



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Schuyler County, NY

2018 Annual Report



Schuyler County Public Health



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A Message from the Director

I am pleased to present the Schuyler County Public Health Department's Annual Report to the Board of Health, other County Departments, Community Agencies, and the public. This report describes the programs and services provided during 2018 aimed at meeting the mission of the agency: to protect and empower our community to be safe, healthy and prepared. It is a reflection of the hard work and commitment of the staff as they work to address the needs of our community.

Throughout 2018, staff worked with community partners to continue the evidence-based strategies as outlined in the 2016-2018 Community Health Improvement Plan that focus on Chronic Disease prevention, Promotion of Healthy Women Infants and Children, and Prevention of Substance Use. We also began the process of conducting a new community health assessment which will be completed in 2019 and will inform the development of the 2019-2020 Community Health Improvement Plan.

In the summer of 2018 the PHAB Accreditation Team was welcomed to our county to continue the process of seeking the status of national accreditation. The decision of the PHAB Board was to require a bit more work on our part with the development and submission of an Action Plan to be completed in 2019. I am confident that we will have our Action Plan approved and will during 2019, be able to demonstrate those few areas needing improvement have been met. Staff should be commended for their continued work on this endeavor.

In the fall of 2018, Marcia Kasprzyk the Director of Public Health for many years, retired. Mrs. Kasprzyk should be commended for her strong leadership and dedication to the Department and the County. In planning for her pending retirement, Mrs. Kasprzyk began the discussion of a possible Shared Services agreement with Yates County Public Health. Effective October 2018, the two counties entered into an agreement under which the Director and Deputy Director positions are shared between the two departments. Through this agreement we will explore ways of enhancing services to our community, while also sharing best practices, products and talents of our two staffs.

While only having been with the Department for a few months, it is clear to me that the Public Health Department is comprised of very talented and committed public health staff. I look forward to working with them in the coming year as we strive to move closer to our vision of "a connected community of healthy people and safe places."



Deborah A Minor, RN MPH

Deborah A. Minor, RN, MPH
Schuyler County Public Health Director

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/>

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<https://twitter.com/SchuylerCoPH>



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Overview of Programs and Services

Public health works to promote and protect “the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play.”¹ We work to prevent injuries and illness and use science-based solutions to improve people’s quality of life.¹ Public health also saves money. For every \$1.00 spent on prevention, \$6.50 is saved in health spending.² The following sections discuss what Schuyler County Public Health does to improve the health and wellbeing of Schuyler County residents.

Chronic Disease

What is this?

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

Who works on this?

Eleanor Fausold MPH
Public Health Specialist

Elizabeth Watson MS
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.⁴ There is currently no cure for asthma, asthma attacks can be controlled and prevented.⁵ Schuyler County Public Health works with health care providers, schools, and community coalitions to help people fight asthma so they can live a full and active life. We work to eliminate asthma attack triggers in public places by changing policies. For example, we may work with a business or

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

² American Public Health Association (APHA). (2012, October 18). Public Health Infographic. Retrieved March 24, 2017, from http://action.apha.org/site/PageNavigator/Infographic_Page_2012_10_04_Round_2.html

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/>

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 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.³ Schuyler County Public Health works to prevent cancer deaths in the community by promoting screening for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers. We also collaborate with the S²AY Rural Health Network, 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.⁴ 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.⁵ 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.⁶ Overweight and obesity can cause serious health problems

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>

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

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

2018 Accomplishments

Cancer

- Worked with a community member to develop a video about her experience with colorectal cancer and the importance of screening
- Purchased and utilized an inflatable colon to engage community members and educate them about colorectal cancer at local events

Diabetes

- Screened 103 people
- Graduated 6 community members from the National Diabetes Prevention Program

Worksite Wellness

- Conducted worksite wellness assessment with Schuyler County
- Worked with local businesses to implement public health initiatives

HEAL Schuyler

- Implemented a new e-newsletter
- Conducted a photo contest for images of healthy eating and active living opportunities in Schuyler County
- Implemented new voluntary food standards with community restaurants
- Continued Schuyler walking trail maps
- Implemented a new Exercise is Medicine program in collaboration with providers

General Chronic Disease

- Graduated 7 community members from the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program
- Presented at two area high schools about healthy behaviors

Tobacco

- Presented to the Montour Falls Village Board on Tobacco Free Outdoors policies, which resulted in a planned policy change

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/

- Presented to the Watkins Glen Lodging and Tourism Association on integrating e-cigarettes into tobacco free policies, with at least one policy change planned as a result
- In celebration of Earth Day, held a cigarette butt pickup event at She-Qua-Ga Falls Park
- Held discussions on Tobacco 21 at 5 OFA congregate meal sites

Goals for 2019

General Chronic Disease

- Collaborate with UR Medicine and the S2AY Rural Health Network to provide evidence-based classes and programs
- Collaborate with community partners to increase screening rates for cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and breast and colorectal cancers
- Increase the number of restaurants participating in the voluntary nutrition and beverage standards program (Choose HEALTH)
- Promote and improve access to healthy foods through community partnerships
- Continue collaboration with employers and other partners in the community to promote worksite wellness
- Use the Schuyler Walks program, the HEAL Schuyler newsletter, and social media to promote things in the community residents can do to be active

Tobacco

- Conduct presentations on e-cigarettes for faculty and staff at all 3 Schuyler County school districts
- Work to implement new tobacco-related policy changes, such as Tobacco Free Outdoors policies
- Work with the Schuyler County Coalition on Underage Drinking and Drugs (SCCUDD) to collect, analyze, and respond to survey data on youth tobacco use

Communicable Disease

What is this?

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

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



Who works on this?

Chelsea Bailey RN, BSN
Public Health Nurse

Eleanor Fausold MPH
Public Health Specialist

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.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 In 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 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.⁵ For this program, we collaborate extensively with law enforcement, local veterinary offices, and the Humane Society.

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 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.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 develop active TB.⁷ We investigate each individual case of TB to distinguish between LTBI and active TB to ensure proper treatment and to implement precautions to prevent the spread of active TB in the community.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2018 Accomplishments

Rabies

- Provided rabies vaccination for 549 animals through free Rabies Clinics
- Successfully provided Post-Exposure Prophylaxis to 58 individuals exposed, or potentially exposed, to rabies
- Trained additional staff in rabies case investigations
- Provided education and outreach to local towns and villages

Arthropod

- 95% of treated Lyme cases met case definition

STDs

- Saw a decrease in the number of chlamydia cases in Schuyler County
- Together with S2AY Rural Health Network's Team Chlamydia and the NYS CEI STD Center of Excellence, facilitated an educational meeting for regional health care providers on STDs in the Finger Lakes
- Provided syphilis education and resources to health care providers

Vaccine-Preventable Disease

- Worked on immunization outreach efforts to underserved populations
- Began work on an evidence-based intervention to increase health care worker flu vaccination rates in collaboration with the Immunization Coalition of the Southern Tier

General Communicable Disease

- Conducted 244 communicable disease investigations
- Distributed weekly communicable disease surveillance reports to local health care providers, schools, and agencies

Goals for 2019

Rabies

- Provide 8 free Rabies Clinics
- Vaccinate 800 animals through public health rabies clinics
- Provide outreach and education to at-risk populations about rabies
- Provide outreach to farms and large animal owners about the importance of rabies vaccinations

Arthropod

- Distribute 500 tick removal kits
- Continue to conduct tick and Lyme disease education

STDs

- Continue to work with the S2AY Rural Health Network's Team Chlamydia to reduce chlamydia rates in the region

Vaccine-Preventable Disease

- Increase use of available immunization resources by underserved populations

General Communicable Disease

- Implement a Quality Improvement project to improve communicable disease surveillance
- Conduct staff training on communicable disease to increase the number of staff who are available to serve as backups for program activities

Environmental Health

What is this?

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

Who works on this?

Ward Brower

SCCUDD Project Coordinator

Josh Cole

Watershed Inspector Assistant

Eleanor Fausold MPH

Public Health Specialist

Darrel Sturges

Watershed Inspector

Elizabeth Watson MS

Public Health Specialist

Jill Wendela RN, MS

Public Health Nurse



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.³ Lead can be found in dust, air, water, soil, and in some products used in and around our homes.⁴ Children most often get lead poisoning from old lead paint dust that gets on 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

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

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

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

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

to check for lead poisoning.³ 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.

- **Watershed Protection Agency (WPA):** Water is important for health. It helps you regulate your temperature, cushion your joints, protect your spinal cord, and get rid of wastes.¹ However, when water is contaminated by germs, minerals, or chemicals it can cause serious health problems.² The WPA provides water sampling and testing services so residents can make sure their well water is safe to drink. In Schuyler County, the WPA commonly tests people's private water supplies for coliforms (like E. coli), nitrates, lead, sodium, and other contaminants that could affect people's health. If these contaminants are found in the water, the WPA connects homeowners with resources to address the problem. WPA also administers septic system programs to ensure the quality of surface and ground water in the county to prevent water contamination that could make people sick. Through this program, the WPA inspects septic systems for real estate property transfers and for new construction, property conversions, and replacement systems. The WPA also inspects septic systems for the Lamoka-Waneta Lake District/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.³ Alcohol and other drug use during adolescence increases the likelihood of developing addiction. Nine out of ten people with addiction started using substances before they turned 18.⁴ The Coalition uses a variety of strategies to reduce youth drug use in the community including hosting informational forums, organizing trainings for youth, and working to enact policies to reduce youth access to drugs. Schuyler County Public Health is a founding member of SCCUDD, 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.

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

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

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

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

2018 Accomplishments

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

- Worked on outreach efforts to underserved populations
- Participated in the first annual meeting of WNY Lead Poisoning Prevention programs
- The Finger Lakes Coalition to STOP Lead Poisoning website and Facebook page were created

Watershed

- Completed 928 water samples
- Inspected 192 septic systems in the Lamoka/Waneta Lake District
- Inspected 46 septic systems in the Cayuta Lake District
- Completed 28 New Construction Permits
- Completed 35 Replacement Permits
- Completed 16 Tank Upgrade Permits
- Completed 5 Conversion Permits
- Started the process to get all records set up electronically

SCCUDD

- Increased active adult and youth membership
- Collaborated with the Schuyler County Sheriff's Office for National Drug Take Back Day
- 150 people participated in take-back events or safe-storage education
- 39 compliance checks completed for off-site alcohol retailers, wineries, and breweries through the Council on Alcoholism and Addictions of the Finger Lakes to ensure alcohol was not sold to those underage
- Formed the Schuyler County Opioid Task Force
- Distributed 247 drug disposal packets into the community
- Provided education on safe medication disposal through Office for the Aging meal sites

Radon

- Distributed 247 radon test kits

SAFE

- Continued organizational presence at community events, such as the Waterfront Festival and the Family Fit Festival
- Began holding evening meetings once per quarter to increase meeting accessibility for community members
- Created a Facebook page for the coalition to increase community awareness and engagement
- Printed a full-page ad in the Hi-Lites on how to help someone who may be exhibiting warning signs of suicide

Goals for 2019

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

- Increase use of point of care testing by county providers

Watershed

- Complete 91% of the Lamoka/Waneta Lake District 5-year inspections due
- Complete 76% 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
- 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
- Apply for, and be awarded, a Drug-Free Communities Support Grant
- 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
- Conduct a survey in community schools to gather information about youth substance use and attitudes
- Organize information campaigns and events on alcohol, tobacco, prescription pain relievers, and other drugs

SAFE

- Train at least three individuals in Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Training so that they can host QPR trainings for others in the community
- Expand coalition membership and increase membership engagement to increase capacity and reach
- Promote existing local and national suicide prevention resources, like 2-1-1 and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

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.



Who works on this?

Chelsea Bailey RN, BSN
Public Health 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 communities.”³ MRC volunteers provide Schuyler County Public Health with manpower and technical skills during emergency and non-emergency events. They provide nursing and clerical

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>

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.

2018 Accomplishments

- Successfully completed the Medical Countermeasure Drill in April of 2018
- Participated in Emergency Management Office exercises and drills
- Held mandatory meetings for Schuyler County MRC volunteers

Goals for 2019

- Complete the new Public Health Asset Distribution plan and practice in a County Staging Site Drill in April 2019
- Update the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan with new NYS guidelines
- Outreach to at-risk populations about emergency planning in their family and communities
- Implement a new MRC tracking system and utilize ServNY

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?

Chelsea Bailey RN, BSN
Public Health Nurse

Eleanor Fausold MPH
Public Health Specialist

Shawn Tubridy MA
Family Support Worker

Janel Walker 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.¹ Schuyler County Public Health's part-time Family Support Worker provided these home visits and ensured expectant and new parents got the support they needed to raise happy and healthy children. Healthy Families Schuyler was a partnership between Cornell Cooperative Extension and Schuyler County Public Health. Schuyler County Public Health decided to discontinue this program late in 2018 after program and departmental resource considerations.
- **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.² 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

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

² 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>

who breastfeed are at lower risk of ovarian cancer, some types of breast cancer, and Type 2 diabetes.¹ 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 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.² 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.

2018 Accomplishments

Healthy Families

- 19 expectant and new parents received support through the program
- 22 referrals made for Healthy Families participants to community resources
- The decision to discontinue this program was made

Maternal Infant Health

- Staff person was trained as a Certified Lactation Counselor
- Participated in the Twin Tiers Breastfeeding Network's Breastfeeding awards, at which a staff member, Shawn Tubridy, was recognized
- Implemented multiple learning opportunities for the community through Schuyler Parents' Corner

Child Health

- Presented on fluoride varnish to health care providers at Schuyler Primary Care
- Facilitated fluoride varnish application training for three healthcare providers at Schuyler Primary Care; all three plan to integrate fluoride varnish application into their practice
- Over 200 children received preventative dental services through the Regional Primary Care Network's Community Dentistry Program

Goals for 2019

Healthy Families

- All families currently in the program will be transitioned to other services or programs in the community by March 31st, 2019 and the program will end.

Maternal Infant Health

- Coordinate new breastfeeding resources and opportunities with the Family Play and Resource Center
- Outreach to local providers about the program and available resources

Child Health

- Ensure that at least 3 County healthcare providers begin offering fluoride varnish in their practice
- Offer fluoride varnish education to additional Schuyler County primary care providers

¹ 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>

² 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 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 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 disorders². Schuyler County Public Health provides families in the community with information and referrals to the services or care their child needs.
- **Preschool Special Education Program:** The Preschool Special Education Program is available for children ages three to five who have a suspected delay or concern with their development. If a parent has a concern with their child's development, they can contact their local school district's Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) in order to get

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

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

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

2018 Accomplishments

CSHCN

- Disseminated a brochure explaining the CSHCN program and Preschool Special Education Program to various community agencies and at community events
- Connected children and families in the community with needed services, programs, and information
- Collaborated with other Department programs to promote Schuyler Parents' Corner and bring activities to children and families in the community
- Joined the newly formed Early Childhood Collaboration Committee to share information on resources and services available and address barriers in the community for children and families

Preschool Special Education Program

- 74 children received services through the Preschool Special Education Program in the 2017-2018 school year

Early Intervention Program

- Performance measures were established for the program
- 100% of children in the program had their initial IFSP held within 45 days of their referral to the program
- 2 children were discharged from the program due to reaching age-appropriate developmental milestones

Goals for 2019

Early Intervention Program

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

General Children's Program

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

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

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

What is this?

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

Who works on this?

Ward Brower

SCCUDD Project Coordinator

Eleanor Fausold MPH

Public Health Specialist

Elizabeth Watson MS

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

Accomplishments and Goals

In 2018, the Department began work on the next CHA/CHIP and completed a community survey and focus groups as part of the process. Progress made in 2018 on CHIP interventions 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. Additional accomplishments can be found in the HEAL Schuyler Annual Report for 2018. To learn more about progress made on CHIP interventions, and any revisions made to them, see the 2018 Annual CHIP Report. In 2019, the Department will continue to work on the interventions laid out in the CHIP and will complete the process to develop the new CHA and the CHIP for 2019-2024.

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



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 six QI Projects proposed or actively worked on in 2018. Projects that were proposed or worked on in 2018 included:
 - **Asthma:** Customer satisfaction surveys pointed to a potential issue with asthma in the community. A group was formed to examine whether asthma was an emerging issue. They planned to look in to the community health assessment survey data early in 2019 to determine whether a project was needed.
 - **Breastfeeding:** The group was formed to examine ways to increase participation in Schuyler Parents' Corner and other breastfeeding-focused activities. The project tried offering specialized classes and activities to improve participation. After that strategy was unsuccessful, the group determined it was integral to have a Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC) on staff. At the end of 2018, a staff member became a CLC and the group will look into new strategies and initiatives in 2019.

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

- Documentation for phone calls, one-on-ones, and educational events: This group was formed to address concerns related to some activities not being documented. The group created a tracking form and plans to gather feedback after staff use it.
- Healthy Families: This group was formed to improve performance measure tracking for the program. New performance measures were identified, then the project was closed.
- Preschool: This group was formed to improve understanding in the community about the Preschool Special Education Program and the Children with Special Health Care Needs program. The group developed a brochure and a letter to help explain the two programs and Public Health's role in them.
- Rabies documentation: This project was proposed to address redundancy in documenting rabies cases. The group will convene after the February 2019 audit.

2018 Accomplishments

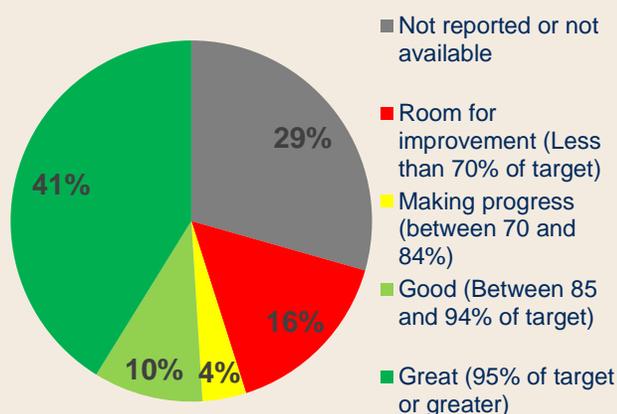
- Developed performance measures specific to PMQI
- Incorporated the Strategic Plan in to the 2018 Performance Measure Dashboard
- Utilized a new rating system to objectively capture progress on performance measures
- Completed program and administrative audits for: Admitted patients (Lead, Maternal Child Health, and Tuberculosis), Rabies, Communicable Disease, and Employee Files
- Collected customer satisfaction surveys and compiled results for the following programs: Children with Special Health Care Needs, Immunization Clinics, Communicable Disease, STD Clinic, Admitted Patients (Licensed Home Care Services Agency & Healthy Families discharges), Early Intervention, and Watershed
- Completed a training on Results-Based Accountability which prompted the Department to reexamine current performance measures
- Established a timeline for the completion of program audits and other items in the QI Activity Schedule and included new items to gather satisfaction surveys from coalitions the Department facilitates and from volunteers

Goals for 2019

- Reexamine the Department's performance measures to ensure they are actionable and accurately represent our performance and are not population-level indicators
- Consistently track performance measures and complete program audits in a timely manner
- Establish a timeline 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 and initiate new projects, as needed

Performance Management:

How did we do in reaching our goals in 2018?



Overall, the Department made good or great progress on more than half of our 102 performance measures with 41% of targets met or exceeded. Of the remaining measures, 29% were not collected due to either activities or programs not occurring or being discontinued or data being unavailable.

Program staff and the PMQI Committee examined the 16% of performance measures with room for improvement. Many of these were either population-level indicators or were otherwise not a good judge of the Department's performance. These measures will not be included in 2019 and new, more meaningful measures will be added. The remaining measures will be examined by program staff, or QI Projects where appropriate, and new strategies will be developed to improve performance and impact.

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 works on this?

Deborah Dalmat MPH, CHES
Public Health Specialist

Jill Wendela RN, MS
Public Health Nurse



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

2018 Accomplishments

- Completed the Pre-Site Visit Review process
- Completed the Site Visit with a team from PHAB
- Began work on developing Action Plans to address a few areas PHAB would like to see improvement on from the five-county multijurisdictional group

Goals for 2019

- Collaborate with the five-county group to complete all required Action Plans required by PHAB
- Complete all activities and objectives in Schuyler County's 3 Action Plans and submit them to PHAB
- Become an accredited public health department

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



Who works on this?

Deborah Dalmat MPH, CHES
Public Health Specialist

Deborah Minor RN, MPH
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

2018 Accomplishments

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

- Discussed the best way to develop a community inventory and looked in to what other counties do
- Met with a representative from the Chamber of Commerce about developing marketing plans

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

- Worked on developing measures that are actionable and are not population-level indicators
- Staff received a variety of data-related trainings
- A County GIS task force was developed and looked in to hiring a GIS Coordinator

Build agency sustainability

- Developed job guidelines or other job help tools for some programs
- Some duties were restructured in preparation for the retirement of the Public Health Director
- New staff were oriented to their programs and additional staff were trained as back up and for on-call
- Updated the Workforce Development Plan to make trainings more helpful and less cumbersome

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 Accomplishments

Janel Walker

**Awarded
Employee of the
Year**

Marcia Kasprzyk

**Retired as
Public Health
Director after
32 years with the
County**

Janel Walker

**Retired as a
Public Health Nurse
after 10 years with
the County**

Eleanor Fausold

**Hired as a
Public Health
Specialist**

Eleanor Fausold

**Received her
Master of Public
Health Degree**

Deborah Minor

**Contracted as the
new Public Health
Director**

**Jill Wendela
and Deborah Dalmat**

**Included on the NYS
Public Health Works!
Honor Roll**

Ward Brower

**Contracted as the
new SCCUDD Project
Coordinator**

Amber Colby

**Hired as an
AmeriCorps VISTA
Worker**

**Eleanor Fausold
and Chelsea Bailey**

**Completed
PIO Awareness
Training**

Shawn Tubridy

**Became a
Certified Lactation
Counselor**

**Deborah Dalmat
Published in the
journal Circulation:
Cardiovascular
Quality and
Outcomes**

**Eleanor Fausold
and Chelsea Bailey**

**Attended FEMA's
training on Personal
Protective Measures
for Biological Events**

Corie Stansfield

**Reached her
20th year with the
County**

Karen Thurston

**Elected Vice
President of SCCUDD**

Donna Miller

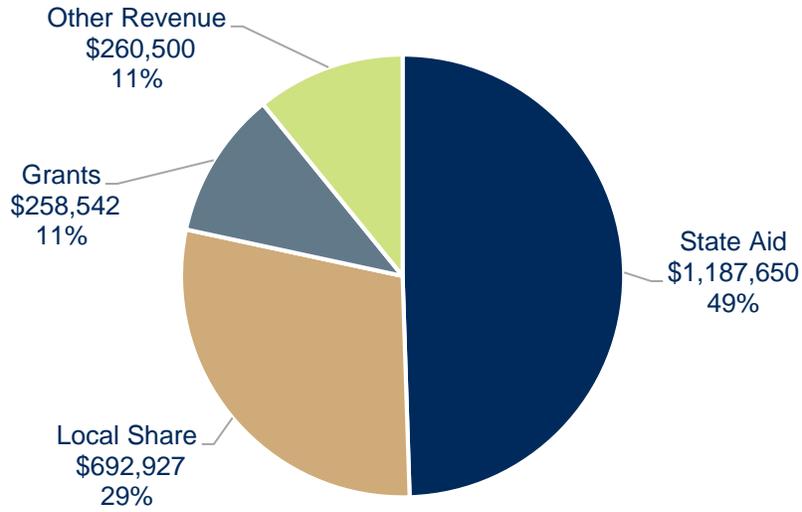
**Completed
Basic Life Support
Class**

Karen Thurston

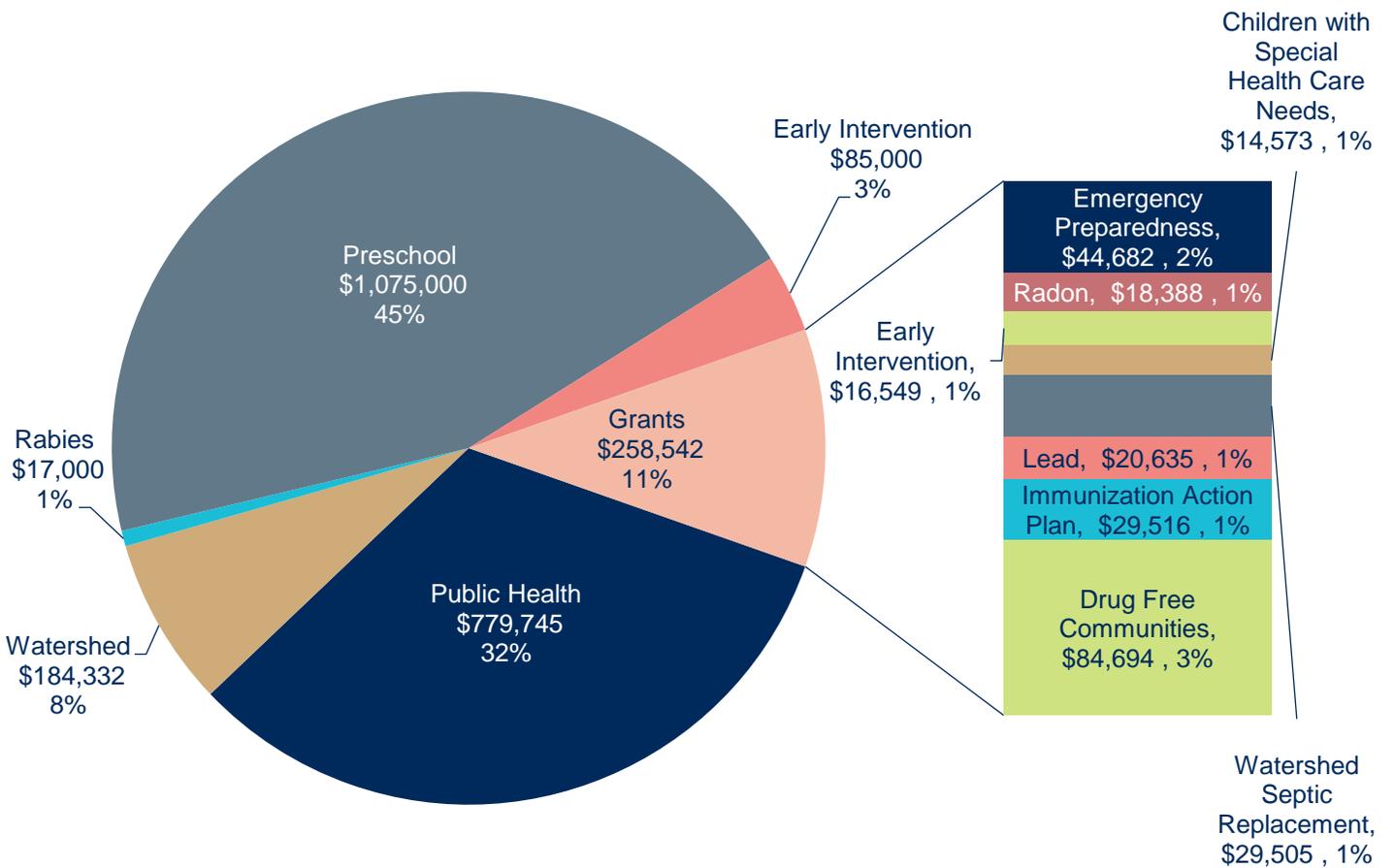
**Completed CADCA
Key Essentials
Training**

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.)

Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower, Albany, NY 12237 | health.ny.gov

New York State Department of Health Hornell District Office Contribution to the Schuyler County Public Health Department 2018 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 2018 calendar year included the following:

- Conducted 287 inspections at the county’s regulated facilities. Of those inspections approximately 109 permanent food service operations and 93 inspections at temporary food service operations.
- Conducted eight sanitary surveys (enhanced inspections) at community water systems (primarily municipalities and mobile home parks) and 34 sanitary surveys at other regulated facilities with onsite water supplies.
- Conducted 16 student aide compliance visits to tobacco retailers to ensure compliance with the Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act (ATUPA).
- Investigated seven 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 six formal enforcement action (Administrative Tribunal Hearings) to address NYS Sanitary Code violations at regulated facilities.

From January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2018, 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, 2018, HDO initiated formal enforcement actions (Administrative Tribunal Hearings) against seven 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).

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

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Schuyler County Public Health



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

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