



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Schuyler County, NY

# 2017 Annual Report



## Schuyler County Public Health



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## A Message from the Director

I am pleased to present Schuyler County Public Health's 2017 Annual Report to the Board of Health, other County Departments, Community Agencies, and the public. This report describes the programs and services provided during 2017 with the Department's mission in mind: *"to protect and empower our community to be safe, healthy and prepared"*. It reflects the challenging work and commitment of the entire staff as we work to improve the health of our community, knowing that many times the improvements may not be measurable for many years. Public Health uses 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.

Schuyler County Public Health, Schuyler Hospital Inc., ArnotHealth, Guthrie, OFA, HeadStart, GST BOCES, Cornell Cooperative Extension, ST Foodbank and the public worked together throughout the year implementing the 2016-18 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) with the goal of protecting and improving the health of the community. HEAL Schuyler was awarded recognition for its past work in Obesity prevention from the Hospital Association of New York State (HANYS).

Public Health in its pursue to become a Nationally Accredited Public Health Department successfully submitted all our documentation to the National Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), along with other five counties in our S<sup>2</sup>AY Rural Health Network included in our Multijurisdictional application, on May 23, 2017. Many hours were spent identifying, preparing and formatting the required documentation to support our mastery of the PHAB Standards and Measures. We are now waiting for our onsite PHAB visit sometime in early 2018.

I am proud of the work done by the dedicated Schuyler County Public Health staff. I am also confident that in partnership with our governing entity, community partners, community agencies, businesses and the public we can move closer to our vision of *"a connected community of healthy people and safe places"*. Public Health is a best buy: investments in public health are repaid many times over.



**Schuyler County Public Health Director  
Marcia Kasprzyk, RN, BSN**

### 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 S. Perry St  
Watkins Glen, NY 14891

## Visit us online

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

## Follow us on

### Facebook

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

### Twitter

<https://twitter.com/SchuylerCoPH>



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Marcia Kasprzyk  
*Schuyler County Public Health*

## 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.”<sup>1</sup> We work to prevent injuries and illness and use science-based solutions to improve people’s quality of life.<sup>1</sup> Public health also saves money. For every \$1.00 spent on prevention, \$6.50 is saved in health spending.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> 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 works on this?

**Elizabeth Watson MPH**  
Public Health Specialist



### 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.<sup>4</sup> There is currently no cure for asthma, asthma attacks can be controlled and prevented.<sup>5</sup> 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

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

<sup>2</sup> American Public Health Association (APHA). (2012, October 18). Public Health Infographic. Retrieved March 24, 2017, from [http://action.apha.org/site/PageNavigator/Infographic\\_Page\\_2012\\_10\\_04\\_Round\\_2.html](http://action.apha.org/site/PageNavigator/Infographic_Page_2012_10_04_Round_2.html)

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

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

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

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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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 Chronic Disease Self-Management, to help community members manage their health condition. These programs are available through our community partners.
- **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.<sup>3</sup> 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 S<sup>2</sup>AY Rural Health Network, NY Cancer Service 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.<sup>4</sup> Schuyler County Public Health works to prevent and reduce these risk factors in the community. We collaborate with the Regional Finger Lakes Health System Agency Blood Pressure Registry to track the number of patients with hypertension rates. We also encourage the use of the evidence-based Chronic Disease Self-Management Program 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.<sup>5</sup> Schuyler County Public Health prevents diabetes in the County by providing pre-diabetes screening and by promoting the National Diabetes Prevention Program to help people change their lifestyle and prevent the onset of diabetes. We also collaborate with our community partners to promote the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program to help people living with diabetes manage their health condition. Schuyler County Public Health also works with the Southern Tier Diabetes Coalition to prevent, detect, and reduce the impact of diabetes on individuals in the community.
- **Obesity:** If someone's weight is above what is considered healthy for their height, they are considered overweight or obese.<sup>6</sup> Overweight and obesity can cause serious health problems

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<sup>1</sup> 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>

<sup>2</sup> 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>

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

<sup>4</sup> New York State Department of Health. (2016, March). Cardiovascular Disease. Retrieved March 24, 2017, from [https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/cardiovascular/heart\\_disease/](https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/cardiovascular/heart_disease/)

<sup>5</sup> 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>

<sup>6</sup> 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>

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. Preventing overweight and obesity requires addressing many factors including individual behaviors, access to affordable and nutritious food, and opportunities for physical activity.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.

### 2017 Accomplishments

- Applied for and won the Chronic Disease Incentive Award for meeting statewide performance standards
- Conducted a focus group on evidence-based programs
- Conducted focus groups on cancer screening
- Conducted diabetes screenings at community events
- Added 3 restaurants to Choose HEALth voluntary food standards program
- Conducted worksite wellness assessments in the County
- Outreached for regional worksite wellness initiatives related to cancer screening
- Expanded the Schuyler Walks Program to include an Exercise is Medicine Program
- Conducted a National Diabetes Prevention Class
- Completed an inventory of Tobacco-Free Outdoor Policies for Towns and Villages
- Established 2016 and 2017 diabetes, colorectal cancer, and breast cancer screening rate baselines with health care providers

### Goals for 2018

- Collaborate with S<sup>2</sup>AY Rural Health Network to provide evidence-based classes and programs
- Expand partnerships with employers to promote chronic disease prevention at the worksite
- Increase screening rates for cardiovascular disease, diabetes, breast, and colorectal cancers
- Work to implement policy changes to improve chronic disease outcomes for the County such as Tobacco 21 and paid leave for cancer screenings
- Implement the enhanced voluntary nutrition and beverage standards (Choose HEALth) program
- Improve screening in the County through health literacy training
- Promote and improve access to healthy foods through community partnerships

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

<sup>2</sup> 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/](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/tobacco_control/)

## 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.<sup>1</sup> Public Health Law mandates a list of notifiable communicable diseases that have to be reported to the local health department.<sup>2</sup>

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.



### Who works on this?

**Chelsea Bailey RN, BSN**  
Public Health Nurse

**Jill Wendela RN, MS**  
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.<sup>3</sup> Though any mammal can get rabies, most animal cases in the United States occur in wild animals like raccoons, skunks, bats, and foxes.<sup>4</sup> In most human cases of rabies, the infected person got rabies from a dog bite.<sup>1</sup> Vaccinating pets, like dogs, is the best way to prevent people from getting rabies.<sup>1</sup> Vaccination of dogs, cats, and ferrets is required by law in New York State. We help prevent the spread of rabies by providing six 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.<sup>5</sup> For this program, we collaborate extensively with law enforcement, local veterinary offices, and the Humane Society.

<sup>1</sup> New York State Department of Health. (2007, August). Communicable Disease Control. Retrieved February 16, 2017, from

<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/control/>

<sup>2</sup> 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/>

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

<sup>4</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2016, October 05). Rabies. Retrieved February 16, 2017, from

<https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/index.html>

<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> STDs include infections such as Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup> 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 seasonal flu clinics 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.<sup>6</sup> 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 develop active TB.<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> 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](https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/arboviral/fact_sheet.htm)

<sup>2</sup> 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/>

<sup>3</sup> 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>

<sup>4</sup> 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>

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

<sup>6</sup> 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>

<sup>7</sup> 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>

## 2017 Accomplishments

### Rabies

- Provided rabies vaccination for 622 animals through Rabies Clinics
- Successfully provided Post-Exposure Prophylaxis to 9 individuals exposed, or potentially exposed, to rabies
- There were zero human rabies deaths in Schuyler County in 2017
- Published 2018 clinic calendar before the end of 2017
- Collaborated with local veterinary offices to track rabies vaccinations given

### Arthropod

- Distributed 850 tick-removal kits
- Distributed 300 tick removal kits and provided prevention education to a local hunting association
- Distributed tick education to local town halls, Watkins Glen State Park, Hector National Forests, local parks, and recreational areas
- Collaborated with local veterinary offices to track animals diagnosed with Lyme Disease

### STDs

- Participated in the S<sup>2</sup>AY Rural Health Network Team Chlamydia project to educate healthcare providers and pharmacists on Expedited Partner Therapy
- Completed onsite visit to the Chemung County STD Clinic
- Joined the Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Community Partner's Meeting hosted by the Ivy Clinic
- Helped facilitate the STD Update offered for providers and nurses through the S<sup>2</sup>AY Rural Health Network at Hobart and William Smith

### Vaccine-Preventable Disease

- Increased percentage of children who received recommended scheduled vaccination from 60.3% to 73.7%
- Designed and implemented the #FightFluFLX, or Fight Flu Finger Lakes, social media campaign

### General Communicable Disease

- Distributed weekly surveillance reports to local providers, schools, and agencies to keep them informed on what health issues are occurring in the County and the region
- Successfully investigated all 235 communicable disease reports received in 2017
- Provided education and resources to providers on tuberculosis and latent tuberculosis

## Goals for 2018

### Rabies

- Vaccinate 800 animals through public health rabies clinics
- Continue to track the number of rabies vaccinations given at local veterinary offices
- Ensure that 100% of individuals requiring Post-Exposure receive the full course of treatment
- Collaborate with local veterinarians to deliver vaccine information to local horse owners, stable owners, and large animal owners

### Arthropod

- Distribute 500 tick removal kits
- Continue to track the number of animals diagnosed with Lyme Disease at local veterinary offices
- Ensure that 100% of Lyme disease cases that receive treatment meet case definition

### STDs

- Continue to work with the S<sup>2</sup>AY Rural Health Network's Team Chlamydia to reduce Chlamydia rates in the region
- Continue to work with the Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Community Partner's Meeting
- Facilitate the STD Update offered for providers and nurses through the S<sup>2</sup>AY Rural Health Network at Hobart and Corning Community College

### Vaccine-Preventable Disease

- Increase percentage of children who received recommended scheduled vaccination by 1-2%
- Increase percentage of 13 year olds who complete HPV series by 4-5%

### General Communicable Disease

- Utilize online surveys to collect surveillance data to help improve reporting compliance
- Investigate all communicable disease cases in appropriate timeframe

## 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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 works on this?

**Jill Wendela RN, MS**  
Public Health Nurse

**Darrel Sturges**  
Watershed Inspector

**Josh Cole**  
Watershed Inspector Assistant

**Casey Allen BS, MSEd**  
SCCUDD Project Coordinator/  
Public Health Specialist



### 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 in to 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.<sup>3</sup> Lead can be found in dust, air, water, soil, and in some products used in and around our homes.<sup>4</sup> Children most often get lead poisoning from old lead paint dust that gets on windowsills, floors, toys, and hands.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> Schuyler County Public Health works to prevent lead poisoning through education in the community and by ensuring that providers complete the blood lead test for all children at ages one and two. For this program, we collaborate with the Finger Lakes Coalition to STOP Lead Poisoning.

<sup>1</sup> 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/](https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/public_health_tracking/about/)

<sup>2</sup> 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>

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

<sup>4</sup> 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>

- **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.<sup>1</sup> However, when water is contaminated by germs, minerals, or chemicals it can cause serious health problems.<sup>2</sup> 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/Town of Wayne 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.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> 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, acts as SCCUDD’s fiscal agent for its Drug Free Communities Support Grant, and employs the Project Coordinator for the Coalition.
- **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.

## 2017 Accomplishments

### Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

- Developed county-specific lead factsheet

<sup>1</sup> 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>

<sup>2</sup> 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>

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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>

### Watershed

- Completed about 730 water samples
- Inspected 118 septic systems in the Lamoka/Waneta Lake District
- Inspected 4 septic systems in the Cayuta Lake District
- Completed 42 New Construction Permits
- Completed 25 Replacement Permits
- Completed 26 Tank Upgrade Permits
- Completed 2 Conversion Permits
- Finalized contract with town of Catherine to establish Cayuta Lake Septic System Inspection Program
- Set up process to get all records set up electronically

### SCCUDD

- Youth use of alcohol and other drugs decreased
- Supported FLACRA in providing 32 people with Narcan Training
- 20 compliance checks were completed for off-site alcohol retailers through the Council on Alcoholism and Addictions of the Finger Lakes to ensure alcohol was not sold to those under 21
- Increased active adult and youth membership
- Completed a social media campaign for Alcohol Awareness Month
- Collaborated with the Schuyler County Sheriff's Office for National Drug Take Back Day
- 66 people took part in take-back events or safe storage education
- Over 1200 pounds of prescription drugs were collected through take-back events and drop-boxes in the County
- Provided a Lead & Seed training for 20 teens and 3 adults

### General Environmental Health

- Collaborated with Yates and Steuben County on distributing radon detector kits and educating the community on radon exposures in the home
- Participated in a Car Seat Safety Check for Schuyler County

## **Goals for 2018**

### Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

- Increase lead testing rates for 1- and 2-year-old children in the County by 5%

### Watershed

- Complete 91% of the Lamoka/Waneta Lake District 5-year inspections due
- Complete 69% of the Cayuta Lake District 5-year inspections due
- Finish setting up all records electronically
- Set up a functioning GIS database
- Organize and revamp file system and website to improve efficiency
- Update all forms

### SCCUDD

- Increase active adult and youth membership by 5%
- Add one religious or fraternal organization representative to the Executive Board
- Continue to track data such as approximate number of opioid overdoses, number of community members participating in take-back events and safe storage education, pounds of prescription drugs collected through take-back events and drop boxes, number of participants in Narcan trainings, and number of safe-server trainings held
- Support the youth coalition in planning and implementing other programs to help reduce youth drug use
- Provide youth drug prevention trainings and youth leadership trainings
- Implement one project to help build sustainability
- Collaborate with the Council on Alcoholism and Addictions of the Finger Lakes to provide compliance checks in the County
- Continue to collaborate with the Southern Tier Tobacco Awareness Coalition, law enforcement, and other community organizations
- Work to enact community changes aimed at reducing youth substance use e.g. a social host ordinance or beer gardens at festivals
- Organize information campaigns and events on alcohol, prescription pain relievers, and other drugs

## Emergency Preparedness and Response

### What is this?

**Emergency Preparedness and Response** helps people plan for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies.<sup>1</sup> These public health emergencies could be a disease outbreak, a weather emergency, an act of terrorism, or a chemical spill.<sup>2</sup> 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.



### Who works on this?

**Niki Turnmyre RN**  
Senior Registered Professional  
Nurse

### 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 influenza), 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, pandemic flu, 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

<sup>1</sup> 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>

<sup>2</sup> 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](https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/emergency/families_individuals_caregivers/types_of_emergencies.htm)

communities.”<sup>1</sup> 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.

## 2017 Accomplishments

### Plans and Response

- Provided public messaging regarding emergency preparedness throughout the year including messages on Winter Storm Stella, a tornado warning, and blue green algal blooms
- Established the Community Emergency Preparedness Coalition
- Staff received multiple trainings on public health emergency preparedness

### Drills

- Trained staff on how to properly put on and take off personal protective equipment

### Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

- 7 new volunteers signed up and 5 completed orientation
- 20 volunteers were trained in incident command structure
- Volunteers received notifications from Schuyler County Public Health at least quarterly
- 6 veterinarian volunteers remained active volunteers available for rabies clinics

## Goals for 2018

### Plans and Response

- Ensure all staff receive emergency planning and response training monthly
- Ensure all updates/revisions of emergency plans are presented to staff, the Professional Advisory Committee, and the Board of Health
- Help to facilitate the Emergency Planning Committee with representatives from county, health, and partner agencies
- Collaborate with the S<sup>2</sup>AY FLPHA (Finger Lakes Public Health Alliance) to standardize the emergency plans across the region

### Drills

- Complete Annual Public Health Emergency Preparedness Exercise MCM POD
- Participate in annual NASCAR Emergency Operations Center tabletop drill
- Complete all required exercises/drills

### Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

- Recruit and complete orientation with 4 new MRC volunteers
- Move volunteers to the new SERVNY database

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<sup>1</sup> 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 works on this?

**Janel Walker RN, BSN**  
Public Health Nurse

**Shawn Tubridy MA**  
Family Support Worker

**Chelsea Bailey RN, BSN**  
Public Health Nurse



### What do we do to address this?

- **Healthy Families:** Healthy Families is an evidence-based program available to new and expectant parents. Families that participate in the free and voluntary program receive in home support from trained staff. Research shows that families that take part in the Healthy Families program have healthier babies, create positive family bonds, have children who do better in school, increase their knowledge of parenting and child development, and get better connected to services in the community.<sup>1</sup> Schuyler County Public Health's part-time Family Support Worker provides these home visits and ensures expectant and new parents get the support they need to raise happy and healthy children. Healthy Families Schuyler is a partnership between Cornell Cooperative Extension and Schuyler County Public Health.
- **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.<sup>2</sup> 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.
- **Baby Café:** 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.<sup>3</sup> Schuyler County Public Health promotes breastfeeding through our Baby Café program. Our Baby Café is a free drop-in center that provides support, advice, and assistance to

<sup>1</sup> Healthy Families New York. (n.d.). Healthy Families New York. Retrieved March 24, 2017, from <http://www.healthyfamiliesnewyork.org/>

<sup>2</sup> 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>

<sup>3</sup> 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>

mothers. At the Baby Café, mothers can get advice and tips about breastfeeding and other relevant topics from certified lactation counselors and other mothers in a relaxed environment.

- **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.<sup>1</sup> Schuyler County Public Health does outreach and education in the community to women and men of reproductive age to promote family planning, prevent 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.

## 2017 Accomplishments

### Healthy Families

- 13 expectant and new parents received support through the program
- 36% of direct referrals into Healthy Families with contact made with the family
- 33 referrals made for Healthy Families participants to community resources

### Maternal Infant Health

- 6 new and expectant parents who received at least one home visit

### Child Health

- Established baselines for school-based dental health sites

## Goals for 2018

### Healthy Families

- Increase outreach to ensure at least 40% of parents referred directly to the program are contacted about the services available to them and their newborn
- Ensure that 100% of children in the program are up to date on their immunizations
- Increase the number of referrals to community resources and services
- Ensure that all families referred to resources and services receive follow up regarding the services

### Maternal Infant Health

- Develop and implement new Parents' Corner programming to supplement the Baby Café program with additional topics parents are interested in

### Child Health

- Ensure that 4 school-based dental health sites remain in the county
- Track the number of children who receive preventative dental services through school-based dental health sites
- Provide a presentation on fluoride varnish application to health care providers in the county

<sup>1</sup> 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>

## 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.



### Who works on this?

**Janel 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 delays<sup>1</sup>. 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 are able to get the services they need to develop and grow to their fullest potential.
- **Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN):** Children with Special Health Care Needs 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 disorders<sup>2</sup>. 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

<sup>1</sup> 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/](https://www.health.ny.gov/community/infants_children/early_intervention/)

<sup>2</sup> 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/](https://www.health.ny.gov/community/special_needs/)

their child evaluated and to get any support or services their child may need.<sup>1</sup> 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.

## **2017 Accomplishments**

### CSHCN and Preschool Special Education Program

- Care coordination and family support were provided to 71 children and their families (2016-2017 School Year)
  - Developed a brochure to educate parents on the Preschool Special Education Program and CSHCN
- ### Early Intervention Program
- 33 children receiving services through the EI program
  - 4 children discharged from the program due to reaching age-appropriate developmental milestones

## **Goals for 2018**

### 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup> Schuyler County Public Health collaborates with Schuyler Hospital and the S<sup>2</sup>AY 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 data collection and decision-making.

## Who works on this?

**Elizabeth Watson MPH**  
Public Health Specialist



## 2016-2018 CHIP Priorities and Focus Areas

- **Priority Area: Prevent Chronic Diseases**
  - Focus Area: Reduce Obesity in Children and Adults
  - Focus Area: Increase Access to High Quality Chronic Disease Preventive Care and Management in Both Clinical and Community Settings
- **Priority Area: Promote Healthy Women, Infants and Children**
  - Focus Area: Child Health
- **Priority Area: Promote Mental Health and Prevent Substance Abuse**
  - Focus Area: Prevent Substance Abuse and Other Mental Emotional Behavioral Disorders

## 2016-2018 CHA/CHIP Accomplishments and Goals

The Schuyler County 2016-2018 Community Health Assessment/Community Service Plan and the Schuyler County Community Health Improvement Plan: 2016-2018 were completed in 2016 as an update to the 2013-2017 CHA/CHIP. Some highlights of CHIP accomplishments for 2017 can be found in the [Chronic Disease section](#), the [Environmental Health section](#) (see SCCUDD), and the [Family Health section](#) (see Child Health) of this report. For more information on accomplishments, see the HEAL Schuyler Annual Report for 2017. The goals for 2018 related to the CHIP can be found in the Community Health Improvement Plan: 2016-2018 at <http://www.schuylercounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/4967>. In 2018, the Department will also start working on the next CHA, including completion of a community survey and beginning to write the next CHIP.

<sup>1</sup> 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.”<sup>1</sup> In performance management, Schuyler County Public Health uses data to improve our performance and to achieve our mission and vision.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>



## Who works 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 QI Projects actively worked on in 2017. Two projects related to asthma and the Healthy Families program were approved in 2017 and will be started in 2018. Projects worked on in 2017 included:
  - ADP vs. iSalus
    - Goal of the project: Ensure fiscal accountability by improving the process staff use to record program time.
    - Process: The group surveyed department staff and other agencies that use similar software. The group developed a visual tool to help ensure that ADP and iSalus time match. The tool was tested during quarter 1 and 2.
    - Outcome: Quarter 1 numbers matched but there were minor discrepancies in quarter 2. Improvements in matching were seen and the tool will continue to be used.

<sup>1</sup> 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>

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

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

- Breastfeeding/Baby Café
  - Goal of the project: Increase participation in the Schuyler Parents' Corner to 10 participants per class/speaker.
  - Process: The group surveyed new moms in Schuyler County for topics they would be interested in and are coordinating monthly activities/presentations featuring topics that surveyors documented to be of interest. Participants of Schuyler Parents' Corner were surveyed after each event for feedback as well.
  - Outcome: The project is still underway. Attendance and feedback will be tracked to see if the project was successful.
- Preschool Orientation
  - Goal of the project: Increase community parents' awareness of the Preschool Special Education Program process and Schuyler County Public Health's role in the program.
  - Process: The group developed an informational brochure for parents in the community. The brochure describes the program, explains the process, and covers which agency is responsible for different pieces in the program. The brochure is currently being sent to new parents in the program during the referral process.
  - Outcome: This project is still underway. Improvements or changes will be tracked over the next year.

### **2017 Accomplishments**

- The 2017 Performance Measure Dashboard had all measures selected and was ready for data entry before the end of Quarter 1
- Established a timeline for the completion of program audits and other items in the QI Activity Schedule
- All program and administrative audits were completed
- Customer satisfaction surveys were collected and results compiled for the following programs: Children with Special Health Care Needs, Immunization Clinics, Communicable Disease, Admitted Patients (Licensed Home Care Services Agency & Healthy Families discharges), and Early Intervention

### **Goals for 2018**

- Develop performance measures specific to the PMQI Committee
- Incorporate the Strategic Plan in to the 2018 Performance Measure Dashboard
- Establish new performance measures for some department programs and track all measures quarterly
- Utilize a new rating system for performance measures to better capture progress
- Consistently track performance measures and keep program audits up to date
- Establish a timeline for the completion for the completion of program audits and other items in the QI Activity Schedule
- Implement customer satisfaction surveys for select programs
- Continue working on active QI Projects

## Performance Management: How did we do in reaching our goals in 2017?

Percentage of Chronic Disease Performance Measures with...



Most of the chronic disease performance measures either met their set target or made progress toward the target. Only three measures did not meet their target or were moving away from their target. Two of these measures related to the Baby Café program. Ways to improve the Baby Café program and its attendance are currently being examined as part of a quality improvement project. Some data was not yet available at the time of this report.

Percentage of Communicable Disease Performance Measures with...



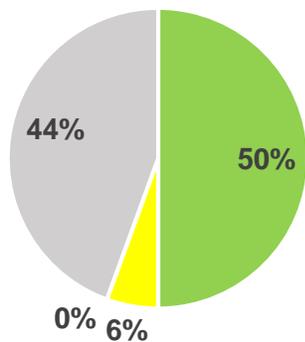
Almost one third of communicable disease measures met their target and almost all the others made progress. Only two measures did not meet their target or were moving away from their target. Both measures were related to chlamydia. Chlamydia is currently being addressed regionally with a quality improvement project involving S<sup>2</sup>AY Rural Health Network counties.

Percentage of Environmental Health Performance Measures with...



Over half of environmental health measures met their target and nearly a third made progress toward their target. Four measures did not meet their target or were moving in the wrong direction. Measures that did not meet target will be further examined in 2018 and the Department will work to improve its performance on these.

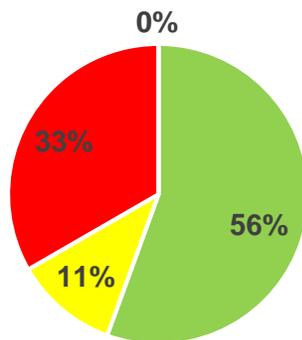
Percentage of Emergency Preparedness Performance Measures with...



- Target met
- Progressing toward target
- Target not met or moving in the wrong direction
- Data not available

More than half of the measures had their targets met. The remaining measures data was unavailable due to staff turnover.

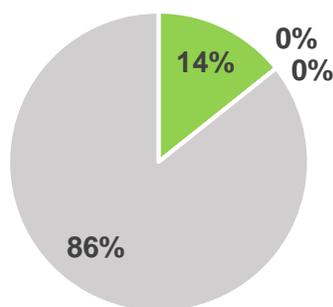
Percentage of Family Health and Children’s Programs Performance Measures with...



- Target met
- Progressing toward target
- Target not met or moving in the wrong direction
- Data not available

Over half of family health and children’s programs measures met their target or were progressing toward their target. The remaining measures did not meet their target or were moving away from their target. There was no one program housing all the measures with targets that were not met. A new quality improvement project related to the Healthy Families program was proposed this year and will be started in 2018 to address some of the targets that were not met.

Percentage of Administrative Performance Measures with...



- Target met
- Progressing toward target
- Target not met or moving in the wrong direction
- Data not available

Only one measure had data collected in 2017 and that measure met its target. All other measures were not evaluated during 2017. The remaining measures are measured at the regional level and data collection was delayed due to other programs, priorities, and the accreditation process taking precedence.

## 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.”<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

### Who works on this?

**Jill Wendela RN, MS**  
Public Health Nurse

**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 concerns<sup>3</sup>

### 2017 Accomplishments

- Submitted all required documentation to PHAB to become an accredited public health department
- Continued to collaborate with five other counties in the S<sup>2</sup>AY Rural Health Network to prepare for the accreditation site visit

### Goals for 2018

- Have a successful site visit from PHAB
- Become an accredited public health department

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

<sup>2</sup> 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/>

<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup>



## Who works on this?

**Marcia Kasprzyk RN, BSN**  
Public Health Director

## Strategic Priorities for 2017-2020

- 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

## 2017 Accomplishments

### Increase the visibility and credibility in the community and create/maintain a positive perception of Public Health

- Began the process of developing a community inventory
- Began discussions with the Chamber of Commerce about developing a marketing plan

### Maximize the use of appropriate data, which will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Public Health in the community

- Revamped the performance management dashboard to make it more user-friendly and updated and revised measures to be more trackable and actionable
- Staff received a variety of data-related trainings and a new policy about conducting focus groups was developed
- Purchasing GIS software has been included in the 2018 budget

### Build agency sustainability

- Developed job guidelines or other job help tools for rabies and SCCUDD
- PMQI coordinator received audit mentoring from Yates County Public Health's program auditor
- Trained two staff members to serve as back-up for other programs
- Updated the Workforce Development Plan including a clearer and more useable training evaluation form

<sup>1</sup> 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 Accomplishments

**Jill Wendela**

**Awarded  
Employee of the  
Year**

**Karen Thurston**

**Hired as a  
Secretary I**

**Elizabeth Watson**

**Became a Child Passenger  
Safety Technician**

**Deborah Dalmat**

**Completed Public  
Information Officer (PIO)  
Training**

**Chelsea Bailey**

**Became Emergency  
Preparedness Coordinator**

**Casey Allen**

**Completed CADCA Academy**

**Deborah Dalmat**

**Completed Advancing  
Cultural Competence  
Program**

**Dianne Thomaris and  
Corie Stansfield**

**Completed Microsoft Excel  
Training Series**

**Chelsea Bailey, Niki Turnmyre, and Elizabeth Watson**

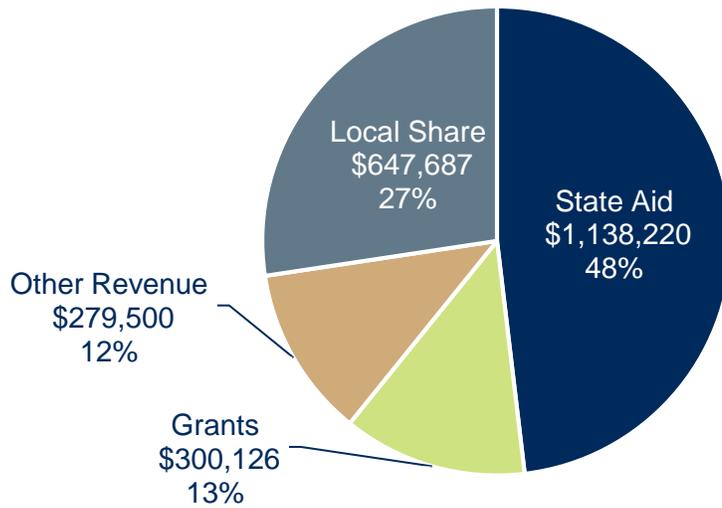
**Graduated from Leadership Schuyler**

## Publications

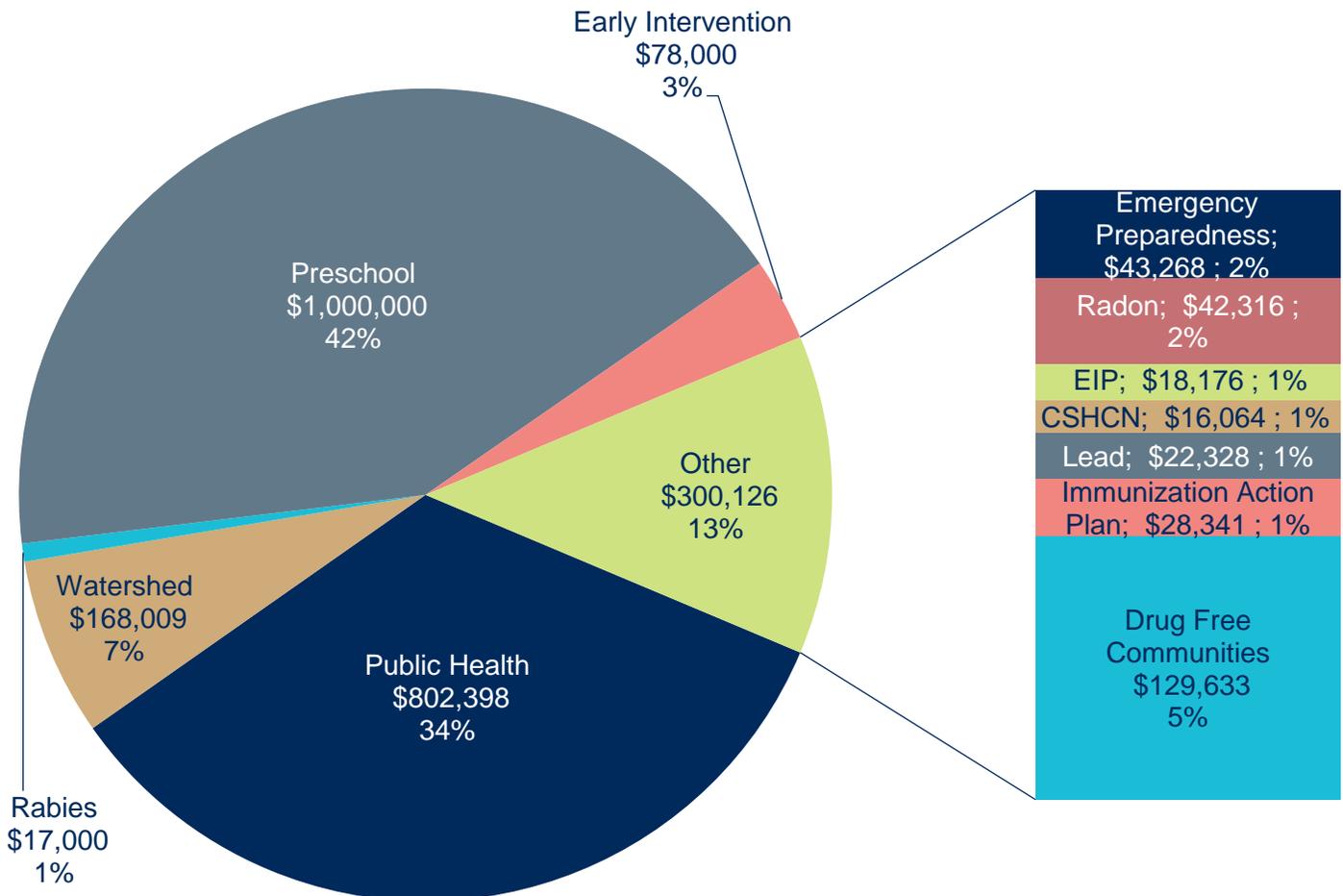
- Elizabeth Watson had "Schuyler County Investigates Lead Risks in Unusual Places" published in In the Field of Environmental Health
- Deborah Dalmat had "Abstract 216: Effectiveness of Telehealth on Hypertension Management Among Disparate Populations: a Systematic Review" published by the American Heart Association in their journal Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes

# Budget

## Revenue



## Expenses



## Appendix A



### Department of Health

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.**  
Commissioner

**SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.**  
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.)

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Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower, Albany, NY 12237 | [health.ny.gov](http://health.ny.gov)

## **New York State Department of Health Hornell District Office Contribution to the Schuyler County Public Health Department 2015 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 2017 calendar year included the following:

- Conducted 352 inspections at the county's regulated facilities. Of those inspections approximately 112 permanent food service operations and 146 inspections at temporary food service operations.
- Conducted eight sanitary surveys (enhanced inspections) at community water systems (primarily municipalities and mobile home parks) and 48 sanitary surveys at other regulated facilities with onsite water supplies.
- Conducted 15 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.
- Conducted an inspection at one of the County's two tanning operations (each tanning facility must be inspected within a two-year period).
- Initiated one formal enforcement action (Administrative Tribunal Hearings) to address NYS Sanitary Code violations at regulated facilities.
- Responded to reports of harmful algal blooms (HABs) on Seneca, Cayuta, and Lamoka Lakes.

From January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2017, none of the owners of tobacco retail outlets in Schuyler County illegally sold tobacco products to individuals under the age of eighteen during the HDO's compliance checks.

From January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2017, HDO initiated formal enforcement actions (Administrative Tribunal Hearings) against three 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).

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.

Prepared by



Joanne Clark  
Senior Sanitarian  
Acting, District Director  
NYSDOH – Hornell District Office

March 27, 2018



# Schuyler County Public Health



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

## Contact Us

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607-535-8140



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Schuyler County, NY