Joint City-Cowley County Health Department



City-Cowley County Health Department 320 E 9th, Suite B Winfield, KS 67156 620-221-1430 The report of activities and accomplishments of the Joint City-County Health Department for the year ended December 31, 2017. This report is provided to the elected representatives and citizens of Cowley County, Kansas.



From the Administrator/Public Health Officer:

Public Health promotes and protects the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play. During 2017 your Health Department focused on ways to continue to improve the accessibility and delivery of services that promote wellness and encourage healthy behaviors.

During the past year we have accomplished many things. The Health Department has added travel vaccination services to our immunization menu meaning that local residents no longer need to drive to Wichita or beyond for services prior to travel for work or leisure. Additionally the Health Department played a major role in shaping and designing community wellness plans that were proposed by RISE Cowley, our local community health coalition in the form of a grant application to Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Kansas. The result of that effort was the awarding of a "Pathways to a Healthy Kansas grant." This grant will allow the entire Cowley County community the opportunity to advance activities in much needed areas such as, personal health, workplace wellness, healthy foods and increased physical activity.

As we begin 2018 we will be reviewing information that we have gathered from the residents who participated in our community wide health perceptions assessment. The information you provided will help us sharpen our focus and amend our Community Health Improvement Plan in 2018.

All of our accomplishments in 2017 were achieved while being fiscally responsible. For the second straight year we were able to meet our income goals and keep our expenses under control. This means we were able to provide our services and did not need to ask for increases in allocations from the taxpayers in the community.

The Health Department accomplishments could not occur if we did not have a loyal and well trained staff. I cannot express enough my gratitude to them for the commitment to good health that they provide for all of you. Also the guidance and input of the Board of Health, a devoted group of volunteers who give of themselves to benefit others, is outstanding and I am humbled to work with them. Finally, I am very thankful for our city and county managers and the elected commissioners who represent us and live in our communities. Your support of the Health Department indicates that you value good health and the work being accomplished.

Once again I am pleased to provide this annual report; so you may stay informed about what the Health Department does and how our efforts help us all enjoy healthier lives. Our intent is to help Cowley County become one of the healthiest counties in Kansas.

Stay Well;

Thomas Langer Administrator/Public Health Officer



Our Vision:

Cowley County residents enjoying healthy lives, exercising personal responsibility for their health and the health of their family members.

Our Mission:

The City-Cowley County Health Department works to promote excellent health, prevent disease, and to protect the environment to benefit all our citizens.

Prevent~Promote~Protect

CITY-COWLEY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2017 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

In 1946, a joint resolution was adopted by the Cowley County Board of Commissioners and the Boards of Commissioners in the cities of Arkansas City and Winfield, Kansas. The resolution included local health and nursing boards that unified and formed the Joint City-Cowley County Health Department. The newly formed health department was to be governed by a local Board of Health with each of the local governing bodies appointing its members. Our Board of Health was one of the first eighteen within all of the state of Kansas and to this day retains the same structure that was designed by the original founders.

More than seventy years have passed and the City-Cowley County Health Department remains committed to public health service. We are a multi-disciplinary organization that includes physicians, nurses, environmental officers, epidemiologists, biostatisticians, dietitians, health educators and communication professionals. We assess common health measures and work to improve community health and the quality of life by providing interventions and promoting healthy behaviors.

This constitutes the Annual Report of Activities to the local appropriating units of government for the City-Cowley County Health Department as required in our founding Constitution and the Bylaws of the Board of Health. This report is evidence that we are continuing to fulfill our mission within the community. While a report such as this strives to be comprehensive it cannot detail everything that occurred. Please enjoy this presentation as record of our activities and accomplishments during 2017 as summarized below:

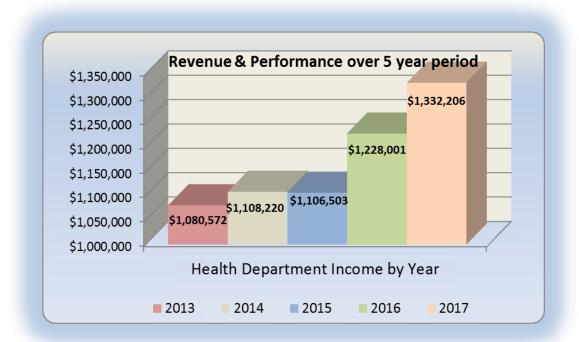
2017 FINANCIAL REPORT

Your Health Department is committed to operating efficiently while providing excellent service to all county residents. The fiscal condition of the City-Cowley County Health Department is very stable. During 2017 Jarrett & Norton CPA's provided audit services to insure that all organizational accounting practices are consistent with generally accepted accounting principles for governmental entities and public law. All requisite reports and filings that account for expenditure of funds entrusted to the health department were made on time and without material error. During 2017 the Health Department continued to exhibit professional fiscal management in keeping with the highest expectations of our citizens and the local, state and federal governments.

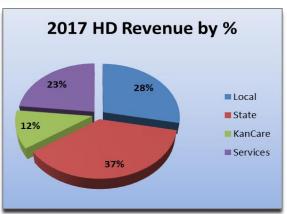
In 2017 the Board of Health approved a balanced budget in the amount of \$1,229,120. The final unaudited income for the year was \$1,332,206. Income was 8.4% higher than projected due to increased revenue for service provision, mostly in the area of immunization and health protection services.

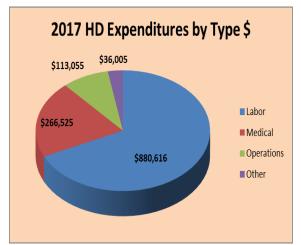
Expenditures for the year totaled \$1,296,201 which was 5.5% higher than originally budgeted. This increase was due to a higher than budgeted cost of goods for medical supplies. Service demand was up which resulted more good purchased and used to provide expanded services. For the year the Health Department was able to operate at a 3% surplus. In any year when surplus revenues are realized those funds are retained are carried forward for continued operations in the new fiscal year.

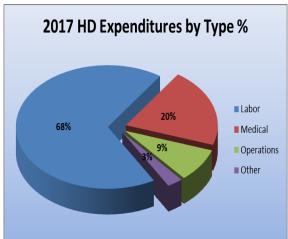
Key comparisons of revenues & expenditures are provided in graphic form below:











KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS - 2017

Your health department is a vital member or sponsor of numerous partnerships and coalitions in the County. We understand that as a single organization we can accomplish some things and make a difference but as part of larger groups we can contribute to lasting worthwhile changes. Keeping with the tradition of being a community citizen we proudly participate in and strongly support RISE Cowley, Safe Kids Cowley County, Breastfeeding Advocates of Cowley County, Clean Air Cowley County and the Local Environmental Protection Committee.

A major component of our mission is to perform outreach and conduct public health education in the community. The following list details some of the more visible ways in which we fill that purpose in our County.

- Active leader in RISE Cowley and Pathways to a Healthy Kansas grant recipient.
- Main sponsor of the Cowley County Health and Safety Fair, an annual Spring event that attracts numerous health and safety advocacy organizations and more than 800 residents that visit each year.
- Major sponsor of the Breastfeeding Advocates of Cowley County a leading organization in the State that helps and supports mothers and children as they seek to begin life in the healthiest manner possible.
- Organizing partner of Safe-Kids Cowley County supporting child safety in both motor vehicles and on bicycles through car seat checks, car seat sponsorship, bicycle helmet promotions. Our goal is that no child in Cowley County suffers injury during these activities.
- Annual influenza clinics throughout the County including the annual "Drive-Thru" opportunities in Arkansas City and Winfield.
- The annual Community wide "Baby Shower" for all new and expectant parents.
- Healthy Habits outreach to reduce the onset of tobacco use in children and young adults.
- Employer based health screens for elimination of spread of communicable diseases.
- Provided input to the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments vital to the advancement of the Kansas Foundational Public Health Services Model in local health departments.
- Provided leadership to the South Central Metro Region of Counties (Cowley, Butler, Sumner, Harvey, Reno, Sedgwick, Marion).





(Safe Kids Cowley County)



(County wide Baby Shower)



(Drive thru Flu Clinic)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

Your Health Department is permanently engaged in Emergency Preparedness. In today's fast changing world we are continually faced with emerging threats to our health and safety. Severe weather, vector borne or other contagions, manmade disasters and accidents can strike with little or no warning. To prepare for the worst you must first imagine the unimaginable. It is grim work considering the devastation that emergency events can inflict upon our communities we spend the serious time to contemplate our community structures and develop all hazards plans to protect and preserve life.

The Health Department continues to work diligently with the Cowley County Emergency Management staff and our local first responders and law enforcement. We partner with health care providers to plan and practice as we prepare for a moment none of us hopes to ever face.

The Health Department receives funding from Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to work on such plans and keep them updated annually. In 2017 we updated plans for dealing will a disaster that resulted in mass casualties, we practiced our ability to respond rapidly to an epidemic, we reviewed our severe contagion outbreak response plan and also spent time to review the threat to our community of any blood borne or vector borne virus illness or disease. During 2017 the Health Department served the community in support of events that brought large crowds to Cowley County.

Your Health Department works closely with both local hospitals, South Central Kansas Medical Center (SCKMS) and William Newton Hospital (WHN). During 2017 as part of our continuing support we worked to identify key areas of concern that will help guide the efforts of the Health Department now and in the future as we continually seek to make Cowley County a healthier place to live, work and raise a family.

PROGRAM AND PROJECT REPORT

Immunizations

This is a priority service area that is focused to move to action people of all ages in order to protect individual and community health. The Health Department provides a wide range of vaccines to prevent the following known diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, varicella (chicken pox), haemophilus influenza type b (Hib), pneumococcus, and hepatitis A. The department also provides annual influenza vaccinations and travel vaccinations including typhoid and yellow fever. To gauge success in the area of vaccination administration the overall rates of the populations being vaccinated are tracked. Three key groups are examined.

The first is children up to 36 months old. Data provided by the Kansas Health Institute indicates that during 2017 Cowley County remained steady with an 82% immunization rate meaning that 82% of children in this age group are fully immunized against known disease and have received the complete series of early childhood vaccinations as recommended. That rate is 3% higher than the overall state average of 79% and 3.1% higher than similar type counties in our state. The unvaccinated and under vaccinated people in our population continue to present a risk which has become increasing evident with outbreaks of measles, mumps and Pertussis (whooping cough) and widespread seasonal influenza in our state. Cowley County has been fortunate to not have had a serious outbreak of infectious disease however with the

mobility and transient nature of some population segments it may be only a matter of time until we may face a serious outbreak.

The Health Department continued close collaboration with local school districts in 2017 to ensure that Kansas statutes and regulations that require immunizations be up to date or proof of disease be documented are adhered to. Even as the department maintains consistent immunization rates and our unified school districts complete annual immunization audits, some members of our Cowley County community avoid or find exemption for the use of vaccines.

This choice increases the risk of vaccine preventable disease outbreaks within Cowley County. We are working hard to identify and notify families needing to obtain or remain current upon preventative vaccinations. We offer all vaccines to families and especially to children regardless of ability to pay – so there should be no barrier to the service. Just as it was in 1946 when our Health Department was first organized the need to keep children healthy remains a major focus of our work.

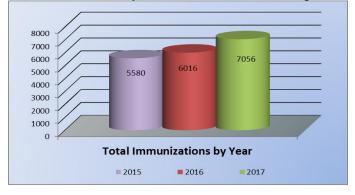


(Courtesy of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment)

The second population group we look at in the areas of vaccinations and wellness are teenagers and young adults. Sadly a misconception exists that once a child has been vaccinated and enters school all is well and further vaccinations are no longer needed. The reality is that the preteen and adolescent age group is at very high risk for specific preventable diseases such as meningococcal disease, hepatitis and human papillomavirus. Parents and teen aged children need to be aware that to remain fully protected that well person visits and immunization reviews should occur annually. The Health Department can help in this regard and work with you to insure that you stay healthy during a time in life where health risks flourish and change happens rapidly.

The final age cohort that we look closely at is adults. As we age we become more affected by illness and diseases. The need to monitor and maintain health is more vital as we age and part of that monitoring is adherence to a routine schedule of vaccinations such as yearly influenza and if needed pneumonia. Many adults are also concerned about Varicella (chickenpox and shingles). The Health Department can assist any adult that has questions about vaccinations and provides easy access to them. We also process all types of insurance claims and can help families figure out what insurance covers and pay for and if need be we can work on simple payments for needed immunizations not covered. We will work with you to help you understand health care and control the cost as well.

During 2017 the Health Department administered 7056 vaccinations to Cowley County residents of all ages, an increase of nearly 15% in vaccinations compared to 2016.



Flu Immunizations

In 2017 the department administered more than seventeen hundred (1,700), doses of seasonal influenza vaccine. For the eleventh straight year, the health department provided drive-thru flu clinic events in both Arkansas City and Winfield. This mode of distribution offers a quick and extremely convenient way for individuals to receive preventative or protective pharmaceuticals. It is particularly suited for those who have the following: physical mobility challenges, disability or poor health status and young children (who can remain in the vehicle). Other positive factors for this activity include over coming time constraints which do not allow easy access to a medical appointment and limited disease transmission, as people

remain in their vehicle. The drive through and onsite clinics also provide a test for our Point of Dispensation (POD) plan for vaccine or antibiotic distribution by the Health Department. Each season we analyze how quickly and efficiently we could respond to an immediate and widespread threat of a contagion, pandemic or terrorist event that would require rapid and widespread population prophylaxis.



For the second straight year the Health
Department partnered with the County to assist in providing vaccinations for county
employees. This arrangement allowed easy access for employees and a lower cost to the county
health insurance plan. We also were awarded additional free influenza vaccine for distribution
to any person who uninsured or otherwise unable to pay for a vaccination to have one free of

charge. All of the clinic activities provided ease of access and ample opportunity to allow anyone who wanted or needed the flu shot to get one.

Communicable Disease Control

In order to protect the public's health, the City-Cowley County Health Department provides epidemiological services in conjunction and collaboration with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Office of Surveillance and Epidemiology. Health Department staff utilizes the Kansas Electronic Disease Surveillance System, (EpiTrax) for managing all reportable diseases. Our department investigates communicable diseases by identifying source cases of infection, ensuring treatment, investigating transmission to other individuals, electronically reporting case data and providing immunizations to prevent additional spread of infection. To date the department maintains six staff members able to perform epidemiological services.

Health Department investigations and State of Kansas data reveals that Cowley County has a higher than expected rate of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI). Sadly it is not uncommon for more than 24% of Cowley County teenagers to become infected with a sexually transmitted disease. The Health Department continues to target this area of concern to gain improvements in population health, reduce the rates of teen pregnancy and lower the rate of newborn children at risk of serious health outcomes.

Family Planning Services

The Family Planning Program is designed to assist families by maintaining reproductive health for both women and men. This is accomplished by education and counseling and by offering affordable methods of birth control to prevent unintended pregnancies. Reproductive health is insured through the availability of pap tests, breast exams and through testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases. Depending on the client's needs, they are served by a physician, physician assistant or public health nurse.

Early Detection Works

The Early Detection Works Program serves more than 5,300 Kansas women annually providing nearly 20,000 screening and diagnostic services. Women who are diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through Early Detection Works are able to receive treatment in Medicaid through the "Treatment Act." Cowley County has had several cases diagnosed and women have been successfully treated thanks to this service.

KAN Be Healthy

KAN Be Healthy Assessments (KBH) are provided to Medicaid recipients from birth to 21 years of age. The KBH medical screens include vision, hearing, and dental assessment. The KBH screen follows the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment guidelines and is considered an important tool in preventive health care and developmental screening.

Tiny Teeth Program

The Tiny Teeth Program provides education on oral health in conjunction with fluoride varnish applications to children that receive Kan-Be-Healthy Assessments or request service. Fluoride has been scientifically demonstrated to be a safe and effective means of reducing dental carries. Good oral health practices that are initiated early help to ensure good oral health outcomes for life. Fluoride varnish applications can begin as early as 6 months of age or initial eruption of the first tooth. The fluoride is "painted" onto the baby teeth by a public health nurse. This application is repeated every 6 months with a possible total of five applications.

WIC

The Woman, Infants and Children Program provides supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women; and to infants and children up to age five who are

found to be at nutritional risk. Our WIC nutritional supplement program is one of the health department's most utilized programs. The goal of the program is to prevent or correct health problems associated with poor nutrition. This equates to better health, contributing to lower infant mortality in the county, as well as



providing a boost to our local economy due to food vouchers exchanged at local grocery stores. Annually the WIC program adds over \$850,000.00 to the Cowley

County economy and provides nourishing healthy food to 1200 families.

The WIC food packages have changed to better meet the nutritional needs of WIC participants. The recent food packages align with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and infant feeding practice guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics. WIC foods are intended to "supplement" participants' food intake and should be consumed along with other wholesome foods needed for a balanced diet.

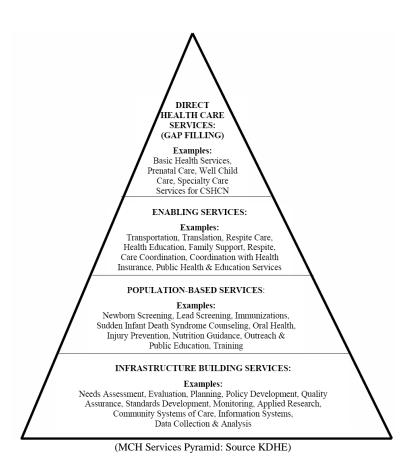


(WIC exclusive breastfeeding food package)

Maternal Child Health-Prenatal Risk Reduction- Healthy Start Home Visits

The goals of the Maternal Child Health Program (MCH) are to reduce the incidence of poor pregnancy outcomes, reduce child abuse and neglect, and ensure early identification of infants and families at risk. Integration with other health and social services such as family planning, immunizations and child health assessments, supplemental food and nutrition programs (WIC), genetic and substance abuse counseling, pediatric health services, and prenatal care, general health assessments, basic health education and parenting education is emphasized. Enhanced services are available through the Family Planning Program for prepregnancy counseling and annual health screenings.

MCH services provided through the MCH Block Grant include four tiers of services for MCH populations. The model below illustrates the uniqueness of the MCH Block Grant, which is the only federal program that provides services at all levels of the pyramid. These services are direct health care services (gap filling), enabling services, population-based services and infrastructure building services. Public health programs are encouraged to utilize their funding to provide more of the community-based services associated with the lower-level of the pyramid and to engage in the direct care services only as a provider of last resort.





In Cowley County MCH home and hospital visits are provided to families expecting or with newborns. This program is a major area of emphasis moving forward and the Health Department has established goals of contacting every expectant mother in Cowley County to offer the home visitor service. The most recent data (2014) indicates that in Cowley County 50% of babies are born to single mothers; further 12% of babies are born to teenage mothers. Cowley County's birth rate for live births county-wide remains at approximately 456 per year. Risk factors reveal that of this birth cohort 25% or 114 babies annually will be at high risk for health

problems. Our goal is to reduce this number and work with mothers during pregnancy and post partum to insure that their babies get off to a healthy beginning in life.



Child Safety Seat Program

The health department currently employs five certified Child Safety Seat Technicians. The Child Safety Seat Technicians distributed and installed 176 car seats to eligible families in Cowley County during 2017 which was an increase of 19% over the previous year.

The Safe Kids Cowley County car safety seat ticket forgiveness program continues to be a model for all of Kansas. Participant's misdemeanor violations are forgiven, on a one-time basis, if violators attend the health department's child safety seat class. This class is offered at a minimum of once a month in Arkansas City and Winfield. As a measure of success we have seen the number of car seat violations decrease in Cowley County as the number of car seat installations has risen.

Child Care Facility Licensing Program

The regulation of child care facilities is designed to reduce the risk of predictable harm to children while in out of home care settings. Public regulation represents a basic level of protection for all children. Further, effective public regulation provides basic consumer protection. The health department employs two full time surveyors to carry out inspections of daycare providers to ensure that Cowley County Children are being cared for by qualified providers in a safe and healthy environment. Cowley County has more than 70 regulated child care facilities which consisted of licensed daycares, group daycares, child care centers and preschools. The total capacity of all of these regulated providers is nearly 900 children.

Through an agreement with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Cowley County also regulates the Child Care Licensing and Registration Program in Elk, Chautauqua Harper and Sumner Counties. Our expertise in this field extends to children and families in a large portion of South Central Kansas.

Environmental Health Services

The Environmental Health services provided by the health department include the permitting and inspection of on-site waste-water disposal in the county, and the testing of private drinking water wells. The ability to ensure the continued safe disposal of human excreta and protect the quality of private drinking water is vital to the overall community health.

The Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) works actively with local residents and contractors to insure that the installation process of any waste water system meets or exceeds design requirements for the protection of everyone living in a watershed. Whenever a new home or building that will discharge waste water is constructed in the county, whenever a residential sale is made of a property served by a septic system or septic lagoon, whenever a system fails and needs repair or replacement the EHS is involved to make certain that the systems are installed correctly and work properly.

During 2017 the Health Department worked to increase the education, knowledge and experience of staff members. We have actively taken steps to simplify the access to on-line forms to request service. We have shortened the turnaround time for inspections and strengthened the working relationships with contractors working in the county.

Being actively involved in the installation process of waste water systems has proven valuable on multiple fronts. The knowledge and experience of the health department members has broadened, furthering our ability to keep Cowley County healthy. It has also strengthened the working relationships between the contractors working in the county, clearing channels of communication and being able to relay exactly what expectations are. The health department is well positioned to continue making strides forward in 2018.

Below is a record of the inspections, permits, and tests conducted in 2017.

Type	2017	2016	2015
Residential Inspection	72	63	63
Waste Water Construction Permits	42	38	44
Private Well Screening	20	10	18
Flood Plain Permits	39	42	41
Nuisance Investigations	3	5	Information unavailable

Nuisance Abatement

The Public Health Officer has statutory authority and shares responsibility with the Cowley County Board of Commissioners to carry out Nuisance Abatement for the non-incorporated areas of Cowley County. The Environmental Health Officer is assigned the duty to investigate complaints and report back to the Cowley County Board of Commissioners. These efforts continue as we work to keep our County free of health and safety hazards. On properties where nuisances are found the Health Department works with property owners to resolve the issues.

Lead Inspections

Due to the age of many residences and to parental occupational exposures, lead poisoning continues to be a health risk to many children in Cowley County. Lead is common in our environment and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) classifies lead poisoning as today's major preventable environmental health problem. Blood lead levels (BLLs) as low as 5 micrograms per deciliter (ug/dL) are associated with harmful effects on children's learning and behavior. Blood lead levels as high as 70 ug/dL can cause seizures, coma and death. You cannot just look at a child and determine if they have been exposed and are at risk. The only sure way to know is through a low cost blood lead screen that the Health Department can perform. All children in Cowley County should be checked at least 3 times once at 12 months of age or as they begin to crawl, then again when they are 2 years old and a final follow up before they start pre-school or kindergarten.

Adults who work in construction and remodeling, welding, oil and gas industries or who engage in hobbies that use leaded products should also be tested routinely to insure that you are not at risk or taking lead home to your families.

Annually over 600 lead tests are given to children who were considered at risk for lead exposure. Children who test above (>5mg/l) and considered at high risk. An environmental home visit is conducted when a child is diagnosed to be lead poisoned which occurs when the blood lead level is greater than 10 ug/dL and has been confirmed by a second test. Our department is fortunate that the Public Health Officer has extensive expertise in this area.

Chronic Disease Risk Reduction

Chronic Disease Risk Reduction activities focus on three main areas; improving nutrition, increasing physical activity and reducing tobacco use. Program staff work to support the activities of RISE Cowley and fulfill the requirements of the Pathways to a Healthy Kansas Grant.

Chronic diseases account for roughly 75% of health care costs each year in the U.S. These costs represent greater than \$10 billion per year in Kansas. As states struggle to meet the staggering costs of providing health care to those in need, the most cost-effective interventions are often overlooked. Population health improvements are possible by reducing the prevalence of risk factors that underlie chronic disease and injury.

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Kansas. Annually, cigarette use alone causes approximately 3,800 deaths in Kansas, costing more than \$927 million in medical expenditures and \$863 million in lost productivity from an experienced workforce that dies prematurely. Currently 22% of Cowley County residents smoke and 24% of expectant mothers smoke during pregnancy!

More than 30% of children living in Kansas are overweight or at risk for becoming overweight. Healthcare costs related to obesity are excessive.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFFING:

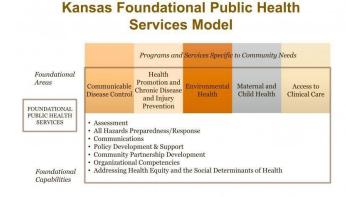
The City-Cowley County Health Department is staffed with 21 members. Our personnel carry out program activities in the department offices located in Arkansas City, Winfield and in outreach settings across the County. The Administrator maintains an open door policy with staff and creates a work environment where personal achievement is encouraged and rewarded and organizational improvement is required. We foster a learning environment where we constantly evaluate needs, create programmatic response, monitor results and evaluate our outcomes. The entire group of staff members value the public health principles stated in our mission. They work each day to better the lives of the citizens of Cowley County and continually look to find new ways to create a sense of pride and realization within the community that the Health Department is a vital resource for all of Cowley County.

Working in public health is a true calling and the citizens of Cowley County can take pride in the commitment to health that the staff exhibits each and every day.

CHANGES COMING IN 2018:

The City-Cowley County Health Department will continue to work to improve the health of the residents of Cowley County in 2018. We will be one of the first counties in the state to transition to eWIC; the electronic version of the WIC program that will eliminate paper checks and simplify the process of WIC purchases for area food stores. Additionally we are moving forward with a plan to offer expanded nutritional counseling and services for persons with diabetes to help them self-manage their conditions. We will also expand our educational services to include community first aid and CPR courses.

Additionally the Health Department will be working toward providing full the community a full suite of services through the adoption of the Kansas Foundational Public Health Services Model.



We are proud to serve the Cowley County Community.

Prevent~Promote~Protect!



CITY-COWLEY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Cowley County Health Department was originally established in 1941, being among *the first eighteen health departments formed in the State of Kansas*. *In July, 1946 the cities* of Arkansas City and Winfield joined with the county to form the Joint City-Cowley County Board of Health.

The City-Cowley County Health Department is governed by the Joint Board of Health, with the local governing bodies appointing the following nine members:

Cowley County Commission, 3 at large appointments

City of Arkansas City, 1 appointment

City of Winfield, 1 appointment

USD #462, 1 appointment

USD #471, 1 appointment

Cowley County Licensed Physician – Approved by County Commission

Cowley County Licensed Dentist – Approved by County Commission

Members of the Board serve three-year terms. The Board annually elects a President and Vice-President in January. The Department's Administrator serves at the pleasure of the Board, is an ex-officio member of the Board, and serves as Secretary – Treasurer. A Licensed Physician is contracted to serves as Medical Consultant to advise the Public Health Officer/Administrator on medical matters. The Board maintains two offices, one in Winfield and another in Arkansas City.

2017 Board of Health Members:

K.C. Colvin., Dexter
Mary Benton, Arkansas City
Thomas Langer, MPA, (Administrator)
Tessa Rohrberg, M.D., Winfield
Lorri Greenlee, R.N., Winfield
Nick Rogers, D.D.S., Arkansas City
Sharon Eggen, R.N. (retired) Arkansas City
Dared Price, PharmD. Winfield
Becky Meyer, Burden
Chris Cannon, Burden

President Vice-President Secretary/Treasurer (Ex Officio)

2017 City-Cowley County Health Department Personnel:

Tessa E. Rohrberg M.D., Medical Officer

Amanda R. Steventon, M.D., Women's Services

Ginger Bahruth P.A. Family Planning

Van Coble, D.P.H., Consulting Pharmacist

Thomas Langer MPA, Administrator/Public Health Officer

Marsha Donals, R.N., Director of Nursing

Kelli Waggoner, R.N., PHN, WIC Coordinator

Terri Kier, R.N., B.S.N., PHN, Lactation Consultant,

Cheryl Huguley, R.N., PHN, Outbreak Investigation, Lead Investigation

Karen Sattler, R.N., PHN, MCH Coordinator – Home Services Coordinator,

Christina Pingry, Fiscal Accounts Manager

Teri Bruner, Medical Services Accounts Coordinator

Lorrie Gordon, Office Manager

Jody Pew, Office Assistant II

Ariel Lynn, Office Assistant

Savanah Gobel, Office Assistant

Macey Vargas, Office Assistant

Rylee Blanton, Public Health Educator

Charissa Wall, Public Health Educator/Preparedness Coordinator

Tanner D. Langer, Environmental Health Officer

Josephine (JoJo) Tijerina, Healthy Start Home Visitor

Karen Knowles, Child Care Licensing and Registration Surveyor

Patricia Wimmer, Child Care Licensing Surveyor

Alicia Ramey, R.D., Dietician, WIC Nutritionist

Acknowledgements for Content:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases; Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) -
- World Health Organization
- US Health and Human Services
- Public Health Administration and Practice, 9th Edition, 1990, Pickett/Hanlon
- Essentials of Public Health, 2007, Bernard J. Turnock
- US Homeland Security
- Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- Robert Woods Johnson Foundation
- Kansas Health Institute