



Lawrence · Douglas County

# PUBLIC HEALTH

Advancing Health for All



2019 Annual Report



## Director's message

# Why Public Health - Renewing Our Promise To You



Director Dan Partridge

Over the last few years public health departments across the country have joined us in focusing on improving social and community level determinants of health, so that, we might someday eliminate health inequity.

This transition has changed how we work with you and for you.

In 2019 we made the change to Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health and have adopted the tagline Advancing Health for All.

This move, in part, was driven by our recognition that wellness and disease in our community is not equally distributed or accessible. I am excited to see us renew our promise to you.

In order to best deliver on our promise, we focus on delivering what are known as the 10 Essential Public Health Services. As you read this report you will learn more about how we provide the essential services. But why they are important?

The 10 Essential Public Health Services provide a national framework that defines core universal capabilities that should be available throughout the United States.

These capabilities have shown through decades of research and evaluation to improve health outcomes when robustly delivered. One measure of this "robustness" is accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board.

While this annual report largely focuses on 2019, we would be remiss if we did not mention the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Through this great challenge, we are seeing a prime example of the vital importance of the 10 Essential Public Health Services.



# Assessment

Monitoring system for tracking and signaling changes

## Behavioral health collaboration

In recent years we have witnessed alarming trends in the area of behavioral health in our community. Suicide is rising across Douglas County, and one in four Douglas County adults have been diagnosed with a depressive disorder. Binge drinking among adults far outpaces both state and national averages.

Behavioral health affects physical and overall health and includes mental health, substance abuse, and suicide risk. Behavioral health issues are symptoms of physical conditions occurring in the brain and can be addressed through mental health programs, suicide prevention and substance abuse interventions.

In Douglas County, we are doing everything we can to understand behavioral health, so that we can provide the best system of prevention, treatment, and recovery that we can. As one key issue area under the current Community Health Plan, 2019 we have seen progress in several areas through these collaborative partnerships.



Douglas County Behavioral Health Leadership Coalition partners on Nov. 8, 2019, celebrate the groundbreaking of the Treatment & Recovery Campus of Douglas County. Bob Tryanski, Douglas County's Director of Behavioral Health Projects, high-fives Shannon Oury, Executive Director of the Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority and Lawrence-Douglas County Health Board member.

### Engage Douglas County

DCCCA and Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health have led prevention efforts and formed a stakeholder group seeking to help "engaged adults and thriving youth."

### Suicide Report

Informatics staff found suicide as the eighth-leading cause of death and second-leading cause among those 15-44 years old.. The Zero Suicide initiative and others seek to help address these trends.

### myStrength app

An online wellness tool launched in June 2019 and available to all Douglas County residents, partly funded by a Data-Driven Prevention Initiative Grant.

## COVID-19 pandemic leads to collaboration, mobilization of public health resources



The global COVID-19 pandemic has created an immense challenge. In Douglas County's response, it has also spurred a powerful collaboration under the Unified Command structure jointly led by Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health, Douglas County, the City of Lawrence and LMH Health, with support from Douglas County Emergency working under a common set of objectives. The pandemic also has shined a spotlight on the work of public health:

- The authority of Local Health Officer Dr. Thomas Marcellino to issue health orders including a stay-home order and limits on public gatherings aimed at stopping the spread of the virus.
- Epidemiology and disease investigation to identify close contacts of positive case and ordering them to quarantine.
- Data analytics and planning to forecast needs for a potential healthcare surge and population surveys seeking to identify the prevalence of the virus.
- Collaborative work with partners and social service agencies to assist members of vulnerable populations in the community.
- Tracking data trends among positive cases.



CMA Ange Ericksen helps Public Health Nurse Nicole Parker with her personal protective equipment at the standup testing site.



A Unified Command briefing conducted via Zoom to practice social distancing.

# Marginalized Douglas County residents identify barriers to quality employment



“Implicit bias is so powerful. Immediately you walk up, and people are already making assumptions about you.”  
 “I’m who I am, but I can’t be completely who I am because of who I work with.”  
 “Because I’m a woman of color, there’s a glass ceiling in organizations because no one looks like you in leadership.”

As part of the Healthy Communities Initiative, funded by the Kansas Health



Community Liaison Christina Gentry leads the Healthy Communities Initiative as part of a Kansas Health Foundation Grant.

Foundation, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department in partnership with an interdisciplinary group of community members and representatives between fall 2018 and spring 2019 interviewed 100 Douglas County residents living in public housing and receiving housing vouchers about barriers they face to quality and stable employment.

## Advancing Black Maternal Child Health focus groups part of steps to address disparities

In Douglas County, the rate of babies born at a low birth-weight is twice as high among Black mothers than those of all other racial groups, according to the Douglas County Health Equity Report.

Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health and a group of community partners are leading a series of focus groups,

Advancing Black Maternal Child Health, as a step to work together in moving toward eliminating these disparities in Black maternal and infant health.

Low birthweight of a baby can be a potential risk factor for negative health outcomes. “There is a significant amount of research that exposes underlying systemic rationale for this

disparity. We are not wanting to dispute those findings but want to lift up the experiences of women in Douglas County to better tell the story from a local perspective,” said Jenn Preston, Support Services Supervisor for the Health Department. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment funds the project.

# Policy Development

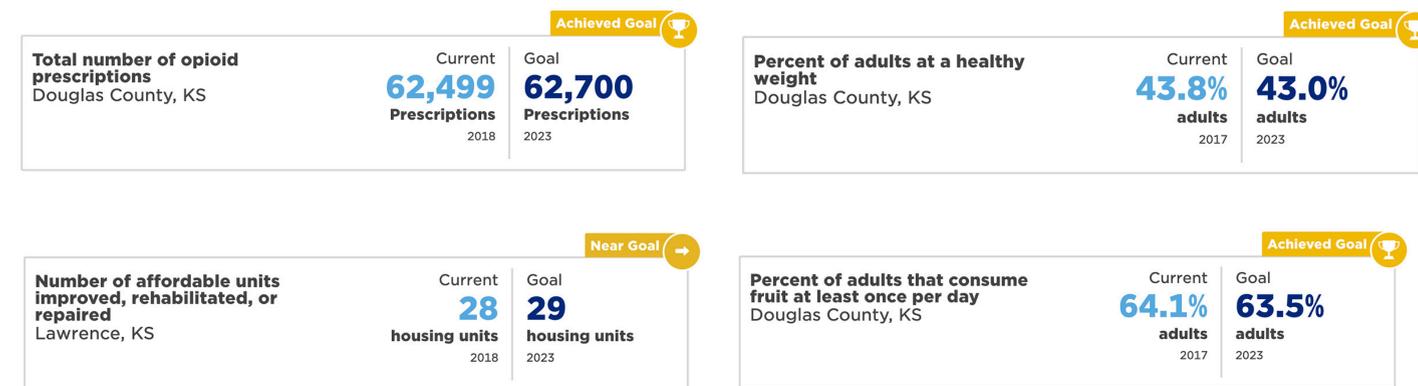
Informing and educating the public about priority issues



## Healthier Together interactive dashboard helps tracking of Community Health Plan progress

The 2018-2023 Douglas County Community Health Plan sits on a foundation that is committed to create health equity for everyone in Douglas County. As the steward of this plan with community partners, the Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health is working to create the conditions for health for all. In 2019, we launched Healthier Together an interactive platform to allow community members to learn more about equity issues affect everyone’s health. The Healthier Together platform reached 500 unique visitors in September 2019, which at the time was the fastest by a health data platform, according to mySidewalk, the platform’s provider.

### Community Health Plan Progress in 2019



# Douglas County becomes finalist for prestigious RWJF Culture of Health Prize

Douglas County has advanced to the final group among eight communities for the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize.



Apprentice artists with Van Go Inc., an arts-based social service agency in Lawrence work on a mural for crisis rooms at LMH Health's emergency department.

The Douglas County application highlighted progress in:

- Integrating Arts and Social Science to serve behavioral health needs
- Building a Peer Support System of Care in Behavioral Health
- Affordable Housing solutions for all residents
- Building a Community of Learning and Practice for Equity

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the selection committee has postponed site visits for 2020 finalists until 2021.



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

*We are pleased to advance as a RWJF Culture of Health Prize finalist. To the Douglas County community, it means a great deal to be recognized for working together in new ways to advance health for all. We credit our advancement as a finalist to the hard work of so many community members who have worked to offer solutions and opportunities in areas that include affordable housing, behavioral health, healthy food access and providing healthy futures."*

— Sarah Hartsig, Community Health Planner



Cindy Sturm, a Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center Peer Support Fellow, in the application talks about the chance to provide behavioral health support to others in Douglas County.

# Anti-vaping awareness campaign engages key community partners, youth advocates

In June 2019, Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health, LiveWell Douglas County, Lawrence Public Schools, The Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence and the University of Kansas Cancer Center presented a public forum that included health information from a medical expert, personal experiences from youth with vaping, and a discussion about tackling this issue.



# Modeling the way on equity work, LD-CPH institutes living wage, infant at work policies for employees

After producing the Douglas County Health Equity Report in late 2018 and engaging in key community conversations around social determinants of health, Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health leadership enacted two key policies seeking to model the way on

addressing equity issues.

Upon recommendations of the Health Equity Committee and HR Policy Committee, LD-CPH instituted a living wage for all employees as part of the 2020 budget and an infant-at-work policy allowing parents to bring infants to the office

through six months in lieu of child care costs. Staff who work in jobs that would not be conducive to care for an infant would receive a stipend.

"These are steps that we hope will inspire other organizations to do the same." said Director Dan Partridge.

# Community Outreach

## Baldwin Maple Leaf Festival Float



## Health in All Policies: Lawrence City Commission Candidate Forum

## Eudora Immunization Clinics



## Community Health Garden



# Assurance

*Linking people to needed services and support*

LDCPH is first program in state — possibly the nation — to enroll family connected to Family First funding

Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health's Healthy Families Douglas County program and the Success By 6 Coalition of Douglas County in 2019 received a \$13 million Family First prevention grant from the Kansas Department for Children and Families.

"This is a great opportunity to support and partner with more families in Douglas County that are overwhelmed with a multitude of stressors. While this is not as far upstream as evidenced-based primary and secondary prevention recommends, it is a movement in the right direction," said Jenn Preston, Supervisor of Support Services.

The Family First Prevention Services Act provides new federal funding for prevention activities. The funding is available for children at imminent risk of placement in foster care as well as parents or kinship caregivers.

The Act provides federal matching dollars for evidence-based services rated as "well-supported" in the areas of mental health,



**Healthy Families Douglas County Public Health Nurse Kelli Raney participates in a pool outing with client families. The program in 2019 was the first in Kansas to enroll a family connected to the Family First prevention grant.**

substance-use disorder, parent skill building and kinship navigation.

Healthy Families Douglas County staff also hit the ground running with program. It became the first one in the state — and likely the nation — to enroll a family connected to Family First funding, connecting families with prevention activities to help children at imminent risk of placement in foster care as well as parents or kinship caregivers.

Healthy Dads graduates thrive under confidence instilled in them, making new connections

Xavier Brown



"I had a year of not having that class. I figured I was pretty good. I knew everything. 'You can't teach me how to raise my daughter.' But coming into the class, it was a real game-changer...so many little things that you are so oblivious to, that can completely impact the relationship between me and my daughter."

Santiago Gee

"I believed in myself more, that I can do this. It helped to have people to believe in you and tell you that you can do it — and just being positive."



# Collaboration on new electronic medical record drives changes for public health purposes

Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health and fellow departments in four counties, Johnson, Riley, Shawnee and Wyandotte, in recent years partnered together to look at a new multi-county electronic medical record system.

After a thorough screening process, the group in September 2018 signed contracts with Custom Data Processing Inc. to begin implementing a new system, ezEMRx.

In May 2019, LDCPH was the first among the five counties to go live with the new system.

Among the goals of the regional collaboration, it will allow all five counties to eventually use a uniform system for their electronic medical records and to save on costs with implementation of a new system.

The group is also looking to be a leader in the state in producing an electronic medical record for public health purposes.

*It is going to allow us to be more efficient and streamlined, including the ability to better serve the public and to generate reports to manage our business systems."*

**— Linda Craig,  
Director of Clinic  
Services**



# Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health earns USDA award for breastfeeding support to WIC families

*One of only 16 agencies across the country to receive Gold Premiere Award of Excellence*



Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health in August 2019 was honored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture one of only 16 agencies across the country to receive the Gold Premiere Award of Excellence for its breastfeeding support to WIC families.

The USDA established the award program to recognize local WIC agencies that have provided exemplary breastfeeding promotion and support to their communities. Its intent is to showcase local agencies as models and motivate others to strengthen their breastfeeding promotion and support activities.

Ultimately these efforts can

increase breastfeeding rates among WIC participants and protect and improve the health of families for generations. In 2017, 25.1% of all of the infants on WIC program were exclusively breastfed in Douglas County. This is above the Kansas WIC program average of 15.5%.

“One thing that makes our program so successful is that all of our staff provides breastfeeding support in some way,” said Cary Allen, a Breastfeeding Peer Counselor since 2006.

The clinic’s receptionists encourage mothers to nurse their babies and offer a quiet and private room,

if needed. WIC clinicians help mothers address any breastfeeding challenges and seek to prevent problems. And the clinic checkout staff offers affirmations, while the breastfeeding peer counselors are available to mothers via phone and a text line outside of clinic hours for support.

Elena Johnson, who started in June as a new Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, utilized those support services as a WIC client.

“We want to see everybody on this breastfeeding journey and help see them through their bumps and just want to provide that lifeline,” Johnson said.

## Clinic staff administer 1,443 influenza vaccines through public clinics across the county

Clinic Supervisor Kathy Colson gives an immunization during a Eudora travel clinic.



Public Health Nurse Krista Parks administers a flu shot to Bella Bryan, 10, as she sits on the lap of her father Business Systems Analyst Charlie Bryan.

## Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health mourns the loss of board member Doug Dechairo

Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health offers condolences to the family of Dr. Douglas Dechairo, who passed away May 26, 2019, after a courageous battle with an aggressive form of lung cancer.

Dr. Dechairo, as director of Watkins Health Service at the University of Kansas, served as a Lawrence Douglas-County Health Board member since 2013 under appointment by the Univer-

sity of Kansas Chancellor. "Given both his ties to the community and national experience through an impressive career in health care and public health, Doug was a great resource as a board member and a wonderful partner for the Health Department," said Director Dan Partridge. "We miss him dearly, and we send our deepest sympathies to Lucy and the entire family."

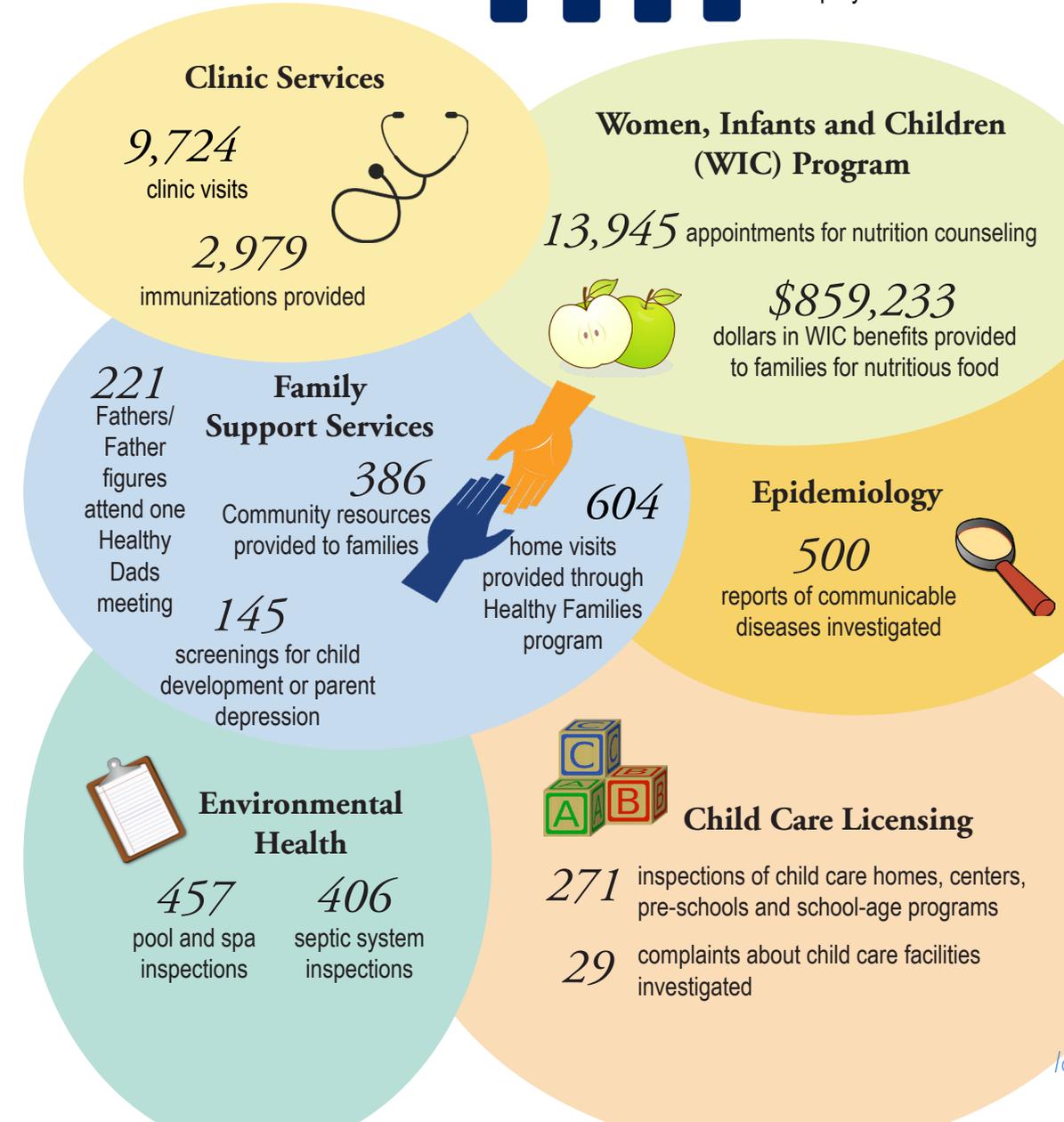


During National Public Health Week in April 2019, Dr. Doug Dechairo accepts a gift of appreciation for his time on the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Board from 2018-19 Board Chair Sandy Praeger.

# 2019 by the numbers



40 employees



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Unaudited statement of revenues and expenditures for Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2019

## OPERATING FUND

**Beginning balance\*** **\$1,454,204**

\*Adjusted from prior annual report to reflect audited financials

<b>Revenue</b>	
Federal	\$1,105,425
**County	\$824,116
City	\$701,000
Fees	\$645,310
Other	\$135,656
State	\$311,739
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$3,723,245</b>

<b>Expenditures</b>	
Salaries and wages	\$1,983,977
Payroll related expenses	\$587,052
Commodities	\$228,194
Contractual	\$699,197
Transfers to Other Funds	\$207,962
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$3,706,382</b>

**Ending balance** **\$1,471,068**

**Net revenue over expenditures** **\$16,864**

\*\*Does not include health insurance subsidy provided by County

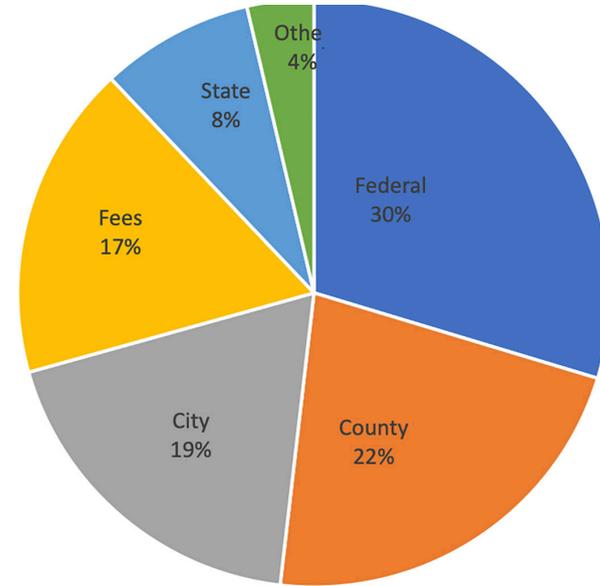
## RESERVE FUND

**Beginning balance** **\$1,717,902**

<b>Revenue</b>	
Interest	\$30,995
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$30,995</b>

**Reserve fund ending balance** **\$1,748,897**

**Net revenue over expenditures** **\$30,995**



Graphic: Sources of revenue

## CAPITAL EQUIPMENT FUND

**Beginning balance** **\$253,946**

<b>Revenue</b>	
Transfer from operating fund	\$207,962
Interest Income	\$442

<b>Expenditures</b>	
Capital equipment	\$207,962

**Reserve fund ending balance** **\$254,388**

**Net revenue for all funds** **\$48,301**



Stephen Fawcett Chair  
 Vern Norwood Vice Chair  
 Verdell Taylor Treasurer  
 Michael Williams  
 Shannon Oury  
 Sandy Praeger  
 Shanda Hurla  
 Diana Malott

## Board's message

*"A basket has two handles for two people to carry it." -Egyptian Proverb*

We have a shared vision: Douglas County is a place in which all people have access to health opportunities, quality education, adequate income, decent housing, safe places, and caring family and friends.

To achieve this vision, we are working together—as a City and County—to see that all of us can reach our full potential for health and good living.

What does Public Health bring to this shared work? We bring several core functions and essential services. Given the great challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have all seen how vital these core functions and essential services are:

**ASSESSMENT:** Public health brings a monitoring system for tracking and signaling changes in leading indicators for health and development; including increases or decreases in levels of environmental pollution, infant mortality, or other key indicators. We also bring the capacity to diagnose factors associated with (and possibly causing) worsening or improvement in leading indicators.

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT:** Public health brings communication systems to inform and educate the public about priority issues (e.g., disease outbreaks, higher levels of infant mortality for some groups), likely causes, and promising options for improving the situation. We support community partnerships for taking action on priority issues (e.g., healthy living, poverty and jobs, behavioral health).

Public health is a key partner in policy development, helping to review promising options to address priority goals (e.g., health care access, assuring opportunities for physical activity and healthy nutrition).

**ASSURANCE:** Public health supports enforcement of needed regulations (e.g., for water quality, environmental health) and implementation of programs (e.g., to strengthen struggling families). We link people to needed services and supports through its clinic and social service partners and prepare community members and professionals, through training and technical support, to be effective in working together to solve problems. Public health evaluates the effects of health-related programs and policies, using the information to improve what is being done.

Our shared vision — opportunities for health and development for all — takes people working together across sectors including health, education, housing, business and faith communities. By providing core public health functions — assessment, policy development, and assurance — we make our work together easier and more likely to be effective.

With each of us taking a handle, we can surely carry this basket.

**Stephen Fawcett**  
 Lawrence-Douglas County Health Board Chair



Lawrence · Douglas County

# **PUBLIC HEALTH**

Advancing Health for All

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