

Health Department Annual Summary
December 30, 2015

2015 proved to be a year full of changes for the Health Department. Starting with the retirement of the director of 36 years, Kim Zagorski, B.S., M.A. was appointed to the position of Health Officer on February first. The office was staffed as follows:

Health Officer – Kim Zagorski
Senior REHS/Alternate Deputy Registrar – J. Lee Piscitelli
Part time REHS – Donna Scozzari
Public Health Nursing Supervisor – Kathryn Whitehead
Part time Public Health Nurse – Patricia Russomano
Secretary to the Board/OPRA Coordinator-Diane Hertzig
Registrar – Diane Hertzig

Shared Services contracts were in place for the Morris Township Health Services as well as the Harding Township Health Services. The two Boards of Education also contracted for private school nursing services.

The Board of Health was short one alternate representative and one general member who resigned early on after taking a job in Utah. The Board of Health was as follows:

Dr. Stanley Zaborowski – President
Theresa Wiederman – Vice President
John Tort, Esq. – Member
Valeri Ward – Member
Vacant - Member
Mayor Ronald Francioli – Alternate
Vacant - Alternate

Health Education

- With the goal of improving our Community Outreach, the Health Department took steps to elevate their visibility. Monthly health promotion programs were held and we discussed the development of the health education program being supervised by the CHES in Morris Township as a new shared service. A new table top display board was purchased to be used at our public events such as the Whippany Fire Department's 5K, the Health Fair, the Hanover Township Day celebration and the Mayor's Healthy in Hanover Wellness Campaign Kick Off.
- We encouraged participation of events by not just residents of Hanover, but by residents of Morris and Harding as well. The staff of all three towns were provided Public Health shirts to be worn at all public events, promoting a professional appearance.
- Because Lyme Disease is so very prevalent in this area, an educational campaign included the sale of Tick Removal Spoons and an educational article was put in the newsletter and township website.
- Radon is a silent cause of lung cancer and due to the geologic formation of our area is prevalent here. A promotional campaign began in August to give away free Radon test kits to residents and went full scale in December with a newsletter submission and advertisement.
- E-cigarettes and vapes became quite a concern this year and the Board of Health took action. Two ordinances were introduced this year in order to address the health risks of e-cigarettes, hookahs and other nicotine/tobacco delivery devices. Raising the age of sale of such products to 21 years old from 19, will help to deter our youth from starting this cancer causing behavior. Licensing places that sell e-cigarettes, hookahs, and nicotine liquids, will bring in revenue to finance the

enforcement of the Age of Sale ordinance. The Health Officer met with the SAC and maintains communication with them in regards to this initiative and many others.

-Through our membership with the North Jersey Health Collaborative, we have identified 5 top public health concerns for Morris County and will be addressing them with programs coordinated with community partners. Obesity, Heroin Use, Excessive Alcohol Consumption, Non-paid Caregiver Health and Mental Health proved to be the top five in Morris County and will be the focus.

-The Health Officer joined with the Recreation Director to coordinate the Mayors Wellness Campaign in Hanover. As part of this overall wellness awareness program, she became instrumental in the development of the Stoney Brook Community Farm project. The Health Officer applied for a grant to fund the partnership formed with the Interfaith Food Pantry and Hanover Board of Education in developing educational programs through the community garden and was awarded \$20,000.00 for the project.

Environmental Health

-The permitting of temporary events was stepped up this year, in order to keep better track of events happening in town and assuring a trail for investigation should food poisoning incidents occur.

-We updated the fee ordinance for the Health Department, updating some charges to be more current and deleting some obsolete fees. Applicable fees for very time consuming and relevant activities such as retail food establishment plan reviews have already generated a substantial amount of additional revenue.

-In the spring of this year, we lost our part time REHS to a full time position in a neighboring town. Racquel Housen was hired in July to fill that part time REHS position. Racquel was hired based on her professional demeanor and experience in working independently.

-This year, 206 retail food establishment inspections were conducted as were 11 child care facility inspections. One youth camp was inspected as well as 3 tanning facilities which generates a reimbursement from the State of \$ 600.00.

-48 inspections were conducted of our recreational bathing facilities and 495 water quality reports reviewed.

-The following licenses were issued:

1 Exempt Cigar Bar/Tobacco Retail

14 Recreational Bathing

187 Retail Food

-9 new retail food establishment plan reviews were conducted, 19 site plans and 61 SPEC reviews were conducted.

-Our environmental staff responded to 88 public health related complaints and initiated 87 enforcement actions. \$4771.00 were collected in fines this year. Some of the more prominent situations required some unique responses. The Health Officer proposed notifying the Choice Hotels corporation about the problems we were having with the Econolodge and soon after, they were dropped from the franchise.

The feral cat colony complaints took on a life of their own and future meetings are planned for the resolution of the unlicensed cats being kept within the Township.

-A general food handlers course was given with 10 attendees and plans are in the works for the presentation of a Serv-Safe class to be held in the spring. Such a class will bring in revenue as well as provide a service to the retail food establishments who are required to have this certification. The goal is to encourage professionally trained staff at all of our food establishments.

-The annual Free Rabies Vaccine Clinics were held both in Hanover and Harding Township on the same day but at different times to provide more flexibility for residents. 123 Rabies shots were given in Hanover (114 dogs and 41 cats). Throughout the year, 12 animal bite investigations were conducted and only 1 specimen was submitted for Rabies analysis. (negative result)

Public Health Nursing

- As a member of the Morris County Public Health Partnership, the Health Officer and Nurses participated in a few regional drills this year. Specifically, Operation Noah II focused on our combined abilities to respond to medical sheltering needs during a hurricane and just this month we participated in the Office of Health Management's drill for mass medication distribution post terrorist exposure of Anthrax.
- Unfortunately, we are working with our OEM much more frequently now as a sign of the times. We updated and rewrote parts of the emergency management annexes this year.
- Another activity that is new to us, is the monitoring of suspect Ebola patients. This year, we continually received procedural changes and advisories regarding the response to the possible importation of Ebola cases. We received a reimbursement from the NJACCHO for the monitoring of suspect cases in our community.
- Some changes effecting our Health Department, this year were part of a bigger picture. With the new healthcare directives ("Obamacare"), our nursing program needed to start to refocus our efforts. The changes in medical insurance protocols helped us to encourage clients to find a "medical home". Many previously unfunded screenings, became possible for people. We found the necessity to run certain screening programs nil, and were able to make referrals that were appropriate.
- We also found that our new Adult Vaccine program was of great importance. As we public health professionals feared, we are finding that our childhood vaccinations are no longer protecting us throughout our lifetimes and the need for boosters has become a reality. The Adult Vaccine program that our nurses started here at the end of 2014 here is funded by the State Health Department and has so far provided 80 adults with vaccines for Tdap(Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis prevention), Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Zostavax (Shingles prevention) and/or Pneumococcal (Pneumonia prevention).
- And speaking of shooting people up, we vaccinated over 1000 people with the flu vaccine this year! Our clinics were set up in all three towns and offered both High Dose and Quadrivalent vaccines. So far, this season, the reports of cases of influenza are quite low in -Morris County. \$915.00 was collected from self-pay patients this year, while we anticipate \$ 16,600.00 in reimbursement from Medicare.
- Our Part-time Public Health Nurse will continue to serve two of our private schools for nursing services contracted through the Boards of Education serving Hanover. She also served the Township of Hanover Recreation Department's summer camp for 6 weeks.
- Our Nursing Supervisor organized the Annual Health Fair this year to conduct 175 SMAC tests, but also made this event a much more attractive happening. With 25 vendors in the Community Center this year, our health fair offered services, activities and even prizes to participants. Expansion of the health fairs is planned for the future, including one for students/teenagers and one for families.
- The nurses investigated 277 communicable disease reports this year, including 4 outbreaks that required detailed follow up.
- Daily checks of Leadtrax is also a function of the public health nurses and we did have one case of juvenile lead poisoning this year.
- Our nurses also provide training for certain personnel. This year, two were trained on the use of the Epi-pen in schools and 10 first responders were trained for Blood borne pathogen prevention.
- We were able to get a bulletin board dedicated to the Health Department's use in the Community Center this year. We will use it to keep the public aware of programs and services we provide as well as offer healthy lifestyle contributions. We also have added a bulletin board and chair outside of the nurse's office to create a comfortable and informative waiting area.
- We cleaned up the clinic this year with a fresh coat of paint and public health posters to make the visits there more inviting.
- The Nursing Supervisor conducted 37 school immunization audits this year and initiated a school nurse educational program for outbreak identification and reporting.
- Health education programs were conducted at the senior citizen meetings this year, including their regular blood pressure checks by our nurses. The Brown Bag program (evaluation of medications by a pharmacist continues to be popular as the seniors are advised about possible interactions and/or

duplications with their medications. Lunch and Learn programs for the senior meetings are being run which not only provide valuable educational information, it is done in a social setting.

Administration

-As in every efficient office, our Health Department is lucky to have such a competent secretary. Actually holding 3 positions, Diane keeps it all running smoothly.

-She responded to 243 OPRA requests, took in 75 marriage licenses and issued well over 150 death certificates.

- We were assisted this summer by a college intern from Drew University. She proved to be very helpful and resourceful. The intern program was started this year to enable us to get extra work and projects done without extra cost, including the e-cigarettes research and ordinance. She also was instrumental in completing the Township's Right-to-Know Surveys. Our next intern is scheduled to start in January and she will earn 2 college credits for her time spent with us.

Submitted by: _____

Kim Zagorski, Health Officer

Stanley Zaborowski, MD Board President

