

Iron County Health Department Annual Report 2015



Women's Breast Cancer Awareness Event October 19, 2015
Sue Herlevi, Julann Ritter and Liana Saari



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Our 2015 Programs and Services

Iron County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Iron County CHIP is a partnership plan developed to focus on improving the health of Iron County residents. The plan provides strategic direction for collective action with community individuals and partnership groups. The Iron County CHIP provides a synergy of efforts and resources by engaging a diverse group of citizens in the implementation process, overall impacting the quality of life for Iron County residents.

On July 24, 2015, seventeen (17) community partners met to review, update, and hear about progress concerning our health priorities which include:

1. Alcohol, Prescription Drug, Tobacco and other Drug Abuse and Misuse
2. Mental Health
3. Physical Activity and Nutrition
4. Chronic Disease and Illness Prevention

Disease Control and Prevention

We track communicable disease through a channel of communications at the local, state and regional levels between public health, private physicians, hospitals, and labs. This communication channel allows for prompt investigation of possible outbreaks and unusual situations, and to implement control measures to minimize further transmission of disease to others. We utilize the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS) to report and follow-up on all reportable conditions.

In 2015, the ICHD received 30 reports of communicable diseases (43 in 2013 and 38 in 2014). They include: 7 Hepatitis C, 6 Lyme diseases, 1 Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis, 1 Giardiasis, 10 Chlamydia (down from 14 last year), 1 Campylobacter, 3 Blastomycosis and 1 Pertussis.

In August of 2015 the ICHD was involved in a state-wide cluster of Blastomycosis associated with individuals who went tubing on the Little Wolf River in June. Blastomycosis is a fungus found in moist soil, and is endemic to Wisconsin. Infection occurs after a person is exposed to and inhales airborne

microscopic fungal spores from the environment. Climatic conditions that permit sporulation of Blastomycosis can be extremely transient and dependent on temperature, humidity, and soil pH. 11 young people from Iron County were involved and were contacted by ICHD staff for health information and follow-up. Three (3) of the cases were considered confirmed Blastomycosis positive based on strict criteria developed by Department of Health Services (DHS).

Public Health Preparedness: Meeting Emergency Preparedness Standards



One of the nation's key preparedness challenges has been determining appropriate state and local public health preparedness priorities. To assist in strategic planning, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) developed 15 capabilities to serve as national public health preparedness standards. In 2015 the health department worked to close gaps on 3 of the Capability standards. These are determined by the Department of Health Services. They are:

- #2 Community Recovery
- #5 Fatality Management
- # 7 Mass Care

The goal is to address gaps that are identified when the health department completes an annual assessment. In order to work on the gaps, ICHD will update existing public health plans; incorporate identified concerns from a local Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA); work with partners; and complete trainings.

The health department again partnered with Western Upper Peninsula Health Department (WUPHD), Aspirus Grand View (AGV), and Gogebic Community College (GCC) for the 10th year to hold a Community Influenza Vaccination Clinic at the GCC on October 3, 2015. This event exercised 7 Capabilities, and an After Action Report (AAR) and

Improvement Action Plan were completed and sent to Department of Public Health (DPH). In a 2 hour time period, 314 influenza vaccinations were given (compared to 459 in 2013 and 379 in 2014) to local residents.

The health department nurses traveled to numerous sites in the community such as the Springstead Town Hall, Mercer Senior Center, Saxon Senior Center, Iron Belt Senior Center, Southgate, Action Floors, the court house and other sites to ensure our residents have access to flu shots.

Emergency Preparedness North, our emergency preparedness collaborative, continues to meet monthly in Park Falls. This is a very successful group consisting of 6 local health departments and 3 tribes working together to ensure we all meet our goals and objectives for the year, as identified by DPH.

The Ebola Community Coalition has continued monthly meetings, but as the risk of Ebola in our community has declined, the group decided to continue to function as the MI/WI Emergency Preparedness Community Coalition. This group now monitors any emerging communicable disease or environmental health risk to the community and ensures plans are in place to identify, monitor and follow-up on any threat to residents.

ICHHD collaborated with community partners and wrote the Iron County Fatality Response Plan/Fatality Management Response Plan. This plan was written with our coroner, Diane Simonich, as the lead. We exercised the plan on June 23, 2015, with DHS State Health Emergency Planner, Bruce Rheineck as the facilitator. An AAR was completed and sent to DHS.

The Iron County Mass Care/Shelter Plan was also written this year. ICHHD and ICHS received a \$5,000 grant to assist with this project and we were able to contract with Heather List to write the plan. Human Services staff, law enforcement and Emergency Management met frequently to gather data and information for Heather to add to the document guidelines which were provided by DHS. On December 4, 2015 the plan was exercised with retired emergency preparedness planner, Rob Rude, facilitating the event. I have attached both After Action Reports to this document.

Training is another important aspect of emergency planning and closing gaps for the 15 Public Health Preparedness Capabilities. Sue Herlevi, Program Assistant, attended Volunteer Reception Training in November. Zona attended MGT 423: Isolation and

Quarantine for Rural Public Safety Personnel in August and Functional Assessment Service Teams (FAST) Training in July.

The Northern Wisconsin/Western UP Public Health Preparedness Border Coordination group also continues to meet twice a year to discuss plans and exercises to assure our 2 states work together in an emergency.

Immunizations for Children and Adults

Immunization is one of the most important public health victories of the 20th century – defeating or sharply reducing diseases such as smallpox, polio, measles, diphtheria, rubella, pertussis (whooping cough) and other diseases. However, many organisms that cause these diseases have not been eliminated and could reemerge if vaccination levels drop. Our current immunization rate is 74%

In 2015, the Iron County health department gave 420 immunizations (581 in 2014). The decrease was due, in part, to the Affordable Care Act and the State of Wisconsin directing all Wisconsin health departments to refer individuals with insurance to receive their immunizations from their health care provider.

Wisconsin continues to offer Dtap and Tdap to all children and adults regardless of insurance status due to an increase in Pertussis in the state. Iron County had 1 adult case of Pertussis in 2015 and administered 35 doses of Tdap.

Mother, Child and Family

Infant mortality is an important measure of a community's health. Our prenatal and postnatal programs aim to help families support their children's healthy growth and development. Research indicates that families participating in these programs have healthier babies, improved their parenting skills, and developed positive community relationships. Their children have fewer behavioral problems, and there is a reduction in tobacco exposure and alcohol use.

Integrated Family Services (IFS) is a community coalition consisting of 24 Gogebic and Iron County agencies that meet monthly to assure the community is providing programs and services to help children and families. One of the annual projects is a Children and Family Resource Guide.

Prenatal and Postnatal Care



Iron County provides an informal parent and baby letter from a public health nurse to assist families after the birth of a baby whether their first baby or they have other children. Mothers receive information about the health department services, WIC, immunizations, Head Start information and how to contact us if they have questions concerning themselves or their new baby. Brochures on SIDS, Shaken Baby, and Co-sleeping are included as part of our Child Death Review team education and outreach. Our nurses sent 23 letters (34 in 2014) to families in Iron County in 2015.

The health department has continued to contract with Bayfield County Health Department to provide Prenatal Care Coordination (PNCC) services to pregnant women in Iron County. Due to staff turnover in Bayfield County, there were no pregnant women seen in Iron County in 2015. With the hiring of a new public health nurse in January 2016, the plan is to discontinue the Bayfield County contract and provide PNCC services in-house. Part of the program is having a certified car seat technician to teach parents how to install and maintain proper car seats in their vehicles to assure child safety. We will send our new nurse to become certified.

Injury Prevention Program



Injuries are a significant public health problem in Iron County, Wisconsin, and the nation, causing needless pain and suffering as well as emotional and financial stress. The five leading causes of injury deaths in Iron County are firearms, falls, poisoning, suffocation and motor vehicle crashes.

Injury prevention education is integrated in public health services provided to families and children. Since 1983 the Iron County Health Department has partnered with the Iron County Sheriff's Department to provide Hurley 3rd graders a helmet and a bike safety educational program. The program has expanded over the past few years to include the Hurley Police Department and the Hurley Dairy Queen as partners. Chris Colassaco from the Hurley Police Department has expanded the program and offered it to Head Start, Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten classes in Hurley and Mercer Schools. In 2015, 93 students in the Hurley School (including the Northwood's Christian Academy), 16 students in the Mercer School, and 40 children in Head Start, participated in the program. The health department provided helmets and a safety information gift bag to these Iron County students.

Nutrition/ Tri-State WIC Program



WIC is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. WIC helps income eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, women who have recently given birth, infants and children up to five years of age who are at health risk due to inadequate nutrition. The program improves pregnancy outcomes by providing services or referrals to support services as need to achieve the goal of a full term pregnancy. Normal birth weight infants have decreased incidents of morbidity and mortality. Infants less than 5.5 pounds are at greater risk of breathing problems, brain injuries, and physical abnormalities. WIC provides infants and children

with a healthy start in life by improving poor or inadequate diets while saving long-term medical costs. The WIC Program provides essential health for women during the prenatal period. Iron County partners with Ashland and Bayfield counties to provide this service. Iron County served 124 participants in 2015. Eighty nine pregnant women and children were served in 2014 as compared to 142 clients in 2013.

In July of 2015 WIC discontinued paper coupons and updated to an electronic format. Coupons are now on a card E-WIC system.

Oral Health

Oral health is essential to the general health and well-being of all Wisconsin residents and can be achieved by everyone. Virtually everyone will have some sort of dental problem during his or her life, but regular dental care can prevent minor problems from becoming major ones. In children, the immediate consequences of poor oral health can result in psychological and social stressors, self-esteem issues, difficulty eating, swallowing, and speech problems. Dental services for children can be a problem due to the lack of finances or dental services available for medical assistant enrollees.

Because Iron County is a non-fluoridated water community, the health department ensures that children are receiving fluoride in other forms. In 2015, the Iron County oral health program provided 2 children with fluoride supplements, including tablets and drops ages 6 months to 16 years. Fluoride mouth rinse is offered to all 3 Iron County schools. The fluoride program was offered to 349 children from first to sixth grades and 285 participated. (In 2014, 355 children were offered the fluoride program with 290 participating). The fluoride varnish and sealant program is provided by Northlake's Community Clinic, our Federally Qualified Health Care (FQHC) Clinic in Ashland County. This is another example of a shared service and community partnership that small counties like Iron County participate in. Dr. Hagemann, DDS, assists Northlake's in the varnish program at the Hurley sites.

Wisconsin Well Women Program



The Wisconsin Well Women Program was changed to a regional model in 2015. Iron County lost the \$8,000 grant we received in previous years for program coordination and this money went to Oneida County where the WWWP Coordinator is now housed. Iron County now refers our women to:

Contact: **Nichole Peplinski**
Oneida County Health Department
100 W Keenan Street
Rhineland, WI 54501
Phone: 715-369-6119
Fax: 715-369-6112

npeplinski@co.oneida.wi.us

In 2015, we provided services to 7 clients; in 2014 we served 13 clients, down from 32 clients in 2013.

Reproductive Health and Family Planning

The Iron County Health Department offers affordable and comprehensive reproductive health care to Iron County residents. Our goal is to make sure that affordable and confidential reproductive health services are available to anyone who needs it, regardless of their age, marital status, race, gender or income level.

Birth control and counselling on reproductive issues, along with annual exams are provided by an on-site nurse practitioner. Our nurses worked with 123 unduplicated clients in 2015 as compared with 180 clients in 2014 and 209 clients in 2013, providing pregnancy tests, birth control refills, STD follow-up and other reproductive services. (We want to ensure our patients are aware of and understand the risks of the choices they make. We provide them with the information they need to maintain their health and well-being so that they may have a family when the

time is right for them. Wisconsin law guarantees confidential access to family planning services.) We continue to offer our services to Michigan residents and are a certified Michigan Department of Community Health and Plan First provider. We offer family planning services to men and women and can assist them in enrolling for the Michigan Medicaid Plan First program.

As the numbers continue to decline we need to evaluate the services our clinic is providing and assure we are meeting the needs of our community. We attempted a weekly presence at Gogebic Community College (GCC) in January and February as requested by GCC administration. This was discontinued due to lack of participation.

We participated in a state-wide Get Yourself Tested (GYT) Campaign which is a free STD clinic. During November and December we offered 2 after hours clinics and tested 6 clients.

On September 9, 2016 Melissa and Zona attended the GCC Resource Day and offered free condoms and information to students.



Community Human Health Hazards (HHH)



To protect the health of the citizens of Iron County, we investigate situations with the potential of being a human health hazard and resolve those health hazards not regulated by other governmental agencies. On September 25, 2007, the Iron County Board of Supervisors revised the Public Nuisance Ordinance. Enforcement of the Human Health ordinance is the role of Iron County Board of Health, Iron County Health Department's Health Officer and

Environmental Health Specialist. If a human health hazard is found, the Health Department works with the owner to ensure safe removal of the hazard. If an owner does not comply with removal of the hazard, a citation may be issued. In 2015 there were 2 reports of dog bites and 5 negative rabies reports. There were 3 complaints that included mold, road dust, and garbage following a music festival. 9 HHH were investigated in 2014 and 6 in 2013.

Food Safety Programs

The food safety/inspection contract with UW-Oshkosh expired on June 30, 2015. Prior to that Brian Jorada, R.S., who had been coming weekly to Iron County and providing environmental health services resigned to take a new position in Southern Wisconsin. He was not replaced immediately and it was difficult for the one remaining RS to provide services to both Vilas County and Iron County. As a result many of our inspections were not complete in 2015. The Board of Health recognized the importance of a strong environmental health program in the community and hired Elizabeth Ruder as the Iron County Health Department Environmental Health Specialist starting July 20, 2015. Elizabeth graduated from Ball State University in Indiana with a Master's Degree in Biology. Elizabeth has hit the ground running. She has attended numerous conferences and trainings. She has also worked closely with Registered Sanitarians from neighboring counties for orientation. We are very fortunate to have Elizabeth join our staff at the ICHD. Our environmental health program works with retail food stores, restaurants, hotels, bed and breakfast establishments, public swimming pools, campgrounds, and tattoo and body piercing establishments to educate employees and consumers about all aspects of public health safety including safe food handling procedures, proper temperatures for cooking, serving and refrigeration.

On January 8, 2015 we signed the DNR Transient Non-community (TN) Water System contract. This contract required us to collect 45 water samples and complete 13 well inspections for revenue of \$5875.00. The big news in the Food Safety Recreational Licensing (FSRL) program is the merge with the Department of Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). This is planned to be complete in 2016 and will require major changes in our policies and ordinances next year.

In 2015, 217 (231 in 2014) licenses were issued. Iron County licenses 1 body art facility, 14 campgrounds, 68 food establishments, 2 schools, 126 hotels, 5 pools and 1 summer camp. Prior to a license being issued, the establishment must be inspected in an effort to reduce food borne illnesses and assure safety for our Iron County residents and the thousands of tourists who dine and stay in establishments in our area.

In November 2015 Elizabeth wrote and successfully received a Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health Wisconsin Environmental Public Health Tracking Program grant to test nitrates and bacteria in private wells in Wisconsin. She will be partnering with Iron County Land and Water Conservation and Zoning to continue the work started by Heather Palmquist and testing wells in the Lake Superior basin. This grant will allow the program to test wells in the southern part of the county. This grant was one of 8 grants awarded in the state. Testing will be done in 2016, the results will be gathered and this data will be valuable to start our septic/Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) work in 2016.

Childhood Lead Testing

There is no safe level of lead in the human body. Even low levels of lead exposure can cause permanent brain damage and negatively affect health throughout a child's life, especially those between 6 months and 5 years of age. Many lead hazards still exist in homes and the environment, including paint, vinyl mini-blinds, chalk, candlewicks and others. These hazards are commonly present during painting and remodeling of pre-1978 housing. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines lead poisoning as a blood lead level of 10 or greater. In Iron County, children with a lead level of 10 or greater are provided with follow-up and consultation by a Public Health Nurse. Follow-up may include phone calls, home visits, consultation with the primary health care provider and a home lead risk assessment. The ultimate goal is to reduce environmental lead exposure and lead poisoning.

<p>2015 Iron County Blood Lead Testing Total Number of Tests: 65 (65 in 2014) Tests < 10 ug/dl: 65 Tests 10 to 19 ug/dl: 0 Test >20 ug/dl: 0 Home Investigation Inspections: 0</p>

Tobacco Control and Prevention

Iron County belongs to the Northwest Multi-Jurisdictional Coalition with Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Sawyer, and Washburn counties. The MJC is a resource with tobacco-free information for citizens, law enforcement, businesses, health departments and municipalities. There are 15 MJC's in the state and each has one or two coordinators.



School Health

The health, well-being and safety of children in the Hurley and Mercer School Districts, and the Northwood's Christian Academy are a top priority for the health department. Iron County public health nurses play a crucial role in a child's health care needs at school, home and in the community. School nurses facilitate positive student responses to normal development; promote health and safety; intervene with actual and potential health problems; provide case management services; and actively collaborate with others to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self management, self-advocacy, and learning. Healthy children are successful learners. The Iron County Health Department provides school nursing services for students for all 3 schools in Iron County.

The ICHD assures schools have a lice policy and supports lice checks done by school staff. This year the school policy was changed as recommended by DPI and children are no longer sent home if they have nits, but left to stay until the end of the day.

Development Days is a way for the school and the Birth to 3 Program to screen children who may require early intervention services due to developmental delays in growth. This is an annual event in Hurley and Mercer and was done on March 26th and 27th. This year 12 (same in 2014) developmental screenings were completed in all Iron County schools.

The 8th annual Hurley K-6 Health Fair was held on March 27th this year in the school gym. Office Manager, Melissa DeCarlo, taught the kids the importance of daily physical activity and had them doing jumping jacks and other exercises. On October 21st the ICHD staff attended the Mercer Community Health Fair and offered BPs and flu shots to adults and apples, along with information on healthy snacks, to the kids.

The Iron County Health Department attends Hurley School health committee meetings, school board meetings, Safe Routes to School committee meetings, the green committee meetings, Coordinated Services Team (CST) meetings and substance abuse prevention community coalition meetings to ensure the physical, mental, emotional, and safety needs of our Iron County children are being met.



The health department completed its work on the 3 year WPHA School Health Services Assessment Tool and Resources grant funded by the Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program at the Medical College of Wisconsin. This was a 3 year grant that asked the Hurley School to act as a learning laboratory for testing at least 3 new school policies and procedures which included: School Nursing Procedure Manual, Food Allergies: Managing and Preventing Acute Reactions in the School Setting,

Medication Administration Policy and Procedure, Emergency Nursing Services, and Concussion Management. A policy and procedure manual was completed for the school and approved by the Hurley School Board on December 21, 2015. ICHD staff continues to support the area Lions and Lioness' to offer vision screening to students.

Birth to 3 Program

Birth to 3 is a federally mandated, state-wide program providing support to families and services to children aged birth to three who are experiencing some type of developmental delay. Staff trained in assessing the developmental strengths and needs of very young children, determine with the parents/caregivers, if a child is eligible for the program. Once a child is determined to be eligible, services are provided to enhance the child's development and support the family's ability to nurture that development. Parents play a primary role in the Birth to 3 Program. The mission of the Birth to 3 team is to support the parents and help them to understand their child, identify the daily routines and activities that promote the child's development, and help determine the most natural setting in which services will be provided. The Iron County Health Department contracts with a physical therapist, speech therapist, early childhood education and occupational therapist. In 2015, 3 children were served. 4 children were evaluated but did not qualify for services because they did not have a 25% delay. The Iron County Birth to 3 Program served 7 children in 2014 and 10 children in 2013. Iron County contracted physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and early childhood education provided a total of 34 visits in the child's natural environment in 2015.

Jail Health Program

The Iron County Health Department contracts with the Iron County Sheriff's Department to provide health care for inmates and consultation for sheriff department staff. Our nurse practitioner provides direct inmate exams which often save the county a doctor office or emergency room visit, which can be costly. In 2014 the health department provided 117 contacts, (93 in 2013 and 104 in 2015) with jail inmates, deputies, med reviews, or completing transfer forms. The jail staff and sheriff's department staff were provided medication administration

training, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) training and Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)/Automated External Defibrillation (AED) certification by health department nurses on April 29, 2015.

Prevention Programs

Providing evidence-based programs are preventive strategies based upon the Iron County needs assessment and community health improvement plan. The Iron County Health Department delivers public health services to citizens by qualified health professionals in a manner that is family centered, culturally competent and consistent with best practices.

ICHHD partnered with Dianne Lonsway (Upper Peninsula Commission for Area Progress or UPCAP) to bring Healthy Living with Diabetes to the community April 8, 2015 through May 13, 2015 at the Iron County Court House. 8 participants attended the 6 week evidence-based program which teaches people with diabetes to manage their illness and improve their overall health.

Dining with Diabetes is a program developed by West Virginia University Extension Service Families and Health to teach individuals with diabetes and their family members to make positive behavior and clinical changes and take charge of their diabetes. The Iron County Health Department, UW-Extension, Marshfield Clinic and the Aspirus Grand View Health System partnered together to offer diabetic testing, teach current nutrition practices, demonstrate recipes, offer and encourage exercise options and provide information on diabetes resources and support groups. Four classes were offered September 14th-17th with a follow-up class December 14th with 8 people attending.

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention was added to the list of evidence based programming for 2015. LeeAnn Heikkila, Martha Pierpont and Anita Carter attended training and certification. Classes are offered in Mercer, Hurley, and Gogebic County.

In 2015, funding was again provided by the White Thunder Riders and the annual Dan Tomlanovich Vintage Memorial Ride to provide diabetic screening in our community. During the year, 81 (61 in 2014) people were screened for diabetes. Funding in the amount of \$700 was provided (\$1,084 in 2014). Forty

eight of these tests were done in Mercer with our partners Louise Minisan and Karen Lauer. Thank you!



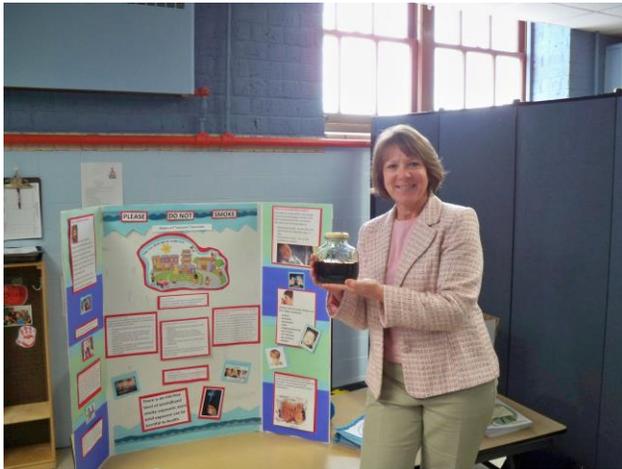
On October 19, 2015 the health department held our annual Women's Health Night at Sharon's Coffee Company in Hurley. Thirty five women participated in this educational program that focused on breast health and a variety of topics to improve the health of women. Edie Kaari, a 95 year old breast cancer survivor, spoke of her experiences from diagnosis, through treatment and to recovery. Dr. Dori Mattson, Chiropractor, talked about the importance of an active lifestyle and good nutrition assist in prevention of breast cancer. Andrea Newby, UW-Extension Family Living Educator led us on a walk before the event, and led exercises for improved health during the program.

The health department offers a Breast Cancer Transportation Program. We purchased 20 \$50.00 gas cards to assist women who have to travel for chemo or treatment. Also, \$500 was donated to Aspirus Grand View for their new chemo addition. The Grass Drag Ladies Pretty in Pink Race on August 15th at the Saxon Fair Grounds donated \$2,500. Thank you!

The Strong Women/Strong Bones programs continue to grow in our community. Springstead, Hurley, Bessemer and Wakefield continue their successful programs. Mercer Health and Wellness has a Strong Women program that runs independently and offers 4 classes per week.

ICHHD continues to support the annual Brian Nasi Memorial Walk to improve awareness of and prevention of heart disease.

On February 8, 2015 the health department participated in the Mercer Heart Healthy Brunch. Zona presented information on Tdap, diabetes screens, foot care and all services offered by the health department that can improve health.



Employee Wellness Program

The Iron County Employee Wellness program continues to encourage employees to be active. Employee Wellness funds pay for Main Street Fitness classes or gym memberships.

The spring of 2015 again found 21 Iron County employees and community members planting raised beds in the Iron County Community Garden located behind the court house. In the center of the garden a beautiful raised herb star garden provides fresh herbs for gardeners to use. On August 27th a Cooking with Herbs and Grains class was offered to employees and community members. Five more apple trees were added to the garden orchard. UW-Extension staff planted two beds of fresh veggies for WIC families and the Iron County Food Pantry. This project is funded by an employee wellness grant from WCA Group Health Trust and supported by UW-Extension, the health department and the Range Master Gardener Volunteers. On December 18, 2015 an employee wellness lunch was held at the court house and prizes given for 1)Smoking Cessation, 2) weight loss 3) reading The Blue Zones books, 4) having an annual exam, and 5) eliminating sugar or fast food in your diet.

Picnic tables were added to the garden this year so employees can enjoy breaks or lunch in the peacefulness of the garden.

Radon

The Iron County Health Department did not receive grant funding for radon in 2015. Radon test kits were offered for \$5. In 2015, a total of 12 (6 in 2014) radon tests were sent in by Iron County residents. No significantly elevated readings were discovered.

Child Death Review (CDR) Team

The goals of the Iron County Child Death Review Team are to 1) maintain a team to better understand risk factors and circumstances of each child's (ages birth through 20) death, 2) utilize information gathered from the CDR Team to identify trends and drive local prevention efforts through implementation of evidence-based prevention programs, 3) facilitate entry of local CDR data into the National CDR Case Reporting System, and 4) identify recommendations for policies and resources to sustain a statewide CDR program. Two child deaths were reviewed in 2015. The Iron County CDR team continued to meet quarterly during 2015 and focus their efforts on prevention. The 2 suicide prevention strategies were Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) outreach in the community and drug take back/disposal. QPR programs were offered by Sarah Eder, Social Worker, from Iron County Human Services. The Man Therapy Suicide Prevention Program was also instituted. Health Department staff met with the Tavern League on November 16, 2015 and they supported the placement of posters and coasters in Iron County taverns for outreach efforts. On December 29, 2015 CDR team members participated in a pub crawl and delivered posters and coasters to Silver Street taverns.



Iron County Foot and Nail Care Clinics



Martha Pierpont, RN, FNP, continues to provide foot and nail care clinics monthly in Mercer and Hurley.

These clinics continue to be very successful. Sixteen clients are seen regularly in Hurley and 31 clients in Mercer. (52 clients in 2014).

This year, Liana Saari, RN, was also sent to Eau Claire for foot care training on October 14-15, 2015 as the demand for nail care continues to increase.

Grant Funding/Other

On July 30, 2015, the 3rd annual Aging Friendly Iron County Summit was held at the Mercer Community Center. Pam VanKampen, Registered Dietician, from the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR), spoke on healthy nutrition for seniors. Erin, Around the Corner Pub, served a healthy lunch.

Senator Janet Bewley was present to hear about issues Iron County seniors experience.



Community Collaboration

Health Department staff attend numerous community collaboration meetings such as Iron County Human Services Coordinated Services Team (CST) and Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) meetings; Iron County Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) Coalition; Traffic Safety; and Aging Friendly Iron County. Zona wrote a Building Dementia Friendly Communities Grant in 2015 and with the assistance of the coalition and Misty Mogensen, Dementia Specialist for Iron County, community training, education, and outreach was conducted. Still Alice, the movie, was shown in Springstead, Mercer, and Hurley. Dementia Friendly Business training was provided by Misty for area businesses.

Building Networks

The ICHD and DOVE were awarded \$2,000 each for a Building Networks for Advocacy and Reproductive Health grant. This grant ran through November 30, 2015. The health department and DOVE were 1 of 4 collaborative teams granted these funds in the state.

The purpose of the project is to establish formalized, sustainable, and effective partnerships and practices for clients seeking services from family planning providers and sexual assault/domestic violence advocacy agencies. The team met monthly and developed agency policies.

On December 9, 2015 DOVE staff represented our collaborative at a state-wide meeting in Stevens Point to report on lessons learned, policy development and the success of the grant.

WPHA/WALHDAB Conference

Health Officer, Zona Wick, and Board of Health President, John Smith, attended the annual WPHA/WALHDAB Conference in Wisconsin Dells May 18-21, 2015.



Looking Forward

Iron County Health Department continues to strive to improve public health services efficiently and effectively while meeting the health needs of the community.. The health department is working on these areas:

- **Accreditation** - Achieving Volunteer Accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board is a future goal of Iron County Health Department. Volunteer Accreditation provides standards to all health departments advancing quality and performance.
- **Quality Improvement** - The purpose of the quality improvement plan is to establish policies and procedures for quality improvement activities within the ICHD. The QI process will be part of all programs and services provided by ICHD. The American Society for Quality framework Plan-Do-Check-Act is used. ICHD is required to complete one Quality Improvement project annually. The health department completed a reproductive health QI project in 2015, a Reproductive Health Satisfaction survey.
- **Performance Management** - ICHD measures its progress through a performance management plan.
- **Strategic Planning** The health department completed its strategic plan on September 18, 2013 and it was updated and approved on September 25, 2015 at the board of health meeting. The strategic plan is reviewed at monthly staff meetings and the annual CHIP review plan with community members.
- **Public Health Funding** – Wisconsin ranks last (51) in public health funding in the nation. ICHD will continue to advocate for adequate public health funding and policies in order to improve life expectancy and quality.

Thank You Julann!

At the December 7, 2015 Board of Health meeting Julann Ritter's retirement from the health department was honored with a beautiful watch and a reception. Julann was hired on October 1, 1994 and her final day will be January 20, 2016. Julann provided exceptional service to our Iron County residents not only for reproductive health but immunizations, communicable disease, health screens, and numerous other programs and services. She will be missed by co-workers and clients. Thank you Julann for 21 years of dedicated work in public health!



Iron County Public Health Staff:
Zona Wick, MS, BSN, RN
Director/Health Officer

Julann Ritter, BSN, RN
Public Health Nurse

Liana Saari, RN
Community Health Nurse

Elizabeth Ruder
Environmental Health Specialist

Melissa DeCarlo
Office Manager

Susan Herlevi
Part-time Program Assistant

Martha Pierpont, RN, FNP
Contracted Nurse Practitioner

Board of Health:

John Smith, chairman
Kimball
Brad Matson, vice chairman
Springstead
Tom Thompson
Mercer

Dr. Nils Olson
Mercer
Dr. Paul Hagemann
Hurley
Karl Krall
Saxon
Jeanette Splonskowski
Carey

Annual Report:

For additional copies of this report call, 561-2191 or visit our website at

ironcountyhealthdept.org

Information Sources: National Association of County and City Health Officials, Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Tri- County Annual Report 2002, Iron County Health Department.

2015 Revenues

January 1 – December 31, 2015

Total County Appropriations	\$295,147.19
Total grants	\$107,572.00
Total fees from service	\$119,805.00

2015 Expenditures

Total salaries, wages and benefits	\$328,020.73
Total operation costs	\$156,641.08
Total Expenditures	\$484,661.81

2015 Population Base
5,916

Boards of Health Meetings were held on March 31, 2015, June 29, 2015, September 21, 2015, and December 7, 2015. Locations alternate between Hurley and Mercer.

Other 2015 Public Health Statistics

	# Clients		
Adult BP Screening	29	47(2014)	51(2013)
Adult Health Screening	27	72 (2014)	59(2013)
Developmental Screening	12	12 (2014)	10(2013)
Medication Administration	210	110(2014)	111(2013)
Tb Skin Tests	44	39(2014)	55(2013)
Latent TB Program	0	0(2014)	2(2013)
Paternity Tests	5	10(2014)	3(2013)



Public Health
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