



Geauga County Health District Annual Report

The Geauga County Health District is dedicated to improving public health by monitoring, educating, and promoting community and environmental health services in Geauga County, Ohio.

A Note from the Health Commissioner

Throughout 2017, the Geauga County Health District (GCHD) has been heavily involved in the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) process, which has required the agency to invest hundreds of work hours to develop the necessary accreditation paperwork. Concurrently, GCHD is working to become as efficient as possible, in part with the advancement of day-to-day technology, in order to adapt to the ever changing atmosphere of public health. This involves an increased emphasis on population education, and a subsequent reduction of individualized services. With this concept in mind, you will note increased efforts towards health education as a public health emphasis.



The Environmental Health division has been tasked with a number of unfunded state mandates which require an inspection or regulatory action. These mandated programs warrant numerous hours of investigation, paperwork, and court action when necessary. While it is never easy to inform a resident of a problem that will inevitably cost them money to correct, it is our duty to follow through with such cases, and GCHD would prefer to work with our residents during a corrective action plan. In order to support Geauga County residents during a corrective action plan, GCHD has once again secured grant money from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to financially assist those who qualify with installing a new sewage system.

GCHD's Personal Health Services Division has recently been retitled the Health and Wellness Division, in order to better align to core essential service changes set forth by the state of Ohio. This division's primary focus involves the implementation of the aforementioned changes, while also providing the health services necessitated by both the community and the state.

GCHD is also focusing on professional, efficient operations that will protect the residents of Geauga County. As such, strategies are being implemented to meet the needs of the residents, and to provide the highest quality public health services in Geauga County.

Robert K. Weisdack

Health Commissioner



Residential Sewage Treatment

2017 New & Alteration Permits

# of permits	Type of Sewage System	
127	Septic tanks followed by leach trenches	
8	Pre-treatment followed by leach trenches	
31	Septic Tanks to Mound system	
0	Pre-treatment to Mound system	
2	Septic tanks to Drip Distribution	
0	Pre-treatment to Drip Distribution	
126	EPA NPDES permit to discharge	
10	Spray Irrigation	
35	Miscellaneous	
28	Alteration Permits	
367	Total New and Alteration Permits	

GCHD regulates household sewage treatment systems for one, two, and three family residences in Geauga County. Approximately 70% of county residences utilize individual household sewage systems. In 2017, the health district issued 367 permits for sewage systems, which included both new home systems, and replacement systems for existing homes. A sewage permit must be obtained prior to the installation or alteration of a sewage system, and the following permit requires a site evaluation by GCHD, in order to determine the location and type of system that can be installed on the property. Sewage systems are inspected at the time of installation to assure compliance with sewage regulations, and all homes sold in Geauga County that have a household sewage system are required to have a point of sale inspection by the health district. GCHD also maintains an active nuisance complaint program for sewage and other complaints. Complaints must be submitted in writing and signed, upon which they are investigated; if a complaint is justified, orders will be issued to obtain compliance.

Water Pollution Control Loan Fund

The Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) is a grant program provided by OEPA, with support from the Department of Environmental Financial Assistance (DEFA). The mission of the WPCLF is "to benefit Ohio's water resources and public health by providing lower cost to finance, economic incentives, and project assistance for public and private organizations and individuals". The WPCLF is a revolving fund designed to provide homeowners with financial compensation and assistance in repairing or replacing a failing sewage treatment system. GCHD's role in WPCLF involves the financial qualification of county residents, assisting in the bidding process to ensure equitable costs, and evaluating the system to ensure proper installation. To date, GCHD has participated in the WPCLF program in both 2016 and 2017, assisting five homeowners in both 2016 and 2017; 2017 WPCLF funds will be available until January 1, 2019, and GCHD will be submitting an application to participate in the 2018 WPCLF to further assist those Geauga County residents in need.

2017 For Sale of Property Inspections						
System Type		Pass	Malfunction	% Pass	% Malfunction	
Off-lot Discharge						
1000 gallon tank & filter bed		4	12	25%	75%	
2x1000 gal tank &subsurface sand filter		17	9	65%	35%	
NSF Class 1 aerator, surface sand filter, disinfection		36	0	100%	0%	
NPDES off-lot discharge		16	26	38%	62%	
Misc.		3	3	50%	50%	
On-lot dispersal systems						
2x1000 gal tanks & split trench		288	17	94%	6%	
2x1000 gal tanks & 500' trench (pre-1985)		122	23	84%	16%	
Mound		3	0	100%	0%	
Drip Distribution		7	0	100%	0%	
Misc.	17	14	3	82%	18%	
Total	603					

Food Safety Division

The goal of GCHD's Food Safety Division is to ensure that safe and wholesome food is provided to the public. This is achieved by way of effective and reliable enforcement, information sharing, service, and education to both the public and food facility operators. Locations that sell food directly to the public must fulfill the requirements set forth in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code (OUFSC). A food service license is purchased from GCHD, and inspections are routinely conducted to ensure compliance with OUFSC rules. The types of inspections can be classified as: routine, follow-up, critical control point, complaint, and foodborne illnesses. A routine inspection is unannounced to the facility, and a complete inspection is conducted to ensure OUFSC compliance. Follow-up inspections are completed when routine inspection items were out of compliance, and a critical control point inspection involves the evaluation and documentation of critical sections pertaining to regulations and critical procedures. A complaint investigation is completed when GCHD receives a food operation complaint, and the complaint details are discussed with the facility manager. When a foodborne outbreak is







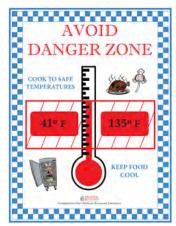


suspected, an investigation is initiated, food and stool specimens are collected, and laboratory tests are conducted.

In 2017, GCHD licensed and inspected 287 food service operations, 136 retail food establishments, 55 mobile food service operations, and 60 temporary food service operations. Examples of a food service operation include restaurants, schools, kitchens, daycares, hospitals, bars, and nursing homes. Retail food establishments include grocery stores, convenience stores, gas stations, bakeries, and pizza shops. Mobile food service operations also function as a food service operation, though

they are not permitted to stay in one location for more than 40 days. Temporary food service licenses are issued to operators preparing food at festivals or fairs, and are only permitted to operate for up to five consecutive days. Inspection frequency, which is based upon state law, is determined by facility risk classification, and areas addressed during an inspection include staff hygiene, food handling, physical facilities, and general sanitation practices. This includes, but is not limited to correct food storage and preparation, employee work practices, cleanliness, proper equipment operation, and food facility maintenance.

Each Food Safety Division inspector must have a bachelor's degree with a minimum of 30 credit hours of math and science. Additionally, inspectors must obtain a minimum of 18 hours of accredited continuing education classes per year, and routinely work with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) for updates on rule changes and state or nationwide food product recalls. The Food Safety Division staff also attend the Northeast Ohio Food Roundtable meetings, the latter of which are composed of state and local health inspectors, in order to discuss public health issues that may affect Northeast Ohio.



Plumbing

The role of the plumbing inspector is to ensure that new and remodeled plumbing align with the Ohio Plumbing Code. In 2017, a total of 62 commercial plumbing permits were issued, and 173 commercial plumbing inspections were completed. Additionally, 394 residential plumbing permits were issued, and a total of 714 residential plumbing inspections were completed. Commonly identified issues involve the permitting and inspection of new construction residences or commercial structures, in addition to alterations, additions, and hot water tank replacements. The plumbing inspector also works with GCHD Environmental Health sanitarians and Geauga County Building Department inspectors to ensure food service operation and retail food establishment



compliance, and that any remodeling in these facilities align with current codes and regulations. Commonly identified violations include air gaps on waste lines, grease trap flow restrictions, and indirect and direct sink connections.

Private Water Systems Program

GCHD regulates private water systems in the county through the enforcement of the private water system rules, as outlined in the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), Sections 3701-28-01 thru 3701-28-19, and a permit is required for the installation, alteration, or sealing of a private water system. In 2016, the Health District issued 162 new well permits, 27 alteration permits, and 12 sealing permits.

All new private water systems are required to be tested for total coliform bacteria and nitrates, as the safety of a household's water supply cannot be assumed from colorless, odorless, and/or neutral-tasting water. Regulations established by ODH require private water systems to contain a total of four coliform units or less to permit the use of the water. During the testing process, total coliform bacteria are considered an "indicator" organism, as pathogen concentrations from fecal contamination are small, and the number of potential pathogens is extensive. As such, it is not practical to test for pathogens in every water sample collected. Instead, the presence of pathogens can be determined with indirect evidence by testing for an "indicator" organism, such as total coliform bacteria. Total coliform bacteria are simple to identify, are present in larger numbers than more dangerous pathogens, and react to the natural environment and treatment processes similarly to pathogens. As a result, testing for total coliform bacteria can be a reasonable indication of whether pathogenic bacteria are present.

There are several kinds of defects that can allow for a private water well to become contaminated with total coliform bacteria, and may include a missing or defective well cap, insufficient wire, pipe, or cap seals, well casing cracks or holes, and local contaminant seepage from outside of the well casing.

If a well has been contaminated with total coliform bacteria, these contaminants can be effectively eliminated by way of several methods, such as ultraviolet disinfection, chlorine disinfection, filtration, and/or ozonation. Long term options for a contaminated well include well repair, the installation of continuous disinfection equipment, construction of a new well, or connection to a regional public water system.

Body Art

GCHD regulates body art establishments through the enforcement of OAC Section 3701-9 and ORC Section 3730.01. Body art, as defined by OAC Section 3701-9-01(F), consists of "the practice of physical body adornment, including tattooing, permanent cosmetics and/or body piercing. This definition does not include practices that are considered medical procedures by the state medical board, performed with medical devices, that include but are not limited to biopsy or dermal punches and scalpels".

The respective license is valid for one year, beginning January 1 and expiring December 31. Standard inspection frequency consists of one inspection per licensing year, unless a follow-up inspection is warranted.

Plan reviews prior to licensing include requirements such as non-absorbable and easily cleaned walls, floors, tables, and equipment, approved disposal of infectious waste, accurate and current record keeping, aftercare procedures, proper sterilization, artist verification of bloodborne pathogen training, artist restrictions and training, the presence of underage consent documents for those under 18 years of age, and an approved infection control plan.

In 2017, five body art facilities were issued licenses by the Geauga County Health District.

Solid Waste Program

GCHD works in cooperation with the Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste District (GTSWD) and OEPA, in order to enforce solid waste regulations throughout Geauga County. GCHD also regulates and inspects scrap tire generators, infectious waste generators, compost sites, and investigates solid waste nuisance complaints.

There are 14 drop-off recycling locations within Geauga County. Additionally, GTSWD operates the Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Facility, located at their office at 5738 Enterprise Boulevard in Warren, Ohio. The facility is open to all Geauga County residents on Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, beginning May 3, 2017, to October 25, 2017. In 2017, the facility was also open to residents on May 6, June 3, August 5, and October 7 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Microwaves are now accepted, and televisions are accepted for an additional fee.

In 2017, GTSWD held a one-day collection event, facilitating the disposal of appliances and household hazardous wastes, and offering document destruction services. During this one-day event, the following Geauga County collection totals were documented:

Document destruction: 10,000 pounds
 Appliances recycled: 6.57 tons
 Household hazardous waste: 37.58 tons



Health Education

Scrap tires:

- (1) Transportation and (1) nutritional assessment were disseminated throughout the county at all Geauga Public Libraries.
- The Geauga Nutrition Activity Partnership (GNAP) was founded, in conjunction with the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Grant.

73.12 tons

- Collaboration with Lake-Geauga-Ashtabula Tobacco Coalition, has facilitated positive tobacco free influence in the
 community. Especially, with the recent smoke free policies that are planned to be implemented at HUD locations
 in 2018.
- Safe-Sleep policies were implemented at two local organizations.
- GCHD, will be implementing Cribs for Kids® program in 2018, made possible by the Maternal and Child health Grant through the Ohio Department of Health.

Accreditation

- The GCHD Community Health Assessment report was finalized, and a community release event was scheduled for the end of June.
- A new Community Health Improvement Planning process was identified, facilitated in part by the Lake County General Health District (LCGHD), Finalization of the document will be January 2018.
- A GCHD Accreditation Coordinator was designated.
- Strategic Plan updating sessions began in July 2017.



The Health and Wellness Division of the Geauga County General Health District is responsible for maintaining a healthy and prepared community through various programs. Our focus is on prevention, and many of our services are offered at different locations throughout the county, as well as limited home visits. The following is a summary of our programs and those who are served through them.

Children's Services

Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMH): BCMH is an ODH program, with the goal of assuring that children with special health care needs receive comprehensive, coordinated care. Public health nurses are the local contact for families, and provide early identification, evaluation, and referral for qualifying children from birth to 21 years of age. Families receive culturally competent services from public health nurses, and these services include: child assessments, care plan development, health promotion, and advocacy. In 2017, GCHD public health nurses completed 36 home visits to children who qualified for this program.

Immunization Clinics for Children and Adolescents: GCHD public health nurses hold five to six monthly child and adolescent immunization clinics across three Geauga County locations. These are walk-in clinics that do not require an appointment, and for qualifying children through 18 years of age, immunizations are provided free of charge. This service is supported by funding from the Immunization Action Plan, and ODH supplies these vaccines through the federally funded Vaccines For Children program. Immunizations are also available for those with insurance. In 2017, the GCHD administered 3,870 immunizations to 1,245 children across 56 clinics, not including flu shots.

Lead Program: GCHD's Health and Wellness division, in conjunction with ODH, collaborate to provide blood lead level screenings and follow up services for Geauga County children. GCHD's public health nurses conduct case management activities, including contacting families of children with elevated lead levels, and provide educational/medical recommendations and guidance. Lead level screenings are provided to children at well child clinics, and in other high-risk situations. In 2017, 60 lead screenings were conducted, and one elevated blood lead level was identified. As a result, a GCHD public health nurse provided education, home evaluation, and referral resources for the family of this child with elevated blood levels.

Maternal/Newborn Home Visiting: GCHD public health nurses visit new mothers and their infants at the request of the family or physician. These home visits include an evaluation of the mother's recovery, assessment of the infant's early growth and development, a detailed education on a variety of preventive health issues (including safe sleep), and referrals to other community agencies when indicated. In 2017, GCHD public health nurses completed 33 maternal/newborn home visits to families in Geauga County, and this service was provided free of charge.

School Services: GCHD provides public health nurses to assist with health record management, vision screenings, and healthcare referrals for Geauga County schools with less than 100 students. In 2017, these nurses made 55 visits to the parochial schools in Geauga County, providing service to 1,136 students. Additionally, GCHD public health nurses network with local school nurses, both public and private, regarding outbreak surveillance, vaccination for students, and information related to child health issues; public health nurses also meet with public school nurses twice a year to collaborate on related issues.

Sudden Unexplained Infant Death (SUID) Home Visits: GCHD public health nurses offer information and referral services to bereaved Geauga County families, offering family members the opportunity to express feelings regarding the death of an infant in a safe and non-judgmental environment. No support visits were requested in 2017.

Vision Program: GCHD partners with Prevent Blindness Ohio in an effort to provide a Vision Service Plan (VSP) to Geauga County families without insurance, and those that do not qualify for federal aid. GCHD public health nurses identify families in need and arrange for VSP service, which provides an eye examination by a licensed optometrist, as well as glasses, at no charge to the family. This service was offered to 116 children in 2017.

Well Child Services: GCHD also provides well child clinics for qualifying families which involves the screening of children's development, dental, lead, hemoglobin, and nutrition status, respectively. Additionally, health education is provided to family members, a licensed physician performs physical exams, and GCHD public health nurses administer immunizations. In 2017, 20 well child clinics provided service to 234 children.

Adult Services

Communicable Disease Investigation:

The Health and Wellness (H&W) Division provides surveillance of communicable diseases reported in Geauga County in compliance with the Ohio Department of Health Infectious Disease reporting requirements and CDC (Center for Disease Control) recommendations. The Disease Surveillance Specialist (DSS) performs investigations on diseases that pose a public health threat due to their communicability or virulence. The DSS collaborates with the Environmental Health (EH) division when a food borne illness outbreak is suspected. In addition, the DSS provides information and data collection for any possible or confirmed vector-borne disease in collaboration with EH. Included in this category of diseases are West Nile Virus, Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever, to name just a few. In 2017, the health district investigated 414 reports of communicable disease: 22% included vaccine preventable diseases, 45% included STD's (sexually transmitted disease), 10% included food and waterborne diseases and 23% were miscellaneous such as non-vaccine preventable diseases and viruses. For comparison in 2016 the health district investigated 428 reports of communicable disease. Rabies case management is also managed with collaboration between the DSS and EH. EH tracks animal bites and collects specimens to send to the ODH Lab and human rabies exposures are followed by EH. In 2017, the health district processed 33 rabies specimens with one positive result.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

GCHD continues to be actively involved in Geauga County emergency preparedness planning, and currently coordinates it's respective plans with Northeast Ohio health departments, hospitals, emergency services, law enforcement agencies, fire departments, schools, the American Red Cross, and other related agencies. This planning prepares GCHD staff for responding to a wide range of emergencies, which may include natural disasters, severe weather conditions, environmental emergencies, chemical disasters, disease outbreaks, and mass casualty events. Preparation for any emergency, regardless of whether it is a power outage, snowstorm, disease pandemic, or terrorist attack, requires planning. GCHD urges community members to construct a household disaster plan and gather essential supplies to keep in your home, such that you will know what to do, where to go, and how to communicate in the event of an emergency.

Senior Services

GCHD sends a public health nurse to the Geauga Senior Center four times per month, in order to provide blood pressure screenings for both adult day care clients and the general senior population participating in senior center activities. The respective nurse also provides education and support and is available to answer questions. These services are funded by the Title III/Community Block Grant, which is managed by the Department on Aging. In 2017, these services were provided to 1,139 seniors.

Tuberculosis Control

In accordance with Ohio law, GCHD promotes Tuberculosis (TB) control and containment by screening high-risk Geauga County populations, including immigration investigations, maintaining a register of positive reactors, and following through with suitable treatment for individuals. GCHD public health nurses perform routine TB testing at the Health District office, and during visits at several residential facilities. In 2017, GCHD public health nurses administered 83 TB tests, with one positive reactor. Three TB clinics were held by the medical director at GCHD, providing evaluation and treatment to high-risk Geauga County residents.

Immunization/Blood Pressure Clinics for Adults

The GCHD Health and Wellness division holds clinics every Friday at the Health District office for adult immunizations and blood pressure screenings, administered by GCHD's public health nurses. Blood pressure screenings are provided at no charge, and the cost of adult immunizations is based on the vaccine cost, and the addition of a modest administration fee. Seasonal flu vaccine clinics are held at different sites throughout the county. In 2017, the GCHD nursing division administered 434 adult immunizations, 344 flu shots, and performed 12 blood pressure evaluations.

Health and Wellness Division Summary 2017

Illness and Disease Reports	414
Tuberculosis Tests Administered	83
TB Positive Reactors	1
Newborn Home Visits	33
Well Child Clinics	20
Well Child Service Visits	234
Blood-lead Level Screenings	60
Parochial School Visits	55
Parochial Students Seen	1,136
Vision Service Plan Referrals	116
Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps Home Visits	36
Adult Immunizations Administered	434
Children's Immunization Clinics	56
Children's Immunizations	3,870
Children Immunized	1,245
Senior Clinic Visits	38
Seniors Blood Pressure Evaluations	1,139
Flu Shots (adult and children)	

2017 Financial Report

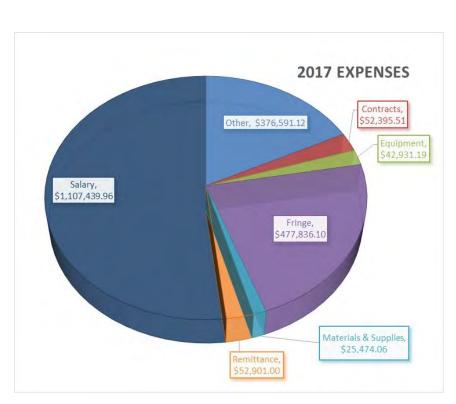
Revenue

Description	Amount		
Fees	\$	695,940.18	
Levy	\$	547,738.40	
Permits	\$	493,407.00	
State	\$	204,752.24	
Licenses	\$	184,798.50	
Federal	\$	119,432.88	
Other	\$	90,782.73	
Fines	\$	8,872.25	
Reimbursement	\$	180.00	
Total Revenue	\$ 2	2,345,904.18	



Expenses

Description		Amount		
Salary		1,107,439.96		
Fringe		477,836.10		
Other		376,591.12		
Remittance		52,901.00		
Contracts		52,395.51		
Equipment		42,931.19		
Materials & Supplies		25,474.06		
Total Expense		2,135,568.94		



Geauga County Health District

District Advisory Council

GCHD's District Advisory Council is composed of Township Trustee chairpersons, and Village and City Mayors, in order to oversee the appointment of the Board of Health members, and to review the reports and financial status of the Geauga County Health District.

Ken Radtke, President

Erwin Leffel, Secretary

Board of Health

One Board of Health member is appointed annually for a five year term, and serves as public health service and program advocate. The Board of Health is a quasi-judicial, policy development body tasked with determining, establishing, and monitoring public health policy. Additionally, the Board of Health is responsible for adopting the annual budget, and ensuring adequate funding for the Health District.



Timothy Goergen, President Hambden Township Term Expires 2018



Christina Livers, Pro-Tem Russell Township Term Expires 2019



Jonathan Wynbrandt, M.D. Chester Township Term Expires 2020



David Gragg Newbury Township Term Expires 2022



Catherine Whitright Munson Township Term Expires 2021



J. Bradley Moritz, M.D. Medical Director



Health and Wellness Services

Adult Immunization Clinics
BCMH Home Visits
Children & Adolescent Immunization Clinics
Communicable Disease Surveillance
Illness & Disease Reporting
Influenza (seasonal & pandemic flu) Clinics
Health Promotion & Education
Maternal & Newborn Home Visits
School Health Services & Coordination
Senior Clinics & Health Education
TB Testing & Surveillance
Walk-in Pregnancy Testing
Well Child Clinics



Environmental Health Division

Animal Bite Investigation County & State Camp Inspections **Nuisance Complaint Investigations Plumbing Permits & Inspections** Potable Water Hauler Permits & Inspections Private Water Well Permits & Inspections Rabies Prevention & Surveillance **Retail Food Establishment Inspections** Restaurant / Food Service Inspections Temporary & Mobile Food Service Inspections School Environmental Inspections Semi-Public Sewage Certificates & Inspections Septage Land Application Site Inspections Septic Tank Cleaner Permits & Inspections **Sewage Treatment Permits & Inspections** For Sale of Property Inspections Solid & Infectious Waste Inspections **Swimming Pool Inspections** Tattoo & Body Piercing Permits & Inspections **Vending Machine Inspections**



Vital Statistics

Birth Certificates
Death Certificates
Burial Permits

Administration

Registrar
Fiscal Coordinator
Computer Systems Support
Community Health Assessment
Accreditation Preparation
Bio-terrorism Planning
Public Health Emergency Preparedness