



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Schuyler County, NY

2022 Annual Report



Schuyler County Public Health



Report Finalized: March 31, 2023, by Stacy Hills, MS, MCHES
Photo credit: Shequaga Falls in Montour Falls, NY by Karen Stegner

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A Message from the Director

I am pleased to present Schuylers County Public Health's 2022 Annual Report to the Board of Health and to the Community. This was a year of transition for our department, with changes in our COVID-19 response and changes in our leadership. Our emergency response to COVID-19 came to an end in 2022, and the disease is now part of our routine communicable disease prevention program. With this change, our department was also able to shift focus back to our core public health programs and services. The department also transitioned leadership during 2022, when I was appointed to the role of Public Health Director in August of 2022, after working in the department as a Public Health Nurse for 15 years. In my new role, I hope to provide staff and the community with some much-needed stability after the changes and upheavals caused by the pandemic and a series of short-term directors.

The mission of Schuylers County Public Health is "*to protect and empower our community to be safe, healthy and prepared.*" This report describes the programs and services provided during 2022 by our talented team of staff dedicated to this mission. It highlights both the challenges and successes we shared as we work to improve the health of our community, knowing that many times the improvements may not be measurable for many years. As an accredited Health Department, we use the National Public Health Standards as our operational framework, also referred to as the 10 Essential Public Health Services. Public Health professionals must be able to strategically consider research results, political interests, and community requests when leading program and policy work. This evidence-based public health framework is an effective model for this type of decision-making.

Schuylers County Public Health along with Schuylers Hospital, Inc. and our many community partners completed a Community Health Assessment, linked here. This Community Health Assessment was then used to guide the development of our 2023 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) [linked here](#). Our focus for this CHIP is Mental and Substance Use Disorder Prevention & Chronic Disease Preventative Care and Management.

While I do not know all of what 2023 will offer us, I am excited to watch staff get back out into the community and work alongside our partners as we focus on our vision of "*a connected community of healthy people and safe places.*"



Jill L. Kasprzyk, MS, BSN, RN
Schuylers 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 Schuylers 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

Photo: Jill L. Kasprzyk immunizing newly elected Sheriff Rumsey at a Covid clinic in January 2022.

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

Carl Blowers
Philip Barnes
Laurence Jaynes
Michael Lausell
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David Reed
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Legislator

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County Planner

Tamre Waite
Office for the Aging

Cynthia Terry, MD
Community Volunteer

Shannon Schamel, DO
Public Health Medical Consultant

Wendy Drake
Office for the Aging

Chris Brink
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.” 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. Some studies have found a return on investment as high as \$67 to \$88 for every \$1 spent on public health departments. While the exact return on investment dollar amount varies between studies, with some estimating a smaller return, studies consistently show that “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”.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 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

Deborah Dalmat, MPH, CHES
Public Health Specialist



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

¹ American Public Health Association. (2022). *What is Public Health?* Retrieved March 24, 2023, from <https://www.apha.org/what-is-public-health>

² McCullough J. M. (2019). Declines in Spending Despite Positive Returns on Investment: Understanding Public Health's Wrong Pocket Problem. *Frontiers in public health*, 7, 159. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2019.00159>

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/>

triggers in public places by changing policies. For example, we may work with a business or park 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 URM 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 Pivotal Public Health Partnership, 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 URM 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 URM 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

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>

are the second leading cause of death in the United States, second only to tobacco use. Preventing overweight and obesity requires addressing many factors including individual behaviors, access to affordable and nutritious food, and opportunities for physical activity.¹ Schuylar County Public Health works to prevent obesity and overweight through our involvement with Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Schuylar. HEAL Schuylar 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 Schuylar works to prevent many of the major health issues in the community including obesity, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and arthritis. For further details on HEAL Schuylar, please refer to the HEAL Schuylar 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 Schuylar County Public Health works to reduce tobacco use through collaboration with the Schuylar 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.

2022 Accomplishments

- Collaborated with URMC and other community partners for virtual / online and in person demonstrations and classes on nutrition, physical activity, and cooking
- HEAL Schuylar continued to hold meetings virtually and in person
- Continued to publicize Choose HEALth Restaurants
- Continued to distribute Schuylar County walking trail maps
- Increased the number of HEAL Schuylar newsletter subscribers
- Conducted a photo contest for HEAL Schuylar, which collected photos for the winter, summer and fall.
- Collaborated with the Montour Falls Library and the Schuylar County Historical Society for a Montour Falls Photo Scavenger Hunt
- Distributed toolkit for health providers on healthy eating
- Tabled at Montour Falls Farmer's Market, Harvest Festival and Fall Prevention Workshop to promote HEAL Schuylar, Cancer Screenings, with other community partners
- Helped Friends of the Catharine Valley Trail receive funding for trail improvements
- Promoted tobacco cessation and resources such as the Quitline number and text-based cessation programs available through UR Medicine
- Collaborated with the Schuylar County Coalition on Underage Drinking and Drugs (SCCUDD) and the Southern Tier Tobacco Awareness Coalition (STTAC) on initiatives to reduce tobacco use

Goals for 2023

- Publish HEAL Schuylar newsletter issues throughout the year
- Table at local festivals and markets to distribute chronic disease health information
- Continue work with partners to promote cancer screenings and paid leave for cancer screenings
- Participate in regional Community Cancer Action Council and NY Cancer Consortium work groups
- Facilitate Schuylar County's multidisciplinary team for the Healthy National Virtual Walkability Academy
- Continue to collaborate with SCCUDD and STTAC on initiatives to reduce tobacco use (e.g., education on the benefits of quitting smoking, cessation resources, smoke-free multi-unit housing)

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/

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: MRC Volunteers, Dr. Terry and Dr. Kelly, at a COVID vaccine clinic by Emily Warfle

Who worked on this?

Jill Kasprzyk, MS, RN
Public Health Director

DeAnn Bianco, BSN, RN
Public Health Nurse

Ruinan (Nina) Sun, MPH
Graduate Public Health Fellow

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.

2022 Accomplishments

Rabies

- Provided rabies vaccination for 322 animals through 5 clinics
- Maintained digital rabies case investigation process and maintained digital rabies certificates database
- Completed 112 total rabies case investigations, a 6% increase from 2021

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>

- 13 animals were tested for rabies, 1 of which tested positive (8% positive testing rate)
- Authorized Post-Exposure Prophylaxis for 6 individuals exposed, or potentially exposed, to rabies, 4 of whom completed the vaccine series
- Utilized CDMS for all rabies clinics to streamline and digitize the records

STDs

- Provided information to Schuyler County healthcare providers on the summary of CDC treatment guidelines 2021 for sexually transmitted infections
- Investigated 61 STD cases

Vaccine-Preventable Disease (not including COVID-19)

- Maintained 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 primary vaccine series for children at 63%
- 98.3% of immunizations routinely reported to NYSIIS within 14 days of administration

COVID-19

- Responded to questions from community members
- Provided COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters to community members in partnership with Arnot Health
- Provided COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters to community members in partnership with Schuyler Hospital
- Completed the Year 10 Performance Incentive, which consisted of three measures:
 - Measure 1: Quantitative survey on LHD response to pandemic
 - Measure 2: Qualitative/open-ended survey of pandemic response experiences
 - Measure 3: Public-facing summary of the LHD's pandemic response ([linked here](#))

General Communicable Disease

- Conducted 162 Communicable Disease investigations for diseases other than COVID-19
- Generated local and regional communicable disease morbidity datasets
- Conducted 2022 communicable disease report and update to Schuyler County healthcare providers, which included information on Local and regional communicable disease morbidity and mortality; New York State Communicable Disease Reporting Requirements; Schuyler County polio vaccine rate by zip code; Guidance on Influenza (Flu) antiviral drug; and Guidance on caring for patients after a tick bite.

Goals for 2023

Rabies

- Rabies Clinics will return to no appointments necessary
- Maintain electronic rabies vaccine database
- Partner with the Schuyler County Sheriff's Office and the Humane Society of Schuyler County to develop an education campaign on the importance of rabies vaccination
- Increase the number of domestic animals (Cats, Dogs, and Ferrets) vaccinated

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

General Communicable Disease

- Conduct communicable disease investigations per NYS DOH guidelines
- Provide community education for prevention of communicable diseases
- Expand communicable disease surveillance program

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

DeAnn Bianco, BSN, RN
Public Health Nurse

Jill Kasprzyk, MS, RN
Public Health Director

Ruinan (Nina) Sun, MPH
Graduate Public Health Fellow

Darrel Sturges
Watershed Inspector

Joshua Cole
Assistant Watershed Inspector

Emily Warfle, MS
Public Health Specialist

Deborah Dalmat, MPH, CHES
Public Health Specialist



Photo credit: Nina showing places you could find lead in homes 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

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>

group.¹ Lead can be found in dust, air, water, soil, and in some products used in and around our homes.² Children most often get lead poisoning from old lead paint dust that gets on 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.³ However, when water is contaminated by germs, minerals, or chemicals it can cause serious health problems.⁴ 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.⁵ 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 18.⁶ 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.

¹ New York State Department of Health. (2013, October). Lead Poisoning Prevention. Retrieved March 09, 2017, from <https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/>

² 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>

³ 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>

⁴ 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>

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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>

Schuyler County Public Health is a founding member of SCCUDD and serves as SCCUDD's fiscal agent for its Drug Free Communities Support Grant.

- **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.

2022 Accomplishments

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

- Tabled with the new lead house for the first time at the Family Fit Festival

SCCUDD

- Conducted SCCUDD 2022 Youth Survey in Schuyler County Schools for grades 7-12
- 2,442,544 media impressions focused on youth use of alcohol and general ATOD
- Increased active adult and youth membership
- Collaborated with the Schuyler County Sheriff's Office for National Drug Take Back Day
- Created a youth drug-use prevention "Back to School" billboard "The Future is Brighter Drug Free" Highlighting Schuyler County students that have taken part in SCCUDD prevention messaging contests
- Held the 3rd annual K-6 Prevention Billboard contest which was won by Hanlon Elementary student Avery Spaccio
- Held the 2nd annual Alcohol Retailer Sticker Shock sticker contest which was won by Hanlon Elementary student Karlee Fay.
- Held the 2nd annual 7-12 Prevention Billboard contest which was won by Odessa-Montour 12th Grade student Haley Albertsman
- Partnered with 34 area alcohol retailers in the 2nd annual "Alcohol Retailer Sticker Shock" sending out 4,000 prevention message stickers into the community fixed to retailer bags, and units of alcohol
- Provided Dispose Rx Packets, information cards, and safe disposal fact sheets to the community
- Collaborated with DFC Coalitions statewide regarding Marijuana legislation
- Collaborated with the Sheriff's Office on a "Don't Let Underage Drinking Snowball" education campaign
- Promoted poisoning prevention information and safe medication storage

SAFE

- Re-established SAFE and increased membership by 79%
- Raised awareness about SAFE and suicide prevention at the Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta
- Installed new HOPE letters in the HOPE garden outside the Mill Creek Center
- Collaborated with partners to host two trainings (QPR & SAVE) in 2022

WPA

- Completed 1026 water samples
- Provided 53 new Construction permits
- Replaced 50 septic tanks
- Upgraded 12 septic tanks
- Completed 2 conversions
- Inspected 110 septic systems near Waneta/Lamoka lakes
- Inspected 0 septic systems in the Cayuta Lake area

Goals for 2023

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 2023 Community Survey with Schuyler County residents
- 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 and incorporate tobacco products into the event
- 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 policies to help reduce youth drug use
- Put in place plans to ensure sustainability of the Coalition for after the Drug-Free Communities Support Grant ends in 2024

Injury Prevention

- Collaborate with FLACRA to improve access to naloxone training in the community
- Collaborate with Emergency Management and Dispatch to improve tracking of overdoses that occur in the County using ODMAP

SAFE

- Create a strategic plan for SAFE
- Continue suicide awareness trainings for members and the community
- Find a fiduciary for SAFE to be housed under
- Continue tabling and spreading suicide awareness education
- Participate in the Cardboard Boat Regatta People's Choice

WPA

- The Watershed Inspector is in the process of completing CAD training
- Cayuta Lake is in the first year of required 5 year inspections
- Mail reminder letters to 165 Waneta/Lamoka lake 5 year inspections that are due
- Use more of the Septic Grant funds for Lamoka/Waneta area
- Continue to expand water sampling customers

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: MRC Volunteers, Judy, Mike, and Marti, tabling at Village Christmas by Emily Warfle

Who worked on this?

Emily Warfle, MS
Public Health Specialist

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 communities.”³ MRC volunteers provide Schuyler County Public Health with manpower and

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

³ 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>

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.

2022 Accomplishments

- Recruited 12 new MRC volunteers
- Continued Covid-19 vaccination clinics
- All NYS deliverables were met on time
- Hosted active intruder trainings for staff and MRC volunteers
- Participated in multiple community events to promote the MRC and personal preparedness

Goals for 2023

- 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
- Focus on all hazards planning in order to be prepared for various emergencies
- Host monthly emergency preparedness trainings for our staff
- Continue to participate in community events to inform the public on personal preparedness
- Have all staff and volunteers trained in ICS 100 & NIMS 700
- Update database of volunteers to ensure everyone is deployable
- Plan and implement a new “We Want You” MRC recruitment campaign as part of the RISE Grant the department was awarded

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?

Katie Munson, BSN, RN
Public Health Nurse

DeAnn Bianco, BSN, RN
Public Health Nurse

Meghan Walker, BSN, RN
Public Health Nurse



Photo credit: SCCUDD member, Chris, and Ward at Schuyler Fit Fest by Emily Warfle

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 polices to improve the health of children in the County.

2022 Accomplishments

- Promoted child dental care, safe sleep practices, breastfeeding, and prenatal health via social media
- Sent out educational materials to all parents who gave birth via the newborn letters

Goals for 2023

- Continue to promote practices that improve child and family health
- Increase community outreach and educational visits
- 2 staff will get their CLC certifications
- Promote breastfeeding
- Serve on the Sexual Health Coalition
- Update and revitalize our department's Family Health 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: Meghan tabling at Schuyler Fit Fest by Ward Brower

Who worked on this?

Meghan Walker, BSN, RN
Public Health Nurse

Katie Munson, BSN, RN
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 and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN):** The CYSHCN 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 their

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/

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.

2022 Accomplishments

CYSHCN

- Hired new Public Health Nurse, partially funded by increased allocations to the CYSHCN grant by NYSDOH
- Developed Community Resource list
- Enrolled children in the program
- Shared program and resource information via social media

Early Intervention Program

- 54 children were referred and received services in 2022, with most families receiving in person services again

Preschool Special Education Program

- 44 children received services through the Preschool Special Education Program in the 2021-2022 school year

Goals for 2023

CYSHCN

- Ensure all eligible children ages 0-21 are enrolled in the program and signed up needed services and resources in the community.
- Work on improving community resources for those with special health care needs
- Plan and implement a new campaign to raise community awareness of the CYSHCN's program and available resources

Early Intervention Program

- Ensure a timely EIP process for children and their families in the program
- Ensure all children referred to the program (birth to three), whose parents' consent are connected with needed services, resources, or programs in a timely manner

Preschool Special Education Program

- Ensure all preschool children referred to the program, 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, Common Ground Health, Pivotal Public Health Partnership, and other community organizations to complete the CHA and CHIP process every three years. We use the process of Results Based Accountability 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?

Stacy Hills, MS, MCHES
Deputy Public Health Director

Elizabeth Watson, MS
Public Health Specialist



Photo credit: Nina and NYS Cancer Services at Harvest Festival with the inflatable colon by Emily Warfle

2023 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 opioid and other substance misuse and deaths
 - Goal: Reduce the prevalence of major depressive disorders
 - Goal: Prevent suicides

Accomplishments and Goals

In 2022, Schuyler County Public Health:

Partnered with Schuyler Hospital, the Southern Tier Cancer Services Program, URMW Wilmot Cancer Institute, Pivotal Public Health Partnership, Common Ground Health, ProAction, VA Finger Lakes Healthcare System, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Foodbank, Schuyler County Coalitions on Underage Drinking and Drugs, Schuyler County Social Services, Schuyler County Chamber of Commerce, Schuyler County Mental Health, Schuyler County Sheriff, Schuyler County Office of the Aging, MR Hess Home Works, The Falls Home, and Catholic Charities to complete the [2022 CHA](#) and create the [2023 CHIP](#).

In 2023, Schuyler County Public Health will:

Work with partners to accomplish the interventions/activities of the 2023 CHIP.

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: Public Health Staff (left to right) - Stacy, Deborah, Katie, Emily, Michelle, and Meghan by Ruinan Sun

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 three new projects proposed and two projects initiated in 2022.
 - **Surveillance:** This project was proposed due to a low response rate for our weekly communicable disease surveillance. The project was proposed in December of 2018 and was pilot testing a new surveillance reporting system prior to COVID happening. The project was put on hold during the pandemic. It was recently restarted. The QI project group has gathered feedback from providers and other surveillance report users. They will be testing a new process out starting in January 2023.
 - **Use of death certificate data:** This project was proposed to improve our ability to gather real-time data for causes of death in Schuyler County. It was proposed in January of 2020. After reviewing the proposal, the project was not approved. This was not determined to be a high priority or a necessary project at this time.

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

- S drive: This project was proposed to improve consistency and organization for the Department's shared files. The project was proposed in October of 2022. The QI Project group convened to outline the basic structure of how files should be organized (based on Article 6 State Aid categories), what belongs in personal files versus the shared files, and other helpful tips to provide structure and reduce disorganization and potential duplication. This information was presented to staff who were then instructed to work to organize their program's folders and to follow up with a QI Project group member if they required additional assistance organizing their files. File organization is still underway.
- Time recording for State Aid and grants: This project was proposed to improve the timeliness of, and personal accountability for, staff recording their time for grants and State Aid reimbursement. This project was proposed in July of 2022. A new program time tracking software, Track with Jack, was pilot tested by two program staff – one who is grant-funded and one who is funded through Article 6 – to assess the useability of the system and provide any other feedback. The pilot testing results were favorable, so Track with Jack will be rolled out to all staff starting January 1, 2023. A training will be provided to staff on how to use the system and a summary sheet of the structure of the programs and grants in the system and what different items mean will also be provided to staff prior to roll out.
- Emergency Communication with staff and volunteers: This project was proposed to improve our ability to rapidly communicate with staff and volunteers 24/7 in the event of a public health emergency. The project was proposed in August of 2022. This proposal was reviewed and approved by the PMQI Committee, and a group will be convened in early 2023.

2022 Accomplishments

- The PMQI Committee convened for the first time since March 2020 and finalized plans to hit the ground running in 2023
- The Performance Management dashboard was updated and finalized for 2023 with performance measures selected for each program and for administrative items
- The QI Activity Schedule – which dictates when audits, customer satisfaction surveys, and other activities will occur – was finalized for 2023
- Three new Quality Improvement Projects were proposed: one for our shared file organization, one for time recording for State Aid and grants, and one for emergency communication with staff and volunteers
- The PMQI Quarterly Report which provides updates on PMQI and QA activities to staff, the Board of Health, PAC, and other stakeholders was restarted in the fourth quarter of 2022

Goals for 2023

- Complete all audits, satisfaction surveys, and other activities, as scheduled
- Migrate PMQI tracking to the new Clear Impact software, as appropriate
- PMQI Coordinator will complete the Results-Based Accountability Professional Certification
- Consistently track performance measures
- 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



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

2022 Accomplishments

- Completed annual report to our accrediting body, the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), as required
- Began preparing for reaccreditation, which is required every 5 years, by identifying potential documents, policies, and processes to meet the documentation needs

Goals for 2023

- Submit our department's third annual report to our accrediting body to remain in compliance as an accredited health department
- Continue to identify documentation for reaccreditation and begin compiling documentation and explanatory narratives, as possible
- Further incorporate information about accreditation and becoming an accredited health department into our work
- 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

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/>

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



Photo credit: MRC Volunteers Deb and Judy with Jill and Emily at the 2022 Preparedness Summit by Emily Warfle

Who worked on this?

Jill Kasprzyk, MS, RN
Public Health Director

Nancy King, MD
Interim 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

2023 Goal

Now that the 2022 CHA & 2023 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>

Staff Appreciation



Thank you to Dr. Nancy King for stepping in as our Interim Director, your time and commitment to public health is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all our MRC volunteers and our Watershed volunteer for your dedication to public health and our community. Your efforts elevate the services we are able to provide to our community and we are beyond grateful for all of you!

Thank you to all of our temporary COVID-19 nurses (Melissa Krause, Janet Canfield, and Agnes Woodard) that were brought on to help the department during the pandemic. You were all instrumental to our department's pandemic response efforts and we are thankful for each of you.

Thank you to our support staff, past and current (Dianne Thomaris, Corie Stansfield, Kimberly Teemley, Dawn Kiklowicz, Michelle Carey, Sharon Stadelmaier, Jesse Dilly, Paula Johns, and Katie Roush) for all your "behind the scenes" work, you are a vital part of our department and its accomplishments.

Thank you to our program staff, past and current (Elizabeth Watson, Deborah Dalmat, Ward Brower, Meghan Walker, DeAnn Bianco, Emily Warfle, Nina Sun, and Katie Munson) that have worked diligently this year, many of whom have changed roles or taken on additional responsibilities to ensure the success of our department, and we could not have accomplished everything we did without each of you.

Staff Accomplishments

- Emily Warfle completed the Leadership Schuyler Program
- Jill Kasprzyk became a Rotarian
- Scholarship and grant money allowed two staff (Emily Warfle and Jill Kasprzyk) and two MRC volunteers to attend the Emergency Preparedness Summit in person
- Stacy Hills attended the 2023 Public Health Partnership Conference
- We expanded our technology by obtaining the GIS Mapping software
- Jill Kasprzyk was appointed to Public Health Director
- Michelle Carey was promoted to Senior Account Clerk Keyboard Specialist
- Sharon Stadelmaier was honored for 5 years commitment to Schuyler County
- Donna Miller was recognized at the Annual County Employee Recognition Luncheon for her 21 years of service and retirement in 2021
- Darrel Sturges was honored at the Annual County Employee Recognition Luncheon for 10 years of commitment to Schuyler County



Photos: Top photo – Mill Creek Center staff participating in the County-wide ugly sweater contest
Bottom photo – Emily Warfle with her Leadership Schuyler certificate

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 2022 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 2022 calendar year included the following:

- Conducted 233 inspections at the county’s regulated facilities. Of those inspections approximately 132 permanent food service operations and 40 inspections at temporary food service operations.
- Conducted 11 sanitary surveys (enhanced inspections) at community water systems (primarily municipalities and mobile home parks) and 44 sanitary surveys at other regulated facilities with onsite water supplies.
- Conducted 30 student aide compliance visits to tobacco retailers to ensure compliance with the Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act (ATUPA).
- Investigated four 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 9 assessments in 2022.
- One inspection was conducted at the County’s only tanning operation (each tanning facility must be inspected within a two-year period).
- Initiated 10 formal enforcement action (Administrative Tribunal Hearings) to address NYS Sanitary Code violations at regulated facilities.

From January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2022, four 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, 2022-1 sale).

From January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2022, 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, 2022-1).

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.

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