

LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS COUNTY
Health Department
www.ldchealth.org



LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS COUNTY
Health Department

200 Maine St., Suite B
Lawrence, KS. 66044

providing **10** essential services **EVERY DAY**

Find us on:



Healthy People Build Strong Communities • ldchealth.org

Our mission

The Lawrence and Douglas County community has benefited from a strong public health presence for more than 120 years. On your behalf, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department works to provide the 10 essential Public Health Services. In doing so we:

- Safeguard community health and safety through swift response to illness outbreaks.
- Identify urgent and everyday health problems by tracking the health of the community to recognize trends early.
- Assess health problems and promote wellness by fostering community health initiatives.
- Collaborate with community partners to protect health and control the costs associated with health problems.

Healthy People Build Strong Communities



The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department has been located inside the Community Health Facility, 200 Maine St., since 1999.

ON THE COVER, from top to bottom: Brenda Hawkins, Child Care Licensing surveyor visits with a child during an inspection; Health Board member Shirley Martin-Smith, front left, talks about barriers to living a healthy lifestyle during a public forum in Baldwin City; Project LIVELY care manager Corey Roelofs, right, helps client Lillie Davis with health insurance; Jeanette Anderson, right, information technology specialist, buys fresh produce from Lily Siebert, coordinator of a student garden project called "Growing Food, Growing Health."

A message from the Health Board



David Ambler
Vice Chair



Paul Liechti
Chair



Maley Wilkins
Treasurer



Amy Biel



Ray Davis



Shirley Martin-Smith



Carol Seager



Dr. Kevin Stuever

Our mission is to be your advocate. We want to improve your health and the health of your family, friends and neighbors.

Last spring, we attended public forums in Lawrence, Eudora and Baldwin City to listen to you describe what keeps you from living a healthier life. Among the things we heard: inadequate mental health services, lack of places to exercise and too few jobs. That information is being used to create a Community Health Improvement Plan in partnership with 40 community organizations and agencies.

We also advocate for policies that promote health and safety, like the Complete Streets Policy that was approved by the Lawrence City Commission. The policy will ensure streets are designed and operated for all users: pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit users and motorists.

We believe we made great strides in 2012. We are completing the first Community Health Improvement

Plan and working to become one of the first health departments in the nation to achieve accreditation. We became only the fifth health department in the state to implement an electronic medical records system, which will improve efficiency and quality of care.

Advocacy begins with understanding. Please share your opinion on what keeps this community from being healthy and how we might work together to improve it by emailing info@ldchealth.org.

We look forward to serving you in 2013!

Paul Liechti
Chair
Lawrence-Douglas County Health Board

Financial Statement

Unaudited statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the period Jan. 1- Dec. 31, 2012

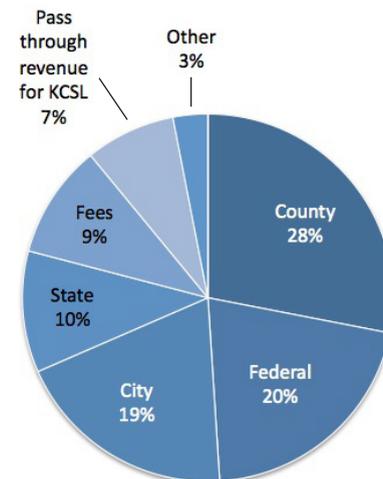
Operating Fund

Beginning balance	\$1,059,682
Revenue	
County	\$937,351
Federal	\$697,834
City	\$648,930
State	\$356,524
Fees	\$333,810
Pass through revenue for KCSL	\$262,672
Other	\$132,070
Total revenue	\$3,369,191
Expenditures	
Salaries & wages	\$1,809,528
Payroll related expenses	\$688,811
Commodities	\$262,765
Contractual	\$287,903
Pass through expenditures for KCSL	\$259,827
Transfer to funded depreciation	\$65,000
Transfer to reserve fund	\$100,000
Capital purchases	\$6,387
Total expenditures	\$3,480,221
Ending balance	\$967,506
Net revenue over expenditures	— \$111,030

Reserve Fund

Beginning balance	\$934,714
Revenue	
Transfer from Operating Fund	\$100,000
Other	\$8,970
Total Revenue	\$108,970
Expenditures	
Personnel liabilities	\$0
Commodities	\$0
Transfer to Operating Fund	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$0
Ending balance	\$1,043,684
Net revenue over expenditures	\$108,970

Revenues



public health *noun*

: the **art** and **science** dealing with the protection and improvement of community health by organized community effort and including preventive medicine and sanitary and social science

— Merriam Webster

Director's Report

We all want to live in a community where people lead healthy, productive lives. Healthy people are able to learn, work and support their family, friends and community.



The work of protecting and improving the health of our community is truly an art and a science! Our 2012 story exemplifies the blending of these disciplines.

We practiced the **art** of listening by asking you through a variety of platforms from individual interviews to community forums and surveys what you feel are the important health issues facing Lawrence and Douglas County. We listened to more than 1,500 residents and in June began focusing on the five issues you said were most important to see improvement on.

These five health issues are:

- Lack of access to affordable, healthy foods
- Insufficient access to health care
- Poverty and unemployment
- Inadequate recognition of mental health issues and access to mental health services
- Lack of physical activity

This is by no means a complete description of what keeps us from leading healthy lives but it is what our community has chosen to plan our health improvement efforts around.

We are now working with community partners using **science** to help us identify strategies and actions that are proven to be effective. We must know what success looks like both qualitatively (art) and quantitatively (science). To that end we have increased our capacity to evaluate data and information through the creation of a Community Health program. Our goal for 2013 is to provide you with information you can trust about matters that influence our health and well-being.

Dan Partridge, RS, MPH
Director

• Monitor, identify and address health problems



Vicki Collie-Akers talks about the results of the Community Health Assessment report during a public forum in May at the Community Health Facility. Collie-Akers, of Kansas University's Kansas Work Group for Community Health and Development, was a key researcher for the assessment, which was released by the Health Department.

1,500

people participated in our community's first Health Assessment

On April 29, the Health Department released the first report to look in-depth at the health of Douglas County residents and the challenges they face in living healthier lives.

To generate the report, the Health Department collected data from national and state resources, partner agencies like Lawrence Memorial Hospital, and hundreds of residents through an online survey, focus groups and one-on-one interviews.

Using the report and community feedback, the Health Department organized five workgroups to address the Top 5 health challenges facing the community. These workgroups will present a Community Health Improvement Plan in Spring 2013.

Staff members continuously monitor the community's health status through reports from school nurses, physicians, labs, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the public. They monitor issues like low-birth weight babies, immunization rates and communicable diseases.



Shirley Grubbs, communicable disease nurse, enters data on whooping cough cases in Douglas County.

• Research for new insights and innovative solutions

The Health Department launched a new Community Health program. It hired Chris Tilden as the program's director and Vince Romero as an analyst. They joined Charlie Bryan, Community Health Planner. This new team of three works closely with policymakers and organizations to promote policy, systems and environmental change to improve health outcomes. Part of this work involves collecting and disseminating research and data.

The Community Health program gathers and evaluates local data from a variety of reputable sources. This data is then presented in easy-to-read formats, including data briefs on the Department's website. The data briefs cover more than two dozen categories ranging from flu vaccination rates to eating habits.



Director of Community Health Chris Tilden, left, goes over Douglas County health statistics with Analyst Vince Romero.

9

out of 10 Douglas County residents do not eat enough fruits and veggies



Community Health Planner Charlie Bryan and Vicki Collie-Akers, of the University of Kansas Work Group for Community Health and Development, discuss the objectives of the new Community Health Improvement Plan as the Director of Community Health Chris Tilden, far left, listens.



The Health Department developed a strong partnership with the University of Kansas Work Group for Community Health and Development.

The Department benefited from KU faculty knowledge and expertise as we collaborated throughout the year to develop a community health assessment and plan.

• Evaluate and improve programs and interventions

Healthy Families Douglas County was one of several programs that initiated projects to improve quality and outcomes.

Jenn Preston, supervisor of **Healthy Families**, said her staff spent a significant amount of time contacting referrals from the Health Department's clinic, only to find out that nearly half of them did not qualify.



Healthy Families Douglas County Case Manager Mandy Gwirtz, left, watches 6-month-old Ashton Walker as he plays with some toy keys during a home visit. She is checking his skills for development and coordination. Also watching are his parents Zach Walker and Emily Rader.

After implementing several strategies, the appropriate referral rate rose to 91 percent. Appropriate referrals allow Healthy Families Douglas County staff to more efficiently use their time.

Healthy Families provides intensive, **in-home support** for new parents with the goal of preventing child abuse and neglect and optimizing child development.

1,083

visits provided to at-risk families by Healthy Families Douglas County staff



Kelli Raney, Healthy Families Douglas County nurse case manager, holds 4-month-old Annabella Smithey during the program's annual holiday party at the Health Department.

Good-bye paper. Health Department staff spent countless hours preparing to move to an **electronic medical record** system, which was implemented Jan. 2, 2013.

The new system improved operational **efficiencies**. It also enabled staff members to better track and report time-sensitive information.

Jennie Henault, director of Administrative Services, left, and Debbie Mitchell, office assistant, sort through the clinic's medical files.



• Diagnose and investigate

The **whooping cough outbreak** that hit Douglas County in 2012 was one of the largest in decades.

While there were 214 cases, up from 17 in 2011, the communicable disease team investigated dozens more. They worked to identify those who were ill and then provided prevention information. They worked with schools, universities, nursing homes, doctors, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and media to help **prevent** the spread of the highly contagious disease, which can cause serious complications for infants, pregnant women and elderly residents.

214

whooping cough cases reported in Douglas County



Clinic Coordinator Kathy Colson, left, prepares for a television interview with Liz Zamora, 6News anchor, about whooping cough cases in Douglas County.



Photo Courtesy of Lawrence Journal-World

Environmental Health staff members received one dozen complaints about bedbugs.

This fall, the Health Department began handling **bedbug** complaints for the first time.

Bedbugs are a **growing problem**, especially in hotels and apartments. The tiny insects don't transmit diseases, but they do bite, multiply rapidly and are extremely difficult to get rid of. The Environmental Health team works with trusted pest control companies in Douglas County to eradicate the bedbug problem. They also provide education about the pests.

• Inform, educate and empower



Shannon Berquist, left, a mentor mom in the breastfeeding support group Breast is Best Social, visits with Lauren Adams and Ellen Kuchelman while their children play. Berquist said she enjoys exchanging advice and tips with other moms.

The Health Department's free breastfeeding support group called Breast is Best Social, or B.I.B.S., marked its first anniversary Aug. 8.

The group meets weekly and is for women seeking to learn about breastfeeding. Our certified breastfeeding counselors facilitate the meetings.

B.I.B.S. continues to grow and four mothers have become mentors. Cary Allen, a breastfeeding peer counselor, said, "It has been inspiring to watch these moms grow into confident and supportive mothers eager to share their experiences or lend a helpful ear, in some cases, a shoulder to cry on."



• Assure a competent workforce



Nick Krug/Lawrence Journal-World Photo

Kim Ens, director of Clinic Services, foreground, visits with new staff members and student interns in August about the clinic during their orientation program. Clockwise, from left, are Frendida Zamora, Wendy Patricio, Alicia Erickson, Stephanie Dawson, Crystan Vaughn, Bonnie Erickson and Steven Mason.

18

students had internships at the Health Department

In October, the Health Department's website — ldchealth.org — received its first makeover since being launched in 2008. It's now accessible on mobile devices.

The website features a new mega menu for better navigation of programs and services. The front page includes public health news as well as health tips and an events calendar. It also showcases extraordinary videos, in-depth reports and personal stories through a scrolling banner.



132,141

website pageviews

Student intern Stephanie Dawson puts together a bulletin board display about influenza in the clinic's waiting room.



Two years ago, the Health Department formalized its student internship program, and it continues to expand. The Department is committed to growing the next generation of public health workers because two-thirds of the country's local health department leaders are older than 50 years.

The Health Department implemented a new policy in 2012 to assure it has a competent public health work force. Employees evaluate their competency levels in eight areas: analytical, policy development and program planning, communication, cultural competency, public health science, community engagement and knowledge, financial planning and management, and leadership.

Employees work with their supervisors to improve their skills and set performance goals. Together, they identify possible training — webinars, classes, conferences — that could help improve job skills.



Ashley Halton, public health nurse, administers a vaccine to a client in the clinic.

• *Link to and provide care*



Peggy Gabler, nurse, administers a tuberculosis test in the Health Department's clinic.

About **80 patients** visit the Health Department's **clinic daily** to receive care such as immunizations, nutrition education and testing for sexually transmitted diseases as well as referrals to needed services.



Trish Unruh, right, nutritionist, visits with a client about proper nourishment for her baby.

Project LIVELY staff members work with **older adults** to help them maintain their **independence** and stay in their homes as long as possible.

Corey Roelofs, a registered nurse, joined **Project LIVELY** (Life, Interest and Vigor Entering Later Years) in April, bringing a medical background to the program for the first time in five years. He is able to provide clients with flu shots in their homes instead of referring them elsewhere, and he can review their prescriptions.

Roelofs joined Sarah Norman, a licensed master social worker. They say it's a great partnership because they can lean on each other for expertise in their respective fields.



Roxey Harmon, left, visits with Sarah Norman, Project LIVELY care manager. Harmon has been a client for two years.



Lessie Davis, left, walks down the hallway of his home for Corey Roelofs, Project LIVELY care manager. Davis, who suffered from a stroke, wasn't able to walk just a few months earlier. Roelofs provides a variety of assistance to Davis and his wife, Lillie, to help them remain in their Lawrence home and independent.

1,098

visits provided to seniors enrolled in Project LIVELY

• *Mobilize community partnerships*



Jennifer Church, left, nutritionist and coordinator of the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, visits with Kelly Calvert, human resources director at The World Company, about the company's new lactation room. Church helped Calvert set up the room for breastfeeding mothers in the fall.

Through support from a state grant, the Women, Infants and Children program, or WIC, helped a handful of Douglas County organizations and businesses set up **lactation rooms**. WIC also provided breastfeeding **education** for **employers** and human resource directors.

Research has shown that women who are able to continue breastfeeding after returning to work are more satisfied and loyal employees, take fewer sick days and have lower health care costs.

900

Douglas County employees benefit from new lactation rooms



Jeanette Anderson, right, information technology specialist at the Health Department, buys locally-grown produce from a new farmers' market booth in the lobby of the Community Health Facility, where she works. Improving access to healthy foods is one of the initiatives the Health Department is partnering with community agencies to address.

The Health Department assumed two new roles that focused on **mobilizing** the community around health and well-being.

First, it began coordinating the work of **LiveWell Lawrence**, a community coalition that aims to change everyday places — neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, restaurants and city streets — into environments that provide healthy food and

convenient opportunities for daily physical activity.

Secondly, the Health Department worked with key partners who facilitated the **five workgroups** to address the top health challenges that Douglas County residents face when it comes to leading healthy lives.

More than 40 community organizations were involved in the workgroups.

• *Develop policies and plans*

88,000

Lawrence residents benefit from new Complete Streets policy



Richard Gwin/Lawrence Journal-World Photo

For two years, the Health Department **advocated** for a **Complete Streets Policy** in Lawrence and its work came to fruition in March when City Commissioners unanimously **approved** it.

The policy is designed to promote a transportation system that encourages walking, bicycling and transit use, which improves the health and safety for all users of streets and reduces environmental impacts.

Health Department staff members lead a LiveWell Lawrence Complete Streets Committee, which reviews policy in draft forms and also provides public education.



The Health Department supported a Complete Streets policy that was adopted by the Lawrence City Commission. The policy ensures that planners and engineers design and operate the entire roadway with all users in mind — including bicyclists, public transportation vehicles and riders, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities.

On Oct. 9, Environmental Health Director Richard Ziesenis **testified** before the state's Legislative Budget Committee about the impact of losing the Local Environmental Protection program. For 20 years, the program provided state funding to health departments to help enforce, inspect and monitor wastewater and water systems.

Ziesenis said the Health Department relied on the program's funding — about \$40,000 annually — to ensure that about 500,000 gallons of septic waste was treated and disposed of properly each year. **Without funding**, it has had to increase fees and **rely on county government** for funding.



Photo Courtesy of Lawrence Journal-World

Environmental Health Director Richard Ziesenis testifies before state legislators about loss of the Local Environmental Protection program.

• *Enforce laws and regulations*

Our **Environmental Health** staff work to ensure the community has **safe** drinking water, swimming pools and school playgrounds.

They performed **1,340 inspections** in 2012 and responded to 138 complaints about issues concerning sewage, food service, mold and rabies.



Environmental Health Specialist Andrew Stull looks at the plans for a home expansion project in rural Douglas County. He was making sure the project wouldn't cause problems with the home's wastewater system and would be in compliance with regulations.

382

Child care home and center inspections



Child Care Licensing intern Taneka Eason is pictured in a video that she helped create about proper diapering procedures.



Child Care Licensing Surveyor Brenda Hawkins, left, visits with Elizabeth Ellis, a teacher at Children's Learning Center in Lawrence. Hawkins was surveying the children as they were playing outside and making sure the area was safe.

Our **Child Care Licensing** team works to ensure child care homes and centers are following regulations and keeping children safe. They perform **inspections** and respond to complaints in a timely manner, and they provide **education**. This fall, they created a how-to video about proper diapering that was posted on the Department's website and YouTube.

They also produced a new organizational sys-

tem for providers to help them reduce violations for paperwork because 91 percent had been cited for improper paperwork during their last survey.

The new low-cost system — which includes a binder, folders and labeling — is already making a difference. The providers are less stressed because they know where their paperwork is and they know it is complete. It also reduces the time of each inspection.