Office



Dr. Aebi, Health Commissioner  
and Medical Director



Larry Hanna, R.S., Administrator and  
Kathie Whitlock, Administrative Assistant



### 2014 Board of Health Members

Dave Petty, President - top left

Darryl Koop, MD - top right

Jim Massey - center

Charlie Engen - bottom left

Tina Childers - bottom right

## From the Administrator...

In 2013, the Fairfield Department of Health began working on “Accreditation.” In 2014, the efforts increased significantly. Accreditation is a new state requirement that all health departments in Ohio must meet by 2020 in order to receive state subsidy funds and to be eligible to apply for federal grant monies that pass through the Ohio Department of Health to local health departments. One of the grants that could be impacted is our WIC program; WIC provides nutritious foods to pregnant women and women who recently had a baby. WIC also provides nutritional education to large numbers of Fairfield County residents. Our Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Grant would also be affected. The PHEP Grant has provided Emergency Plans and has helped with funding should the health department respond to natural disasters such as tornados or floods, to disease outbreaks such as Ebola or Mumps, or to food-borne illness outbreaks. Our Immunization Action Plan (IAP) Grant provides funds to support activities that increase immunization rates for children under two years of age. And finally, failure to become accredited would mean not only the loss of all these grant funds; but the Health Department would also lose its state subsidy funding. Like it or not, unless this requirement changes, it's critical your Health Department become accredited in 2020. During the summer of 2014, the Fairfield Department of Health developed one of the three prerequisites for Accreditation, a “Strategic Plan.”

As Ebola came to the United States in 2014, Health Department employees met with community partners in preparation and planning for Ebola. Through this collaboration, policies and procedures were created to address potential Ebola contacts or cases in Fairfield County. The health department participated in daily conference calls with the Ohio Department of Health for several months to update and review the status of the outbreak. One of the largest outbreaks of Measles in Ohio occurred in 2014. Measles is a viral disease that can develop in unvaccinated populations. It's unfortunate; this may have been prevented if each of those children had received two doses of MMR vaccine by age 4-6.

*Larry Hanna, R.S.*

## Administrative Support Staff



Our administrative staff are highly composed professionals who greet and assist the department visitors and customers as well as Division Directors and their other staff. Our staff are frontline personnel and backend personnel. In that respect, they are the “voice” and “face” of the health department.

Rachél Martindale, Sheri Johnson, Laura Schlabach

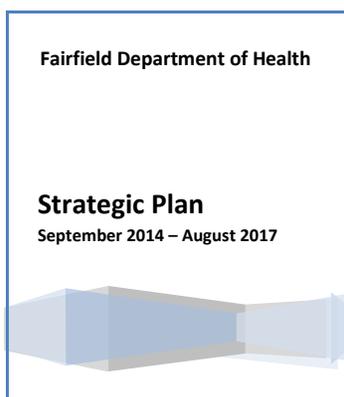
# FDH Mission, Vision and Values

The backbone of the strategic plan is an organization's mission, vision and values statements. They communicate the overall purpose of the agency and a shared sense of inspirational direction. In its guide for strategic planning, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) define these terms as follows:

- **Mission:** The organization's purpose; what the organization does and why.
- **Vision:** Futuristic view regarding the ideal state or conditions that the organization aspires to change or create.
- **Values:** Principles, beliefs and underlying assumptions that guide the organization.

FDH's mission, vision and values statements are as follows:

- **Mission:** The Fairfield Department of Health is committed to serving the Fairfield County community by preventing disease, protecting the environment and promoting healthy lifestyles.
- **Vision:** The Fairfield Department of Health foresees the day when people realize that being healthy is a lifelong process involving personal choice, self-awareness and a shared community responsibility.
- **Values:**
  - **Service:** Serve in a courteous, compassionate and responsive manner
  - **Integrity:** Adhere to a code of standards that includes honesty, fairness, openness, respect and sound judgment
  - **Leadership:** Inspire others toward excellence
  - **Consistency:** Uniformly apply policies and processes
  - **Accountability:** Accept responsibility for accuracy, efficiency and effectiveness of actions
  - **Communication:** Promote interactions with all stakeholders and continually share information in a timely fashion
  - **Knowledge:** Continually acquire new information to understand public health practices
  - **Diversity:** We value and respect diversity and recognize the benefit it brings in understanding and serving all people
  - **Collaboration:** We work collaboratively with partners and communities to improve health and support a strong public health system



In 2014, the Fairfield Department of Health developed a Strategic Plan, effective September 2014 through August 2017. With input from staff, the plan contains revised mission, vision and values statements and outlines Health Department goals and objectives.

# Environmental Division

Part of protecting our county's health is working to make sure that the water we drink, the food we eat, and the places we live won't endanger our health now or the health of future generations. Restaurants and retail food establishments are inspected to prevent the occurrence of food-borne illnesses. Residential and commercial sewage treatment systems are inspected to protect public water supplies. Private water systems are inspected to ensure residents have safe drinking water. Other programs include public swimming pools, school inspections, animal bite investigations, public health nuisances, campgrounds, solid waste investigations, tattoo and body-piercing facility inspections, and the plumbing program.



Front row: Kerri McReynolds, Cindy Sharpe.  
Back row: Kevin Barlow, Steve Deeter, Deb Kilbarger, Dana Fox, Jen Valentine. Not pictured: Dennis Oliver

## Sewage Program

Sanitarians inspect residential and commercial sewage systems to be sure that the waste these systems generate does not pollute our streams or the water supply that we count on for drinking water. Sanitarians also review property lots and site plans developed prior to building so that the septic systems installed on these lots protect the environment.

Sewage Treatment System Permits	139
Lot Splits	30
Haulers/Pumpers Registered	25
STS Installers Registered	36
STS Service Providers Registered	15
Semi-Public STS System Inspections	85

## Private Water Systems

The Private Water Systems Program includes wells, springs, cisterns and ponds that are used as a potable water supply. Sanitarians collect a water sample from each well permitted to ensure a safe potable water supply. All well drillers are registered by the Ohio Department of Health and are inspected annually for renewal of licenses.

Private Water System Permits Issued	171
Private Water Systems Sampled	234

## Camps

Sanitarians inspect campgrounds and day camps for health and safety.

Campgrounds Licensed	10
Resident Day Camps Licensed	6

## Public Swimming Pools/Spas

The Fairfield Department of Health inspects public swimming pools, spas and special-use pools to prevent injury, minimize the potential for disease transmission, and provide a safe and healthy aquatic recreational environment.

Licensed Pools/Spas	47
Inspections Performed	141

## Food Protection Program

The Food Protection Program works to ensure the safety of food prepared, served and sold in Fairfield County through education, monitoring and enforcement.

	Licenses	Routine Inspections*
Food Service and Retail Food	438	1001
Mobile Food	73	73
Temporary Food Licenses	114	114
Vending Food Licenses	49	29

\*In addition, complaint, follow-up and pre-licensing inspections are also conducted.

# Environmental Division

## Solid Waste Program

In Fairfield County, nuisances like tire dumps, garbage piles or other potential areas that could harbor rodents or disease-carrying insects are addressed through the Solid Waste Program. This program is funded by landfill user fees through the Solid Waste District and provides a major benefit for all residents through the cleanup of potential health hazards.

Public Health Nuisance Inspections 221

## Rabies Program

The Fairfield Department of Health investigates animal bites to make sure that those who have been bitten do not acquire rabies. The Health Department also conducts an annual Rabies Immunization Clinic, offering low-cost rabies vaccinations for dogs and cats.

Animal Bite Reports Received 233  
Rabies Clinic Vaccinations - dogs/cats 213/43

## Schools/Correctional Facilities

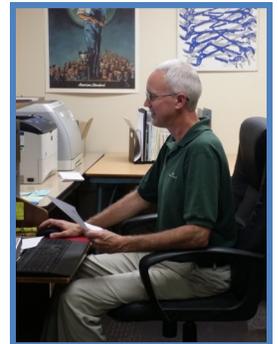
Schools and correctional facilities are inspected to ensure that they meet minimum health and safety standards.

School Inspections 91  
Correctional Facilities Inspected 4

## Plumbing Program

The Plumbing Program at the Fairfield Department of Health promotes sound public health practices through education and oversight of commercial and residential plumbing systems.

Residential/Commercial Contractors Registered 59  
Residential Permits Issued 168  
Commercial Permits Issued 20  
Inspections 517  
(58 comm./459 res.)



Dennis Oliver

# Vital Statistics

The Vital Statistics division houses the birth and death certificates for Fairfield County. Records from December 1908 to present comprise over 100 years of history for the people in Fairfield County. A birth certificate is used to prove citizenship. Without one, an individual could not obtain a social security number or a driver's license, enroll in school, or be entitled to any benefits from the U.S. government. This is why the primary function of the Vital Statistics division is to ensure that Fairfield County has a complete and accurate system of registration for birth and death records.

Contact the Vital Statistics office at (740) 652-2836 for assistance in obtaining a vital record. Additional information is available on the Health Department's website: [www.myfdh.org](http://www.myfdh.org).

Birth Certificate Copies Issued 2,749  
Birth Certificates Filed 1,006  
Home Births Filed 13  
Death Certificate Copies Issued 4,181  
Death Certificates Filed 1,083  
Fetal Death Certificates Filed 4  
Burial Permits Issued 565



Pauletta Krieger and Cindy Sharpe

# Public Health Nursing

## Bureau for Children With Medical Handicaps (BCMh):

The BCMh nurse, Pat Garrett, RN, BSN, works part-time to coordinate and manage diagnostic and treatment services for Fairfield County children with suspected or identified special health care needs. The BCMh is a state-funded healthcare program within the Ohio Department of Health that links families of children with special health care needs to a network of quality providers and helps families obtain payment for the services their children need.

BCMh Home Visits: 61  
BCMh Coordination Activities: 669  
2014 Total number of children on BCMh : 501

## Help Me Grow:

The Fairfield County Help Me Grow (HMG) program contracts with the Health Department to provide developmental evaluation services to children within Fairfield County. The Public Health Nurse Pat Garrett, RN, BSN, works closely with HMG to ensure that families receive evaluation services that follow state mandates.

Children under three years of age who qualify are evaluated for delays in the areas of adaptive, cognitive, communication, physical and social-emotional development, using appropriate diagnostic tools.

Developmental Evaluations Completed in 2014: 221

## Tuberculosis (TB) Case Management:

The Health Department is the appointed TB Unit for the county. As such, public health nurses provide county residents with TB screenings for work or school or due to contact with TB cases. The Fairfield Department of Health TB unit performed 164 TB tests in 2014. These tests included screening and contact testing. In 2014, the Health Department saw seven reported cases of TB, one active and six latent. The nurses investigated these and provided case management, which included home visits, patient education, contact testing, direct observational therapy and assurance of proper medical treatment and follow-up. Annually, referrals are received from the U.S. Department of Immigrations on foreign individuals who are at risk of bringing TB into our community. We also serve the community by providing Fairfield County Career Center health technologies students with TB testing. In 2014, 51 two-step tests were performed at the Career Center.



Gwen Shafer, Diana Stover, Jenny Grove, Pat Garrett

## Perinatal Hepatitis B Program:

The Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program is designed to help prevent exposure of newborns to maternal Hepatitis B virus during delivery. The transmission of perinatal Hepatitis B infection can be prevented in about 95% of cases. The Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program is a joint effort between the Fairfield Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Health. The nursing division provides the local case management of this program.

In 2014, the program followed five infants. The program is designed to follow infants to a successful completion of the Hepatitis B series and Hepatitis B immunity.

## Child Fatality Review Board:

The purpose of the Child Fatality Review (CFR) Board is to reduce the incidence of preventable child deaths. Ohio Revised Code 307.621 mandates counties in Ohio to participate. The CFR Board is required by law to include the County Coroner, Chief of Police, Executive Director of Children Services, Executive Director of the ADAMH Board, a Public Health Official, and a physician. The Fairfield County CFR Board had nine members attend the annual meeting in 2014. The CFR Board reviewed 2013 and 2014 deaths in Fairfield County. Twenty-five child deaths were investigated and reviewed. The top preventable cause of death in Fairfield County in 2013 and 2014 was sleep-related deaths, mainly from asphyxia due to an unsafe sleep environment.

2014 - 11 deaths

2013 - 14 deaths

# Public Health Nursing

## Child and Family Health Service (CFHS):

Using CFHS funds provided by the Ohio Department of Health, the nursing division was able to contract with Fairfield County Family and Children First Council to implement a community health assessment. This assessment identified a need to improve early prenatal care for Fairfield County women. A focus group led by the contracting agency has created and developed an educational brochure on prenatal care and local resources available to pregnant women. The goal of the focus group is to support women in obtaining and beginning prenatal care within their first trimester of pregnancy.

## Infectious Disease Investigation and Control Program:

The Ohio Revised Code requires that all health care providers and laboratories report various infectious diseases to their local health departments in an effort to protect the community from disease outbreaks. Health Department staff ensure proper investigation, education and follow-up on all mandated reportable diseases. In 2014, Fairfield County had over 650 disease reports. The various mandated reportable infectious disease cases include, but are not limited to, sexually transmitted diseases, food-borne illnesses, vaccine-preventable diseases, vector-borne illnesses and blood-borne illnesses. The staff work closely with county residents, schools, hospitals, physicians, community businesses and agencies to prevent the spread of these diseases by providing preventive education, monitoring the spread of the diseases and ensuring that treatment is obtained and completed.

Communicable Disease Reports for 2014

Campylobacteriosis	2	Flu FMC Assoc.	30	Rubella	2
Chlamydia	100+	La Crosse	1	Salmonellosis	13
Dengue fever	1	Legionellosis	2	Staphylococcus aureus (VISA)	1
E.coli 0157:H7	1	Lyme Disease	11	Streptococcus Pneumonia	4
Giardiasis	1	Malaria	1	Syphilis	11
Gonococcal	41	Measles	2	Varicella	25
Hepatitis A	3	Meningitis/Aseptic	6	West Nile fever	1
Hepatitis B Acute	24	Mumps	14		
Hepatitis B Chronic	43	Mycobacterial Disease other than TB	11		
Hepatitis C Acute	2	Mycobacterial Dis.	1		
Hep C Chronic	100+	Chikungunya	1		
Influenza Lab results	1	Pertussis	12	Total Countable	650+

## Children's Immunization Clinics:

Available to all Fairfield County children from birth through age 18, the goal of this clinic is to protect children from preventable childhood illness. The clinic obtains the majority of the vaccines for children from the Ohio Department of Health at a reduced cost. This enables the clinic to offer vaccines to all children, regardless of their family's ability to pay. In 2014, 4,144 immunizations were provided.



## Adult Immunization Clinic:

Adults who are at a high risk for contracting a communicable disease through their workplace can receive immunizations at the Health Department. This not only protects high-risk workers from disease but also helps prevent the spread of disease within the community. In 2014, the Health Department provided 100 adult immunizations. Fees are for service and can be arranged by a business or individual.

## Flu Clinics:

Each year the Health Department provides seasonal flu immunizations at various sites and for shut-ins throughout the county, helping to ensure that those who might have difficulty obtaining a flu shot can receive one. Seasonal flu immunizations were also offered to all Fairfield County employees and the public at various locations and worksites. In 2014, the Health Department provided 762 seasonal flu shots at 15 off-site flu clinics throughout Fairfield County.

## Travel Immunizations:

Each year more and more Fairfield County residents travel outside the United States. By providing immunizations to travelers, your health department protects our residents from becoming ill while traveling, and prevents potential disease outbreaks caused by returning travelers. The Fairfield Department of Health is a U.S.-certified Yellow Fever vaccine provider; and the nursing staff have been CDC trained in providing the vaccine as well as providing education to travelers. In 2014, the travel clinic provided 467 travel immunizations, which included Yellow Fever, Typhoid, Polio, and Hepatitis A and B vaccines.

# Public Health Nursing—WIC

## Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

WIC is a nutrition education program. WIC provides nutritious foods that promote good health for pregnant women, women who just had a baby, breastfeeding moms, infants and children up to age five. Some of the nutritious foods provided include cereal, eggs, milk, whole grain foods, peanut butter, beans, fruits and vegetables. WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion and support as well as referrals for obtaining specialty health care. In 2014, the Fairfield County WIC Program served a total of 22,579 participants.

In August 2014, staff started a WIC Satellite Clinic, two days per week (Wednesdays and Fridays) at the Government Services Building on Tussing Road in Pickerington. WIC is serving 267 participants at that site.



Erin Connolly



Cheryl Hopkins

WIC participants are given the opportunity to work with breastfeeding (BF) peer helpers. The peer helper program was established in 2003. The peer helpers are women who received WIC services and breastfed their child or children for at least six months. The peer helpers offer support and education to pregnant and breastfeeding women.

In 2014, the peer helper program staff provided breastfeeding and infant feeding education to participants. During the year, our peer helpers made over 700 phone calls to pregnant and breastfeeding women in the community, offering support and education. The peer helpers maintained a breast pump loan program, loaning out 44 breast pumps and 21 manual breast pumps during the year. The pump loan program allows mothers to continue breastfeeding after returning to work or school.

The BF peer program set up a Facebook page in 2014. The use of social media allows us to communicate with moms



Lucinda Robinson, Angie Wentz, Kay Higgins, Mary Smith, Amy Gabriel, Deb Smith.

Not Pictured: Erin Connolly, Cheryl Hopkins

through a different venue. Many of our moms don't have talking "minutes" on their phones, but they can access social media. This provides an almost instantaneous way to communicate with our moms and has been quite popular.

Our breastfeeding rates in Fairfield County have steadily increased since the peer helper program started in 2003. On average, 63% of the pregnant women on WIC decide to breastfeed; that's an increase from 56% in 2013. Of the women that choose to breastfeed, almost half of them continue to breastfeed for six months or longer. We attribute this success to the peer helper program.

The local WIC Program works closely with the immunization clinic to ensure that all infants and children are up-to-date with their required immunizations. Staff enter immunization information into the Ohio Impact Statewide Immunization Information System. Those in need of immunizations can be referred to the health department's immunization program. The local WIC Program also serves as a voter registration assistance site, where applicants can register to vote or make necessary address changes.

In December, the Fairfield Department of Health WIC Program started participating in a six-month "Smoke Free Families" project. On assigned dates, WIC staff members distribute surveys provided by the Smoke Free Families project to women who are participating in the WIC Program.

## Public Health Nursing—WIC



The local WIC staff of health professionals address the 5 A's of Smoking Cessation to those who have indicated that they currently smoke, are thinking about quitting, or are exposed to secondhand smoke. If a woman has not yet utilized the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line and is ready to quit smoking, she is referred to the Quit Line during her visit – either by phone (1-800-QUIT-NOW) or by fax. The local WIC staff provides her with self-help materials about how to remain smoke free.

### Farmers Market Nutrition Program

This is a dual-purpose program which benefits both WIC participants and local farmers. WIC participants who are interested in increasing

fruits, vegetables, and herbs can receive five \$3.00 coupons with which to purchase Ohio-grown fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs from WIC Authorized farmers, farmers' markets and farm stands.

In FY 2014, the Fairfield Department of Health WIC program issued 116 coupons, 70 of which were redeemed, showing a 60.34% redemption rate. Seven WIC-authorized farmers participated in the local WIC Farmers Market Program in FY 2014.

## Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) activities address public health readiness for responding to public health emergencies or threats. These threats or emergencies could include biological, environmental, bioterrorism, weather, or outbreaks of infectious disease.

PHEP programming focuses on meeting objectives in 15 public health target capabilities. Collaboration for planning and response activities occurs at the local, regional, state and federal levels.

During 2014, PHEP program activities included plan maintenance, staff training and exercise opportunities, disease surveillance activities, public speaking events for emergency preparedness, and local and regional planning collaboration. Response activities included epidemiological surveillance and outbreak investigations (Measles and Mumps) and Ebola planning and preparation.



Merrilee Taylor

## Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB)

Accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) means that a health district meets a nationally adopted set of public health standards. The State of Ohio has required that all health districts in the state achieve Accreditation by 2020 as a prerequisite for receiving state subsidy and grant monies. The Fairfield Department of Health has been working toward Accreditation since early 2013. In 2014, as part of Accreditation, the Health Department completed the Strategic Plan. We are committed to achieving Accreditation and providing the highest standard of care and services for our community.

# A Few Highlights of 2014



## Hours Change

In November, employees moved from a 35-hour work week to 37.5 hours-per-week, making staff more accessible to the public.

## Ebola Response

Public health nurses and PHEP staff worked closely with ODH to monitor the situation. Nurses met frequently with the Medical Director to develop policies and procedures. This work continues as recommendations from ODH/CDC occur.



## Plumbing Program

Plumbing inspector performs inspections for local residents of Fairfield County as well as adjoining health departments.

## Open House

On October 14, FDH held its open house, inviting the public to tour the new facilities and learn about various programs. Refreshments, giveaways and brochures were provided.



## WIC Satellite Clinic

In August, WIC launched a satellite clinic on Tussing Road in Pickerington.



## Newsletter

In November, the Health Department published Issue 1 of its newsletter: "FDH Health Matters."

## New Registrar

Pauletta Krieger was appointed as new registrar after retirement of the previous registrar.

