



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Schuyler County, NY

2021 Annual Report



Schuyler County Public Health



Report Finalized: May 12, 2022
Photo credit: Shequaga Falls in Montour Falls, NY by Karen Stegner

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A Message from the Director

While the COVID pandemic forced itself into center stage for yet another year, Schuyler County Public Health has found a silver lining in the fact that we have been able to begin to get back to what we do best- thinking about and caring about the health of Schuyler County. The tremendous efforts put forth by Public Health and the massive support from our Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers has not only demonstrated what a dedicated group of people can do together but has also brought attention to the need for increased State funding as well as progressive planning for future unpredictable events. The State has responded, and Public Health will as well.

The basic work of Public Health has continued. The programs of Early Intervention, Lead poisoning, immunization, chronic and communicable disease prevention, preparedness planning, rabies management and clinics, community health assessment and action plan have continued. During this pandemic-focused year, the goals were somewhat subdued in scope, but Public Health is anxious to get back to more robust community involvement and outreach.

Looking forward, planning has begun to anticipate community needs as the current climate trend gives us more and greater swings in weather events. We hope to maximize mitigation efforts and plan for action that may be needed due to temperature extremes, insect-borne disease, and possible flooding scenarios. Modernization movements in Public Health include acquisition of informatic technology to be used in real time for planning of acute and chronic issues.

Public Health looks forward to continued collaborative work with the community of Schuyler County in bringing quality living to us all!

Nancy King, MD

Nancy King, MD
Interim Director, Schuyler County Public Health

Mission

To protect and empower our community to be safe, healthy, and prepared

Vision

A connected community of healthy people and safe places

Values

- We value health being a community priority.
- We value relationships with partners and stakeholders.
- We value the trust and respect of the Schuyler County community.
- We value the use of evidence and data to improve performance.
- We value the competence of our staff and the quality of our work.
- We value innovation and idea driven solutions.
- We value our adaptability and unbiased perspective.

Where to find us

Mill Creek Center
106 South Perry St
Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Find us online

Website

<http://www.schuylercounty.us/publichealth>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/SchuylerPublicHealth/>

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/SchuylerCoPH>

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/schuyler_ph/



Photo credit: Marina view by Lorry Johnson 9-2019

Board of Health

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Tamre Waite
Office for the Aging

Catie Kunecki
Common Ground

Shannon Schamel, DO
Public Health Medical Consultant

Sarah Wunderlich
Arnot Health

Deborah Bailey, RN
Schuyler Hospital

Overview of Programs and Services

Public health works to promote and protect “the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play.”¹ We work to prevent injuries and illness and use science-based solutions to improve people’s quality of life.¹ Public health also saves money. For every \$1.00 spent on prevention, \$5.60 is saved in health spending.² The following sections discuss what Schuyler County Public Health does to improve the health and wellbeing of Schuyler County residents.

Chronic Disease

What is this?

Chronic Diseases include health issues such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, and asthma. Chronic diseases are the leading cause of death and disability in New York State and many chronic diseases are linked to changeable behaviors. Eating a healthy diet, getting exercise, and not using tobacco products can all help prevent people from getting a chronic disease. Even if someone already has diabetes or another chronic disease, these health behaviors can help improve their health and help them live longer.³ Schuyler County Public Health’s Chronic Disease Prevention Programs work to raise community awareness of chronic diseases and how they can be prevented. We promote physical activity, healthy eating, and tobacco cessation. We also provide the community with information to help them make healthy choices and help community members with chronic diseases manage their illness and improve their quality of life. Schuyler County Public Health works to make the healthy choice the easy choice.

Who worked on this?

Elizabeth Watson, MS
Public Health Specialist

Eleanor Lopez, MPH
Deputy Public Health Director



Photo credit: Lost in Thought by Angela Keough

What do we do to address this?

- **Asthma:** Asthma is a chronic disease of the lungs which causes repeated episodes of wheezing, breathlessness, chest tightness, and nighttime/early morning coughing.⁴ There is currently no cure for asthma, but asthma attacks can be controlled and prevented.⁵ Schuyler County Public Health works with health care providers, schools, and community coalitions to help people fight asthma so they can live a full and active life. We work to eliminate asthma attack triggers in public places by changing policies. For example, we may work with a business or park

¹ American Public Health Association (APHA). (n.d.). What is Public Health? Retrieved March 24, 2017, from <https://www.apha.org/what-is-public-health>

² American Public Health Association (APHA). (2012, October 18). Public Health Infographic. Retrieved June 22, 2020, from <https://www.apha.org/news-and-media/multimedia/infographics/public-health-infographic>

³ New York State Department of Health. (2016, May). Chronic Diseases and Conditions. Retrieved March 23, 2017, from <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/chronic/>

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2017, February 23). Asthma. Retrieved March 24, 2017, from <https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/default.htm>

⁵ New York State Department of Health. (2017, February). Asthma Information. Retrieved March 24, 2017, from <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/asthma/>

to develop a tobacco-free policy. Schuyler County Public Health also monitors asthma-related ER visits and helps increase awareness in schools and the community about what to do if someone is having an asthma attack.

- **Arthritis:** Arthritis refers to the more than 100 rheumatic diseases and conditions that affect joints, the surrounding tissues, and other connective tissue.¹ Arthritis can cause pain and disability but physical activity has been shown to help reduce arthritis pain, improve quality of life, and delay the onset of arthritis-related disability.² Schuyler County Public Health works to reduce arthritis pain and improve the quality of life of county residents with arthritis by promoting and supporting physical activity in the community. We encourage the use of evidence-based programs, such as the Healthy Living Class through URMC Center for Community Health and Prevention, to help community members manage their health condition.
- **Cancer:** Cancer includes a group of more than 100 different diseases that start when abnormal cells in the body grow out of control. There are many different causes and factors that affect someone's chances of getting cancer. Scientists estimate that about 30% of cancer deaths are from tobacco use and 25-30% are from physical inactivity, obesity, and an unhealthy diet.³ Schuyler County Public Health works to prevent cancer deaths in the community by promoting screening for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers. We also collaborate with the S²AY Rural Health Network, NYS Cancer Services Program, hospitals, and community organizations to help provide support for cancer screenings and treatments. Schuyler County Public Health also supports regional efforts to reduce people's exposure to cancer causing substances through collaboration with the Southern Tier Tobacco Awareness Coalition (STTAC) and the Finger Lakes Children's Environmental Health Center.
- **Cardiovascular Disease (CVD):** CVDs, like heart disease and stroke, affect the heart and circulatory system and are the leading cause of death in New York State, and nationally. Physical inactivity, poor diet, tobacco use, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, overweight/ obesity, and diabetes are all major risk factors for getting CVD.⁴ Schuyler County Public Health works to prevent and reduce these risk factors in the community. We encourage the use of the evidence-based Healthy Living Class through URMC Center for Community Health and Prevention to help community members manage their health.
- **Diabetes:** When someone has diabetes, their blood sugar levels are above normal. Diabetes can lead to serious health problems like lower-limb amputations, heart disease, blindness, and kidney failure.⁵ Schuyler County Public Health prevents diabetes in the County by promoting healthy behaviors and lifestyle changes to prevent the onset of diabetes. We also collaborate with our community partners to promote programs like the Healthy Living Class through URMC to help people manage the condition.
- **Obesity:** If someone's weight is above what is considered healthy for their height, they are considered overweight or obese.⁶ Overweight and obesity can cause serious health problems including heart disease, stroke, some types of cancer, and depression. Overweight and obesity are the second leading cause of death in the United States, second only to tobacco use.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2017, January 20). Arthritis Basics. Retrieved March 24, 2017, from <https://www.cdc.gov/arthritis/basics/index.html>

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2016, October 26). Physical Activity for Arthritis. Retrieved March 24, 2017, from <https://www.cdc.gov/arthritis/basics/physical-activity-overview.html>

³ New York State Department of Health. (2015, February). Cancer. Retrieved March 24, 2017, from <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/cancer/>

⁴ New York State Department of Health. (2016, March). Cardiovascular Disease. Retrieved March 24, 2017, from https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/cardiovascular/heart_disease/

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2015, March 31). Basics About Diabetes. Retrieved March 24, 2017, from <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/basics/diabetes.html>

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2016, June 16). Defining Adult Overweight and Obesity. Retrieved March 24, 2017, from <https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/adult/defining.html>

Preventing overweight and obesity requires addressing many factors including individual behaviors, access to affordable and nutritious food, and opportunities for physical activity.¹ Schuyler County Public Health works to prevent obesity and overweight through our involvement with Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Schuyler. HEAL Schuyler is a coalition of agencies, businesses, and concerned community members who work to reduce the rate of obesity in the County by addressing the environmental factors that affect weight and working to make sure people in the County have access to affordable and nutritious foods and opportunities to take part in physical activity. HEAL Schuyler works to prevent many of the major health issues in the community including obesity, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and arthritis. For further details on HEAL Schuyler, please refer to the HEAL Schuyler Annual Report.

- **Tobacco Use:** Smoking causes many diseases including heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), birth defects, and cancers in almost every part of the body. Secondhand smoke can cause a variety of health issues, including triggering severe asthma attacks. Secondhand smoke can even cause death in people who do not smoke, including children.² Schuyler County Public Health works to reduce tobacco use through collaboration with the Schuyler County Coalition on Underage Drinking and Drugs (SCCUDD) and STTAC. These organizations work together to increase awareness of the harms of tobacco use, prevent youth starting to smoke, and increase policies that promote tobacco-free living such as Tobacco 21, tobacco-free outdoors, smoke-free media, smoke-free multi-unit housing, and point of sale changes.

2021 Accomplishments

- Collaborated with HEAL Schuyler Partners to do virtual May Her Heart be Healthy Series (1081 views on Facebook)
- Collaborated with URMC and other community partners for virtual / online demonstrations and classes on nutrition, yoga, and cooking
- HEAL Schuyler continued to hold meetings virtually throughout the pandemic
- Continued to publicize Choose HEALth Restaurants
- Continued to distribute Schuyler County walking trail maps
- Increased the number of HEAL Schuyler newsletter subscribers
- Traffic to the HEAL Schuyler website increased by 49%
- Collaborated with the Watkins Glen Library and the Schuyler County Historical Society for a Watkins Glen History Scavenger Hunt
- Tabled at Watkins Glen and Montour Falls Farmer's Market to promote HEAL Schuyler Programs
- As part of the Community Health Improvement Plan, partnered with Schuyler Hospital, the Southern Tier Cancer Services Program, the University of Rochester Center for Community Health and Prevention, S2AY Rural Health Network and Common Ground Health to work towards increasing colorectal cancer screening rates
- Helped Friends of the Catharine Valley Trail receive funding for trail improvements on the Catharine Valley Trail
- Partnered with local libraries, SCCUDD, and HEAL to do a Story Walk during the summer on the Catharine Valley Trail.

Goals for 2022

- Continue to promote Choose HEALth Restaurants and recruit new restaurants.
- Publish HEAL Schuyler newsletter issues throughout the year
- Celebrate National Walking Day on April 14th in Montour Falls
- Organize a Photo Scavenger Hunt in Montour Falls

¹ New York State Department of Health. (2017, January). Obesity Prevention. Retrieved March 24, 2017, from <https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/obesity/>

² New York State Department of Health. (2017, February). Smoking and Tobacco Use – Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products. Retrieved March 24, 2017, from https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/tobacco_control/

- Conduct a photo contest for HEAL Schuyler
- Distribute toolkit for health professionals on healthy eating
- Table at local festivals and markets to distribute chronic disease health information
- Continue work with partners to promote cancer screenings

Communicable Disease

What is this?

Communicable Disease is any illness or infection that is spread from person to person, animal to person, animal to animal, or even person to animal.¹ Public Health Law mandates a list of notifiable communicable diseases that have to be reported to the local health department.²

Schuyler County Public Health's Communicable Disease Control programs investigate all communicable disease reports in the County to identify the source of the infection and ensure proper treatment, identify those at risk, and provide education to help prevent further spread of disease. We provide surveillance of health issues that arise in the County and maintain regular contact with health care providers and schools. We also work to promote vaccination in the community through education and by providing clinics for both people and animals.



Photo credit: Grazing by Chelsea Bailey

Who worked on this?

Eleanor Lopez, MPH
Deputy Public Health Director

Jill Wendela, MS, RN
Public Health Nurse

DeAnn Bianco, BS, RN
Public Health Nurse

What do we do to address this?

- **Rabies:** Rabies is a deadly disease that any mammal, including people, can get through contact with the saliva of an infected animal, usually through a bite or a scratch.³ Though any mammal can get rabies, most animal cases in the United States occur in wild animals like raccoons, skunks, bats, and foxes.⁴ Worldwide, for most human cases of rabies, the infected person got rabies from a dog bite.¹ Vaccinating pets, like dogs, is the best way to prevent people from getting rabies.¹ Vaccination of dogs, cats, and ferrets is required by law in New York State. We help prevent the spread of rabies by providing no-cost public Rabies Clinics each year and by investigating all animal bites and wild animal exposures in the County. Our investigations allow us to provide exposed people and animals with prompt Post-Exposure Prophylaxis. Rabies is almost always fatal, but through pet vaccination and timely Post-Exposure Prophylaxis, human rabies cases can be prevented.⁵ For this program, we collaborate extensively with law enforcement, local veterinary offices, and the Humane Society. For further details on the rabies program, see the Rabies Annual Presentation.

¹ New York State Department of Health. (2007, August). Communicable Disease Control. Retrieved February 16, 2017, from <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/control/>

² New York State Department of Health. (2015, February). Communicable Disease Reporting. Retrieved February 16, 2017, from <https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/diseases/reporting/communicable/>

³ World Health Organization (WHO). (2016, March). Rabies. Retrieved February 16, 2017, from <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs099/en/>

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2016, October 05). Rabies. Retrieved February 16, 2017, from <https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/index.html>

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2008, July 5). Human Rabies Prevention --- United States, 2008. Retrieved February 16, 2017, from <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5703a1.htm>

- **Arthropod:** Arthropod diseases are infections spread from bugs like ticks and mosquitoes.¹ In Schuyler County, Lyme disease is the most common arthropod infection. We investigate each Lyme disease case to ensure that diagnosis meets case definition and receives proper treatment. We also provide education to the public on how to prevent tick and mosquito exposure. Additionally, we do targeted information campaigns with populations at higher risk such as hunters and hikers. We also investigate any other arthropod diseases that may arise in the County such as Zika or West Nile.
- **Sexually Transmitted Diseases:** Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) are infectious diseases that are most often spread through vaginal, oral, or anal sexual contact.² STDs include infections such as Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).³ We investigate all cases of notifiable STDs to help identify proper treatment and ensure that those who may have been exposed also receive testing and treatment. We also provide prevention education to all individuals involved and provide general prevention education to the public. Schuyler County Public Health does not have an STD testing facility but partners with Chemung County Health Department to provide county residents with testing and treatment.
- **Vaccine-Preventable Diseases:** Vaccines work by “imitating” a germ so your body learns how to defend against it without having to be exposed to the germ and without you having to get sick. This means that when that germ tries to invade, your immune system can quickly respond and destroy the germ because it already learned how to do it.⁴ Vaccines are a safe and effective way to protect yourself, your family, and your community from a variety of serious, and often deadly diseases, like polio and influenza.⁵ Schuyler County Public Health provides education and resources so community members know what vaccines they need and when they should get them. We also provide vaccination clinics for diseases like the seasonal flu and immunizations for children through the Vaccines for Children Program. For this program, we collaborate with the Immunization Coalition of the Southern Tier.
- **Tuberculosis:** Tuberculosis (TB) is a bacterium that most commonly attacks the lungs and is spread through the air.⁶ TB infection can result in either active TB infection or Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI). Active TB infection means the person is currently ill with TB, highly infectious, and in need of immediate medical attention. LTBI is when an individual has been exposed to TB, has the bacterium in their body, but it is not making them sick. People with LTBI are not presently contagious but can end up developing active TB.⁷ We investigate each individual case of TB to distinguish between LTBI and active TB to ensure proper treatment and to implement precautions to prevent the spread of active TB in the community.

¹ New York State Department of Health. (2006, November). Arboviral Infections (arthropod-borne encephalitis, eastern equine encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis, California encephalitis, Powassan encephalitis, West Nile encephalitis). Retrieved February 16, 2017, from https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/arboviral/fact_sheet.htm

² New York State Department of Health. (2016, November). Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs). Retrieved February 16, 2017, from <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/std/>

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2014, February 25). Diseases & Related Conditions. Retrieved February 16, 2017, from <https://www.cdc.gov/std/general/default.htm>

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2016, August 03). For Parents: Vaccines for Your Children. Retrieved March 16, 2017, from <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/vaccine-decision/index.html#prevent-disease>

⁵ New York State Department of Health. (2016, April). Vaccines and Immunization. Retrieved March 16, 2017, from <https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/>

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2016, March 11). How TB Spreads. Retrieved February 16, 2017, from <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/basics/howtbspreads.htm>

⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2016, March 11). Latent TB Infection and TB Disease. Retrieved February 16, 2017, from <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/basics/tbinfectiondisease.htm>

2021 Accomplishments

Rabies

- Provided rabies vaccination for 375 animals through 5 clinics
- Continue to implement COVID-19 safety protocols for rabies clinics to ensure the safety of staff, volunteers, and community members
- Maintained digital rabies case investigation process and maintained digital rabies certificates database
- Completed 106 total rabies case investigations – a 26% increase from 2020
- 5 animals were tested for rabies, 0 of which tested positive
- Authorized Post-Exposure Prophylaxis for 19 individuals exposed, or potentially exposed, to rabies, all of whom completed the vaccine series
- 55% of domestic animals involved in a biting incident were current on their rabies vaccine at the time of the incident
- Worked with Schuyler County Sheriff's Office and 7 daycares facilities to provide dog bite prevention and educated 143 children.
- Distributed dog bite prevention toolkits to teachers and kids in Schuyler County
- Utilized CDMS for all rabies clinics to streamline and digitized the records

STDs

- Provided information to Schuyler County healthcare providers on expedited partner therapy and updated treatment guidelines for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea
- Investigated 53 STD cases

Vaccine-Preventable Disease (not including COVID-19)

- Increased 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 primary vaccine series for children to 63.64% (2021) from 59.42% (2020)
- Maintained timely reporting of immunizations to the state system (NYSIIS) above 90%

COVID-19

- With support from the NYS contact tracing initiative, investigated, and monitored 2,155 COVID-19 cases, 6,509 contacts
- Partnered with schools and conducted weekly testing for unvaccinated faculty and staff
- Responded to questions from community members
- Maintained daily social media update and a GIS dashboard to keep community members apprised of the COVID-19 situation in Schuyler County
- Provided COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters to community members in partnership with Schuyler Hospital and Arnot Health

General Communicable Disease

- Conducted 146 Communicable Disease investigations for diseases other than COVID-19
- Provided daily observed therapy for a patient with LTBI

Goals for 2022

Rabies

- Continue using CDMS at rabies clinic
- Use rabies vaccine database to store rabies vaccine records from clinics
- Public education on importance of PEP, bat exposure and captures
- Provide public education on dog bite prevention at clinics
- Digitize old rabies log before COVID 19 for future trending

STDs

- Continue providing information to healthcare providers on expedited partner therapy and updated STD treatment guidelines

Vaccine-Preventable Disease (not including COVID-19)

- Increase HPV vaccination coverage among adolescents 13 years of age

COVID-19

- Continue surveillance of Covid-19 spread and monitor for necessary mitigation of spread
- Continue to support communities by being a resource for information
- Continue to offer Vaccine clinics
- Continue to be a support to schools, local businesses, and other organizations to help them remain open safely

General Communicable Disease

- Conduct communicable disease investigations per NYS DOH guidelines
- Provide community education for prevention of communicable disease
- Continue community disease surveillance in conjunction with community health care providers

Environmental Health

What is this?

Environmental Health is how people's health is affected by their environment. The air people breathe, the food and water people eat and drink, and all their surroundings can have an impact on health.¹ Schuyler County Public Health is a partial service county, meaning that much of the environmental health efforts in Schuyler County are completed by the New York State Department of Health's District Office in Hornell. The Hornell District Office protects the health of the public through a variety of programs including those that ensure that food and indoor air quality are safe in locations like restaurants and hotels.² To learn more about what the Hornell District Office does in Schuyler County, see [Appendix A](#). Locally, Schuyler County Public Health works to prevent lead poisoning in children, to assure the safety of ground and surface water, and to prevent injuries. We provide education and collaborate with community partners to protect the public's health.

Who worked on this?

Ward Brower

SCCUDD Project Coordinator

Elizabeth Watson, MS

Public Health Specialist

Jill Wendela, MS, RN

Public Health Nurse

Eleanor Lopez, MPH

Deputy Public Health Director

Darrel Sturges

Watershed Inspector

Joshua Cole

Assistant Watershed Inspector

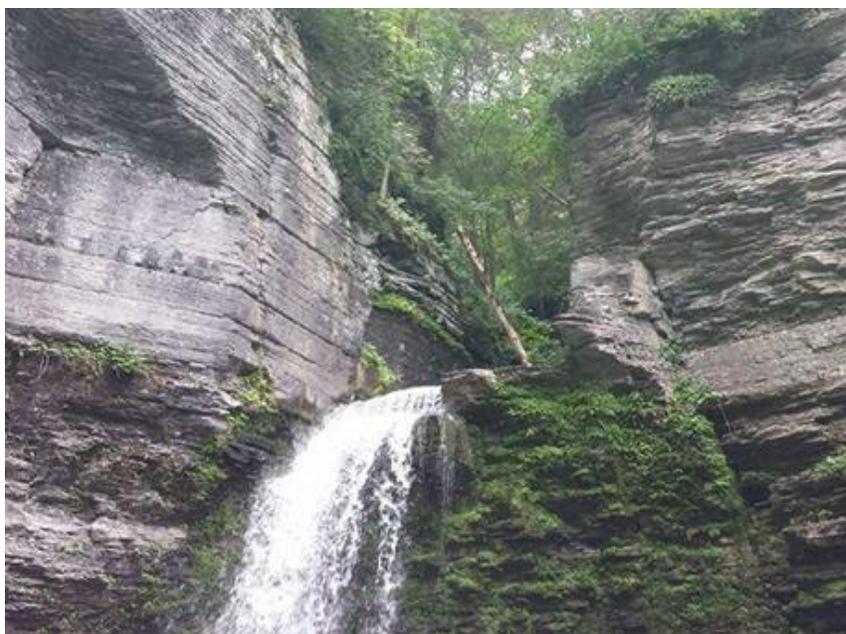


Photo credit: Eagle Cliff Falls in Havana Glen Park by Deborah Dalmat

What do we do to address this?

- **Lead Poisoning Prevention Program:** Lead is a metal that can cause serious problems when it gets swallowed or breathed into the bodies of children and adults. Lead poisoning is especially dangerous for young children as it can harm their growth, behavior, and ability to learn. It is more likely among children under the age of six than among any other age group.³ Lead can be found in dust, air, water, soil, and in some products used in and around our homes.⁴ Children most often get lead poisoning from old lead paint dust that gets on

¹ New York State Department of Health. (2014, December). About Environmental Health, Tracking and Exposure. Retrieved March 09, 2017, from https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/public_health_tracking/about/

² New York State Department of Health. (2016, December). District Environmental Health Programs. Retrieved March 09, 2017, from <https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/distphn.htm>

³ New York State Department of Health. (2013, October). Lead Poisoning Prevention. Retrieved March 09, 2017, from <https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/>

⁴ New York State Department of Health. (2010, April). Sources of Lead. Retrieved March 09, 2017, from <https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/sources.htm>

windowsills, floors, toys, and hands.³ People with lead poisoning don't usually feel or look sick. A blood test, measuring how much lead is in someone's blood stream, is the most common way to check for lead poisoning.³ Schuyler County Public Health works to prevent lead poisoning through education in the community, by ensuring that providers complete the blood lead test for all children at ages one and two, and by assisting families with lead mitigation measures if their child has a high blood lead level. For this program, we collaborate with the Finger Lakes Coalition to STOP Lead Poisoning.

- **Watershed Protection Agency (WPA):** Water is important for health. It helps you regulate your temperature, cushion your joints, protect your spinal cord, and get rid of wastes.¹ However, when water is contaminated by germs, minerals, or chemicals it can cause serious health problems.² The WPA provides water sampling and testing services so residents can make sure their well water is safe to drink. In Schuyler County, the WPA commonly tests people's private water supplies for coliforms (like E. coli), nitrates, lead, sodium, and other contaminants that could affect people's health. If these contaminants are found in the water, the WPA connects homeowners with resources to address the problem. WPA also administers septic system programs to ensure the quality of surface and ground water in the county to prevent water contamination that could make people sick. Through this program, the WPA inspects septic systems for real estate property transfers and for new construction, property conversions, and replacement systems. The WPA also inspects septic systems for the Lamoka-Waneta Lake District and for homes located near Cayuta Lake to ensure lake water quality. The WPA also investigates and responds to complaints related to septic systems, garbage, manure piles, and other environmental issues that could impact the water supply.
- **Injury Prevention:** Injury prevention efforts in Schuyler County focus on preventing falls in older adults and children, preventing fires, preventing home and motor vehicle injuries, burn prevention, dog bite prevention, and bicycle safety. We also work to prevent bullying, suicide, and youth use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.
- **Schuyler County Coalition on Underage Drinking and Drugs (SCCUDD):** SCCUDD is a group of dedicated community members, businesses, and agencies that work to prevent, reduce, and delay the onset of substance use among Schuyler County youth by collaborating with our community partners, promoting prevention education and substance-free activities, and implementing environmental strategies. SCCUDD works to reduce youth use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs as they can cause lifelong problems. Research suggests that drug use during adolescence may impact the development of parts of the brain responsible for memory, inhibition, planning, and emotional regulation.³ Alcohol and other drug use during adolescence increases the likelihood of developing addiction. Nine out of ten people with addiction started using substances before they turned 18.⁴ The Coalition uses a variety of strategies to reduce youth drug use in the community including hosting informational forums, organizing trainings for youth, and working to enact policies to reduce youth access to drugs. Schuyler County Public Health is a founding member of SCCUDD and serves as SCCUDD's fiscal agent for its Drug Free Communities Support Grant.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2016, October 05). Water & Nutrition. Retrieved March 21, 2017, from <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/nutrition/index.html>

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2015, July 02). Overview of Water-related Diseases and Contaminants in Private Wells. Retrieved March 21, 2017, from <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/private/wells/diseases.html>

³ Squeglia, L. M., Jacobus, J., & Tapert, S. F. (2009). The Influence of Substance Use on Adolescent Brain Development. *Clinical EEG and Neuroscience: Official Journal of the EEG and Clinical Neuroscience Society (ENCS)*, 40(1), 31–38.

⁴ The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse. (2013, November 11). Teen Substance Use. Retrieved March 16, 2017, from <http://www.centeronaddiction.org/addiction-prevention/teenage-addiction>

- **Suicide Prevention:** Schuyler County Public Health works to prevent suicide among community members by collaborating with the Suicide Awareness For Everyone (SAFE) Coalition. SAFE is devoted to connecting people to prevention, intervention, and recovery by providing education, support, and advocacy to reduce the suicide rate in Schuyler County.

2021 Accomplishments

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

- Intern Cambira Weeden completed construction and decoration of the lead education dollhouse

SCCUDD

- Collaborated with local lawmakers in the passage of Social Host ordinance in Schuyler County
- Over 3,900,000 (3,936,837) media impressions focused on youth use of alcohol and general ATOD
- Increased active adult and youth membership
- Conducted SCCUDD 2021 Community Survey
- Collaborated with the Schuyler County Sheriff's Office for National Drug Take Back Day
- Increased access to Drug Take Back events by collaborating with Schuyler County Sheriff's Office to provide at Covid-19 Vaccination Clinics
- Created a youth drug-use prevention "Back to School" billboard "Legal Does Not Mean Safe" educating the public on the dangers of Marijuana due to the legalization of recreational Marijuana in New York state.
- Held the 2nd annual K-6 Prevention Billboard contest which was won by Hanlon Elementary 5th Grade student Hunter Watson.
- Held the 1st annual K-6 Prevention Pizza Box Sticker Shock sticker contest which was won by Hanlon Elementary 6th Grade student Peter Dechow.
- Partnered with 11 area pizza places in the second annual "Pizza Box Sticker Shock" sending out 3,000 prevention message stickers into the community on take-out pizza boxes
- Held the 2nd annual 7-12 Prevention Billboard contest which was won by Watkins Glen 12th Grade student Matt Irwin
- Partnered with 10 area stores in the first annual "Alcohol Retailer Sticker Shock" sending out 2,000 prevention message stickers into the community fixed to retailer bags, and units of alcohol.
- Provided DisposeRx Packets, information cards, and safe disposal fact sheets to the community
- Collaborated with DFC Coalitions statewide regarding Marijuana legislation

SAFE

- SAFE established quarterly newsletters to provide information and updates to the community
- Worked on a letter to be sent to Coroner regarding incidents and whether the deaths were/could have been incidents of suicide (letter still in-progress)

Radon

- Distributed 6 radon test kits

WPA

- Completed 1018 water samples
- Inspected 221 septic systems in the Lamoka/Waneta Lake District
- Inspected 9 septic systems in the Cayuta Lake District
- Completed 69 New Construction Permits
- Completed 38 Replacement Permits
- Completed 17 Tank Upgrade Permits
- Completed 4 Conversion Permits
- Most paper files have been scanned into LazerFiche. LazerFiche is functioning well
- Updated a working database for well data in Schuyler County
- Have several new well water sampling sites (businesses)

Goals for 2022

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

- Increase the percentage of children meeting “two tests by age 3”
- Increase the percentage of children who get a venous blood draw done within 30 days of a high fingerstick lead level

SCCUDD

- Increase active adult and youth membership
- Conduct SCCUDD 2022 Youth Survey in Schuyler County Schools for grades 7-12
- Provide youth drug prevention trainings and youth leadership trainings
- Continue to Collaborate with the Schuyler County Sheriff’s Office for National Drug Take Back Day
- Collaborate with the Schuyler County Sheriff’s Office to provide Fundamentals of Alcohol Intoxication Recognition (F.A.I.R) training to Schuyler County Businesses that serve alcohol.
- Support youth coalition in planning and implementing other programs to help reduce youth drug use
- Continue to collaborate with the Council on Alcoholism and Addictions of the Finger Lakes to provide compliance checks in Schuyler County
- Continue to collaborate with the Council on Alcoholism and Addictions of the Finger Lakes to provide Teen Intervene program to Schuyler County schools
- Continue to collaborate with the Southern Tier Tobacco Awareness Coalition, law enforcement, area schools, and other community organizations
- Provide education and assistance to decisionmakers on marijuana and other policies
- Continue and expand Youth Billboard and Sticker Shock contests.
- Support youth coalition in planning and implementing other programs to help reduce youth drug use
- Provide education and assistance to decisionmakers on social host laws and other policies

SAFE

- Increase membership in the SAFE coalition
- Expand participation in suicide prevention trainings such as QPR
- Act on a new initiative with Means Safety
- Revitalize the HOPE garden
- Complete and sent letter to Coroner regarding incidents and whether the deaths were/could have been incidents of suicide

Radon

- Reapply for the NY Radon Grant when it becomes available again

WPA

- Maintain/upgrade new paper files to LazerFich
- Have staff become more proficient in AutoCAD through vendor-supplied trainings
- Complete Lamoka/Waneta Lake District 5-year inspections
- Complete Cayuta Lake District 5-year inspections
- Grow water sampling program (new businesses)

Emergency Preparedness and Response

What is this?

Emergency Preparedness and Response helps people plan for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies.¹ These public health emergencies could be a disease outbreak, a weather emergency, an act of terrorism, or a chemical spill.² Schuyler County Public Health works to ensure community organizations and the public are prepared in case of an emergency. We plan, train for, and respond to potential emergencies that could strike the County and the surrounding area. Schuyler County Public Health collaborates with the Western Region Health Care Emergency Preparedness Coalition, Finger Lakes Public Health Alliance – Emergency Planners, Watkins Glen International, local Emergency Management and emergency responders, Schuyler Hospital, local businesses, and law enforcement. We also rely on the support of community volunteers in the Medical Reserve Corps who help provide manpower in case of an emergency.



Photo credit: Finger Lakes from Above by Deborah Dalmat

Who worked on this?

Emily Warfle, MS
Emergency Preparedness
Coordinator

What do we do to address this?

- **Plans and Response:** Schuyler County Public Health prepares and plans for all types of emergencies that could impact the health and safety of Schuyler County residents. This includes preparing for potential terrorist attacks (like anthrax), pandemics (like COVID-19), and natural disasters (like floods and winter storms). All employees of Schuyler County Public Health receive training so they can assist in any potential response. They also learn the principles of emergency response including the Incident Command Structure and how to properly put on and take off personal protective equipment to reduce the risk of an illness spreading to themselves or others.
- **Preparedness Drills:** Schuyler County Public Health completes drills to test how prepared we are to respond to emergencies. Based on how the drills play out, we adjust and improve our plans, training, and response. We complete drills to test our response to situations like Ebola, COVID-19, Hepatitis A outbreaks, winter storms, and flooding.
- **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC):** The Medical Reserve Corps is a national network of medical and non-medical volunteers that work “to improve the health and safety of their

¹ Nelson, C., Lurie, N., Wasserman, J., & Zakowski, S. (2007). Conceptualizing and Defining Public Health Emergency Preparedness. American Journal of Public Health, 97(Suppl 1), S9–S11. <http://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2007.114496>

² New York State Department of Health. (2016, March). Types of Emergencies . Retrieved March 21, 2017, from https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/emergency/families_individuals_caregivers/types_of_emergencies.htm

communities.”¹ MRC volunteers provide Schuyler County Public Health with manpower and technical skills during emergency and non-emergency events. They provide nursing and clerical support to Schuyler County Public Health during drills, and in the case of actual emergencies. MRC volunteers also help with community health screenings, rabies clinics, and other activities to protect the health and safety of the community.

2021 Accomplishments

- Emergency plans successfully activated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and updated as needed
- Completed 85 Covid vaccination clinics throughout the County, many in partnership with both Schuyler Hospital and Arnot Ogden Medical Center
- Implemented a successful at home covid vaccination program in collaboration with the Schuyler County Office of the Aging and Schuyler County Sheriff’s Office
- 35 new MRC volunteers, and growing
- All NYS deliverables were met on time
- Hosted a Community Thank You Event with the Schuyler County Sheriff's Office

Goals for 2022

- Continue preparedness efforts against COVID-19
- Maintain at home covid vaccination program
- Continue to educate, inform, and prepare the public for emergencies
- Outreach to at-risk populations about emergency planning in their family and communities
- Continue to train, utilize, and promote our volunteers

¹ Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. (2017, February 13). About the Medical Reserve Corps. Retrieved March 21, 2017, from <https://mrc.hhs.gov/pageViewFldr/About>

Family Health

What is this?

Family Health programs are available to provide Schuyler County parents with the opportunity to give their children a healthy start in life. Schuyler County Public Health offers home visits for all parents in the County. Through these visits, families can get education, support, and tips they can use to help them parent to their fullest potential. Schuyler County Public Health provides outreach and education in the community about reproductive health and family planning. We also work with other agencies and individuals in the community to ensure local policies make the County a place where children can grow up healthy and happy.

Who worked on this?

Eleanor Lopez, MPH
Deputy Public Health Director

Meghan Walker, BSN, RN
Public Health Nurse



Photo credit: Snow Fun by Chelsea Bailey

What do we do to address this?

- **Maternal Infant Health:** The health and well-being of women, infants, children, and families determines the health of the community in the future. By identifying the health challenges and risks they face now, health problems in the future can be prevented.¹ Schuyler County Public Health provides new and expectant parents with health guidance and referrals to make sure they receive the proper care and services they need before the baby is born and after they arrive. This health guidance is provided through voluntary home visits available to all new and expectant parents in the County.
- **Breastfeeding:** Research suggests that breastfed babies have a lower risk of multiple health issues including asthma, childhood obesity, and sudden infant death syndrome while mothers who breastfeed are at lower risk of ovarian cancer, some types of breast cancer, and Type 2 diabetes.² Schuyler County Public Health promotes breastfeeding outreach and education.
- **Reproductive Health:** Unintended pregnancies, which include unwanted and mistimed pregnancies, account for almost half of all pregnancies in the United States. When a pregnancy is not planned before conception, it increases the risk of problems for mother and baby. Babies that result from unintended pregnancies are more likely to be low birth weight and have some types of birth defects. They are also more likely to have health and behavior issues and have lower educational attainment.³ Schuyler County Public Health does outreach and education in the community to women and men of reproductive age to promote family planning, prevent

¹ Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. (2017, March 27). Maternal, Infant, and Child Health. Retrieved March 27, 2017, from <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/maternal-infant-and-child-health>

² Office on Women's Health. (2014, July 21). Why breastfeeding is important. Retrieved March 24, 2017, from <https://www.womenshealth.gov/breastfeeding/breastfeeding-benefits.html>

³ Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. (2017, March 27). Family Planning. Retrieved March 28, 2017, from <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/family-planning>

unintended pregnancy, and provide information and referrals for their other reproductive health needs.

- **Child Health:** Through this program, Schuyler County Public Health works to improve the physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being of children in the community to ensure they have access to family-centered care and services that are sensitive to the family's culture and the child's needs. As part of the Family Resource Committee, we work to identify and address the needs and barriers to child health in the community and promote local policies to improve the health of children in the County.

2021 Accomplishments

- Promoted child dental care, safe sleep practices, breastfeeding, and prenatal health via social media

Goals for 2022

- Continue to promote practices that improve child and family health

Children's Programs

What is this?

Children's Programs include the Early Intervention Program, the Children with Special Health Care Needs program, and the Preschool Special Education Program. For these programs, Schuyler County Public Health works with families to coordinate health care and educational services for children in Schuyler County. We match families with providers, family support services, and other assistance needed to ensure Schuyler County children have the resources they need to reach their full potential.



Photo credit: Fall Foliage in the Finger Lakes by Deborah Dalmat

Who worked on this?

Meghan Walker, RN, BSN
Public Health Nurse

What do we do to address this?

- **Early Intervention Program (EIP):** The EIP provides eligible infants, toddlers, and their families with therapeutic and support services. These services are available for families with infants and toddlers with developmental delays¹. Schuyler County Public Health helps families coordinate the care they need for their child. Some of the most common therapies we coordinate are speech, occupational, and physical therapies. Through family support and coordination of care, infants and toddlers in the community can get the services they need to develop and grow to their fullest potential.
- **Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN):** The CSHCN program covers children from birth through age 21 with conditions for which they may need extra support services or specialized health care. Children in the program may have physical conditions, behavioral or emotional conditions, or intellectual or developmental delays. They may have one or more conditions such as autism, cerebral palsy, and seizure disorders². Schuyler County Public Health provides families in the community with information and referrals to the services or care their child needs.
- **Preschool Special Education Program:** The Preschool Special Education Program is available for children ages three to five who have a suspected delay or concern with their development. If a parent has a concern with their child's development, they can contact their local school district's Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) in order to get

¹ New York State Department of Health. (2017, February). Early Intervention Program. Retrieved March 21, 2017, from https://www.health.ny.gov/community/infants_children/early_intervention/

² New York State Department of Health. (2014, March). Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Program. Retrieved March 21, 2017, from https://www.health.ny.gov/community/special_needs/

their child evaluated and to get any support or services their child may need.¹ Schuyler County Public Health is an active member of each child's CPSE team and works with the school and the child's parent/guardian to make sure that the child receives the services they need to learn and grow.

2021 Accomplishments

CSHCN

- This program was put on hold due to COVID-19

Preschool Special Education Program

- 42 children received services through the Preschool Special Education Program in the 2020-2021 school year

Early Intervention Program

- 35 children received services in 2021 and most families transitioned back to in person services

Goals for 2022

Early Intervention Program

- Ensure a timely EIP process for children and their families in the program

General Children's Program

- Ensure all eligible infants, toddlers, and children whose parents' consent are connected with needed services, resources, or programs in a timely manner

¹ New York State Education Department. (n.d.). Information for Parents of Preschool Students with Disabilities Ages 3-5. Retrieved March 24, 2017, from <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/preschool/brochure.htm>

Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

What is this?

Community Health Assessment (CHA) is a process used to get a snapshot of how health is in the community, what the community's needs are, and what resources the community has to address issues facing it.¹ A **Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)** uses the information discovered through the CHA process to develop plans and strategies to address the health issues facing the community.¹ Schuyler County Public Health collaborates with Schuyler Hospital and the S²AY Rural Health Network to complete the CHA and CHIP process every three years. We use the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP) process to guide the development and to help make sure we include community members and stakeholders in the data collection and decision-making process.

Who worked on this?

Eleanor Lopez, MPH
Deputy Public Health Director

Elizabeth Watson, MS
Public Health Specialist



Photo credit: Hector Falls by Karen Stegner

2019-2021 CHIP Priorities and Focus Areas

- **Priority Area: Prevent Chronic Diseases**
 - Focus Area: Preventive care and management
 - Goal: Increase cancer screening rates
- **Priority Area: Promote Mental Health and Prevent Substance Abuse**
 - Focus Area: Prevent Mental and Substance Use Disorders
 - Goal: Prevent and address adverse childhood experiences
 - Goal: Prevent suicides

Accomplishments and Goals

In 2021, Schuyler County Public Health:

- Partnered with Schuyler Hospital, the Southern Tier Cancer Services Program, the University of Rochester Center for Community Health and Prevention, S2AY Rural Health Network, and Common Ground Health to work towards increasing colorectal cancer screening rates.
- Partnered with Schuyler County Mental Health, Schuyler Hospital, MR Hess Home Works, SAFE, RPA 24, S2AY Rural Health Network, and Common Ground Health on the goals of preventing and addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and preventing suicides.

In 2022, Schuyler County Public Health will:

- Expand and strengthen existing partnerships
- Complete the 2021 Community Health Assessment (CHA) in order to write and submit the 2022-2024 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to New York State Department of Health.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2015, November 09). Community Health Assessments & Health Improvement Plans. Retrieved March 27, 2017, from <https://www.cdc.gov/stltpublichealth/cha/plan.html>

Performance Management Quality Improvement

What is this?

Performance Management Quality Improvement (PMQI) is a methodical process used to improve the quality and performance of health systems. Through PMQI, public health can “save lives, cut costs and get better results.”¹ In performance management, Schuyler County Public Health uses data to improve our performance and to achieve our mission and vision.² Quality improvement (QI) involves our continuous and ongoing efforts to measurably improve our effectiveness, efficiency, performance, and outcomes so we can improve the health of the community.³



Photo credit: Town of Catharine by Rebecca Franklin-Guild

Who worked on this?

Deborah Dalmat, MPH, CHES
Public Health Specialist

PMQI Activities

- **PMQI Committee:** The PMQI Committee works to improve the performance and quality of the services Schuyler County Public Health provides to the community. The committee gathers and analyzes performance data, including community feedback from surveys. The Committee also sets goals for programs, selects QI projects, and reviews program audits to ensure Schuyler County Public Health is providing effective and efficient programs and services to the community.
- **QI Projects:** There were two QI Projects worked on in 2021:
 - **Communicable disease surveillance:** This project was proposed to address the low provider response rate for the Weekly Communicable Disease Surveillance report. The group surveyed providers to discover what barriers they faced in responding to the survey – providers reported the process was cumbersome. Based on their feedback, a new, streamlined process was developed. Provider feedback on the new process was being gathered in early 2020 but the project has been on hold since the COVID-19 pandemic began.
 - **COVID-19 vaccine clinics:** This project was proposed to address a decrease in the number of people attending COVID-19 vaccine clinics and the lower vaccination rates in certain zip codes. The QI project group examined both the decrease in people signing up

¹ Public Health Foundation (PHF) . (n.d.). Performance Management and Quality Improvement. Retrieved March 21, 2017, from <http://www.phf.org/focusareas/PMQI/Pages/default.aspx>

² Public Health Foundation (PHF) . (n.d.). Performance Management. Retrieved March 21, 2017, from http://www.phf.org/focusareas/performance/Pages/Performance_Management.aspx

³ Public Health Foundation (PHF) . (n.d.). Quality Improvement. Retrieved March 21, 2017, from http://www.phf.org/focusareas/qualityimprovement/Pages/Quality_Improvement.aspx

for clinics and the vaccination rates in each of the major County zip codes. We also considered anecdotal evidence that people had difficulty signing up for clinics using the online system. The group started by planning clinics in two of the outlying townships with lower vaccination rates. Walk-in appointments were available, and no registration was required. At the initial two clinics in outlying areas, we vaccinated more people than we had at other recent clinics. We also noted that we were getting approximately 2 times the number of walk-ins as people who had scheduled appointments in advance. Anecdotally, people shared with us that they liked not having to sign up or drive into town. They noted it was helpful to not have to plan ahead and that they were able to just stop in on their way. Based on the increased numbers of people attending the clinics and the verbal feedback we received from community members, we expanded our pop-up clinics to further outlying townships. We also continued to offer walk-in appointments at all our clinics – both in town and in outlying townships.

2021 Accomplishments

- Established a timeline for the completion of program audits and other items in the QI Activity Schedule
- Staff were reoriented to PMQI through a provided training
- Minimal activities were completed for this program due to COVID-19 and programmatic priorities

Goals for 2022

- Develop a new performance management dashboard for 2022 and ensure measures are actionable and accurately represent our performance and are not population-level indicators
- Consistently track performance measures and complete program audits in a timely manner
- Re-establish a timeline for the completion of program audits and other items in the QI Activity Schedule
- Renew implementation of customer satisfaction surveys for select programs
- Continue working on active QI Projects and initiate new projects, as needed
- Collaborate with our neighboring local health departments on regional PMQI activities and trainings

Accreditation

What is this?

Public Health Accreditation is awarded by the Public Health Accreditation Board to health departments that meet “a set of nationally recognized, practice-focused and evidenced-based standards.” The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is “a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the continuous quality improvement of Tribal, state, local, and territorial public health departments.”¹ This voluntary program is meant to help health departments, like Schuyler County Public Health, improve the quality and performance of the services and programs we offer and to help us improve our value to the community and accountability to our stakeholders.²

Who worked on this?

Deborah Dalmat, MPH, CHES
Public Health Specialist

Jill Wendela, RN, MS
Public Health Nurse



Photo credit: Watkins Glen State Park Gorge by Pam Rutledge

Benefits of Accreditation

- The process of pursuing accreditation has been shown to improve the performance of health departments
- The accreditation process helps health departments to:
 - Identify our strengths and places we can improve
 - Strengthen our internal and external collaborations and partnerships
 - Promote continuous efforts to improve quality and performance
 - Prioritize and address potential concerns³



¹ Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). (n.d.). About PHAB. Retrieved March 21, 2017, from <http://www.phaboard.org/about-phab/>

² Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). (n.d.). What is Public Health Department Accreditation? Retrieved March 21, 2017, from <http://www.phaboard.org/accreditation-overview/what-is-accreditation/>

³ Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). (n.d.). What are the Benefits? Retrieved March 21, 2017, from <http://www.phaboard.org/accreditation-overview/what-are-the-benefits/>

2021 Accomplishments

- Submitted our department's first annual report to our accrediting body as a newly accredited health department
- Started incorporating information about accreditation and the accredited health department logo into our work

Goals for 2022

- Further incorporate information about accreditation – and becoming an accredited health department – into our work
- Submit our department's second annual report to our accrediting body to remain in compliance as an accredited health department
- Collaborate with our neighboring local health departments on accreditation requirements and preparing for reaccreditation
- Maintain the standards of an accredited health department and ensure the Department is on track for reaccreditation
- Begin preparing for reaccreditation and complete trainings, as needed
-

Strategic Plan

What is this?

Strategic planning is a process for defining and formalizing an organization's roles, priorities, and direction over a 3-5 year time period. A strategic plan sets forth what an organization plans to accomplish, how it will achieve its goals, and how it will know if it has. The strategic plan provides a guide for making decisions on allocating resources and on taking action to pursue strategies and priorities. A Public Health Department's strategic plan focuses on the entire health department. The Public Health Department programs may have program-specific plans that complement and support the Department's program organizational strategic plan.¹

Who worked on this?



Photo credit: Winter on Seneca Lake by Karen Stegner

Nancy King, MD
Interim Public Health Director
Anmarie Flanagan, DNP, FNP-C
Public Health Director

Strategic Priorities for 2020-2024

- Increase the visibility and credibility in the community and create/maintain a positive perception of Public Health
- Maximize the use of appropriate data, which will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Public Health in the community
- Build agency sustainability

2022 Goals

- Complete the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) in 2022
- Once the CHA & CHIP are completed, we can begin the strategic planning process to develop a new Strategic Plan for the Department in 2023

¹ Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). (2013, December). Standards & Measures Version 1.5 Standard 5.3. Retrieved March 29, 2017, from <http://www.phaboard.org/wp-content/uploads/SM-Version-1.5-Board-adopted-FINAL-01-24-2014.docx.pdf>

Health Department Personnel

All 2021 accomplishments were made possible by everyone listed below:

Prior Public Health Director: Annmarie Flanagan, DNP, FNP-C

Interim Public Health Director: Nancy King, MD

Prior Deputy Public Health Director: Eleanor Lopez, MPH

Fiscal Coordinator (Part-Time): Dianne Thomaris

Administrative Assistant: Corie Stansfield

Senior Account Clerk: Dawn Kiklowicz

Account Clerk: Michelle Carey

Public Health Nurse: Jill Wendela, RN, MS

Public Health Nurse: Meghan Walker, RN, BSN

COVID Nurse: DeAnn, RN, BS

Temporary COVID Nurse (Contractor): Melissa Krause, RN

Temporary COVID Nurse (Part-Time): Janet Canfield, RN

Temporary COVID Nurse (Part-Time): Agnes Woodard, RN

Public Health Specialist: Elizabeth Watson, MS

Public Health Specialist: Deborah Dalmat, MPH, CHES

Public Health Specialist: Emily Warfle, MS

DFC Grant Coordinator (Contractor): Ward Brower

Watershed Inspector: Darrel Sturges

Assistant Watershed Inspector: Joshua Cole

Administrative Assistant (Part-Time): Kimberly Teemley

Personnel Changes

New Hires

Annmarie Flanagan: Public Health Director

Michelle Carey: Account Clerk

Dr. Nancy King: Interim Public Health Director

Promotions

Eleanor Lopez: Deputy Public Health Director

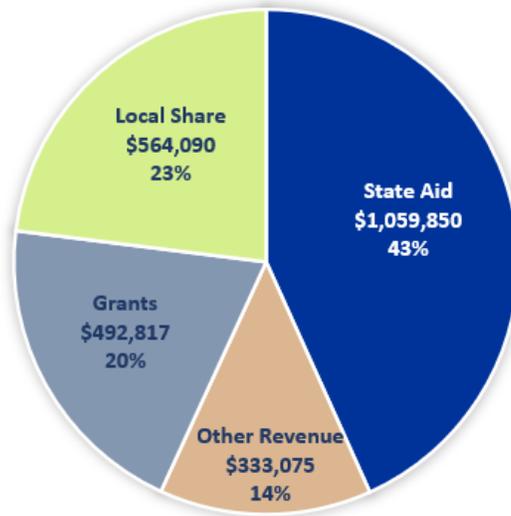
Dawn Kiklowicz: Senior Account Clerk

Resignations

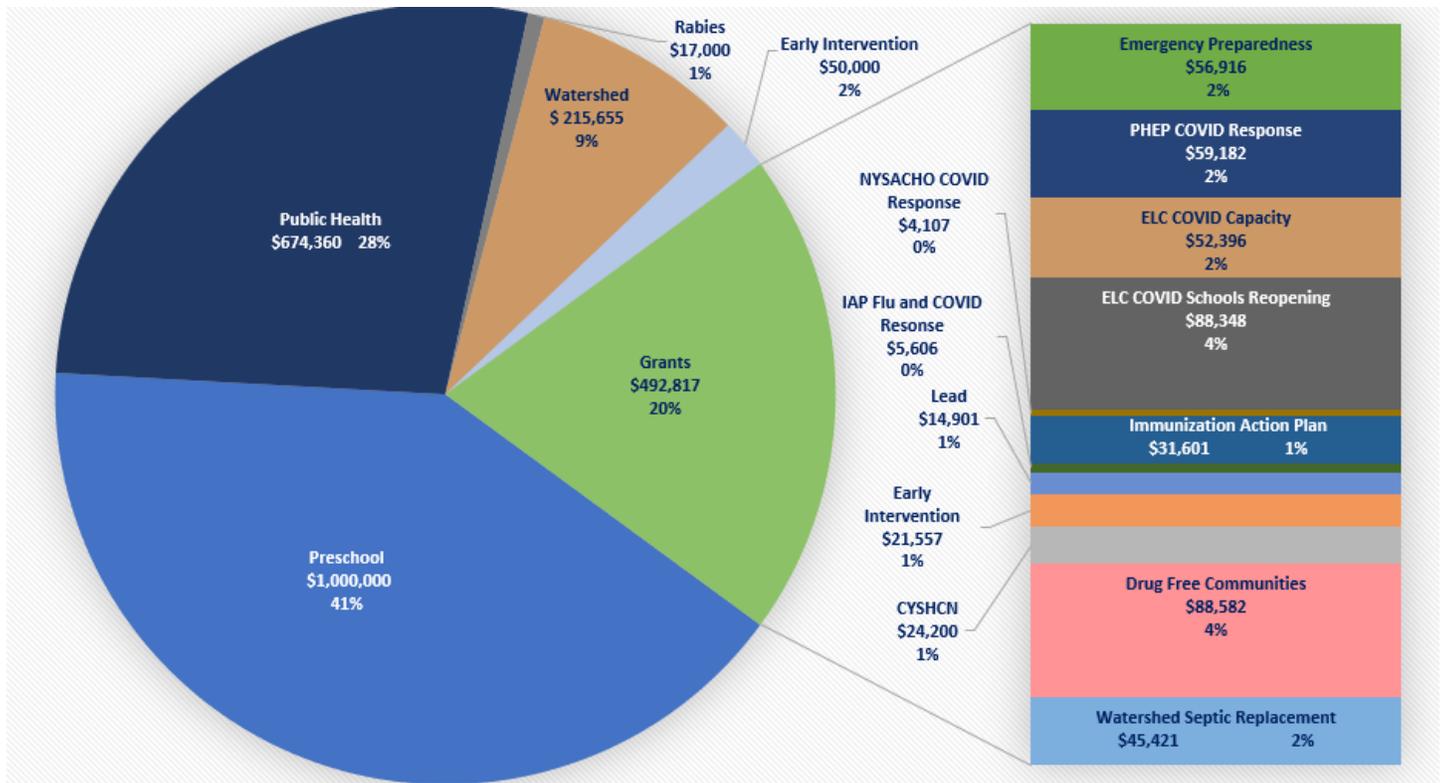
Eleanor Lopez: Deputy Public Health Director

Budget

Revenue



Expenses



Appendix A



Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

MARY T. BASSETT, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

KRISTIN M. PROUD
Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

The Hornell District Office is responsible for protecting public health and safety through the delivery of core environmental health programs and services and through the enforcement of environmental health regulations in Schuyler and Steuben Counties. Duties & responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Issuing permits to the following types of regulated facilities:
 - Food Service Establishments
 - Temporary/Mobile Food Service Establishments
 - Children's Camps
 - Temporary Residences (Hotels, Motels, etc.)
 - Campgrounds
 - Mobile Home Parks
 - Mass Gatherings
 - Agricultural Fairgrounds
 - Public Swimming Pool and Bathing Beaches
 - Recreational Aquatic Spraygrounds
 - Tanning Facilities
- Conducting plan reviews and approvals for:
 - All Regulated Facilities
 - Public Water Systems
 - Realty Subdivisions
 - Alternative Residential Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems
- Conducting inspections/sanitary surveys/complaint investigations at:
 - All Regulated Facilities
 - Public Water Systems at NYS Agriculture & Markets Licensed Facilities
 - Public Water Systems at Licensed Day Care Facilities
- Conducting investigations of:
 - Drownings at Regulated Facilities
 - Food & Waterborne Illness Outbreaks
 - Injuries and Illness Outbreaks at Children's Camps
 - Environmental Conditions linked to Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels
- Overseeing tobacco prevention programs
 - ATUPA (Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act)
 - CIAA (Clean indoor Air Act)
- Providing emergency response at incidents presenting biological, chemical or radiological exposures/hazards and at natural disasters
- Distributing and enforcing the Commissioner of Health's Summary Orders (i.e. bath salts, synthetic cannabinoids, etc.)

New York State Department of Health Hornell District Office Contribution to the Schuyler County Public Health Department 2021 Annual Report

In 1921, legislation was enacted that empowered New York State counties to create county health districts. The purpose of a county health district was to consolidate local authority for the oversight of public health work at the county level rather than having public health activities dispersed to the constituent county cities, towns and villages. Counties were not required to create such health districts and as time passed, it became evident that many rural counties (including Schuyler) that had not formed a county health district would face increasing logistical and financial challenges that coincided with expanding public health needs and requirements. County health departments that operate in counties without county health districts are known as “partial services” county health departments.

As a matter of policy, not law; the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) addressed the need to maintain a baseline of environmental health programs/activities in partial services counties by creating District Offices. Nine district offices currently operate in New York State, and in Schuyler County, it is the NYSDOH Hornell District Office (HDO) that provides core environmental health programs and services to County residents and visitors. In partnership with Schuyler County Public Health Department and other state and local agencies, the HDO enforces environmental health regulations and oversees a variety of programs that are designed to protect public health and safety. The attached document provides a summary of HDO’s duties and responsibilities and the services provided in Schuyler County and in Steuben County - the other county that is located within the HDO’s jurisdiction.

Highlights of the HDO’s activities in Schuyler County during the 2021 calendar year included the following:

- Conducted 167 inspections at the county’s regulated facilities. Of those inspections approximately 94 permanent food service operations and 38 inspections at temporary food service operations.
- Conducted 3 sanitary surveys (enhanced inspections) at community water systems (primarily municipalities and mobile home parks) and 41 sanitary surveys at other regulated facilities with onsite water supplies.
- Conducted 16 student aide compliance visits to tobacco retailers to ensure compliance with the Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act (ATUPA).
- Investigated two complaints alleging sanitary code violations at regulated facilities.
- Worked with Schuyler County Public Health to conduct lead-based paint risk assessments of private Schuyler County residences in response to referrals of children with elevated blood lead levels. There were 5 assessments in 2021.

- No inspection was conducted at the County’s only tanning operation (each tanning facility must be inspected within a two-year period).
- Initiated 25 formal enforcement action (Administrative Tribunal Hearings) to address NYS Sanitary Code violations at regulated facilities.

From January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2021, three of the owners of tobacco retail outlets in Schuyler County illegally sold tobacco products to individuals under the age of eighteen/ twenty one during the HDO’s compliance checks (2020-3 sales).

From January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2021, HDO initiated formal enforcement actions (Administrative Tribunal Hearings) against public water suppliers for failure to submit monthly water operation reports within the required timeframe (2013 – 0; 2014 – 2; 2015 – 0; 2016 – 1; 2017- 1, 2018- 4, 2019-4, 2020-3, 2021-0).

No trends or patterns were identified during the reporting period in any aspect of the District's delivery of its core environmental health programs and services, including compliance and enforcement. Services provided were affected by COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and district office staff being deployed to assist with COVID-19 response.

Prepared by

Michelle Donovan
District Director
Hornell District Office
March 31, 2022



Schuyler County Public Health

Contact Us

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607-535-8140



Working hand in hand with the community to
prevent, promote and protect.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Schuyler County, NY

Photo credit: *Sunset on Seneca Lake* by Deborah Dalmat