The Auglaize County Health Department, as always, experienced change during 2016. Our amazing staff has been able to roll with the changes and adapt as necessary.

One of the big achievements for the health department this year was finalizing our new Strategic Plan that outlines the direction our department will take in the next 5 years. The plan can be downloaded from our website for viewing. The process our department conducted identified 5 key Strategic Priorities which are:

**Strategic Priority 1: Achieve Accreditation**
The health department will achieve accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board.

**Strategic Priority 2: Advance Public Health Education**
A Public Health Education Department is established.

**Strategic Priority 3: Decrease Adult and Youth Risky Behaviors**
To decrease adult and youth risky behaviors as it relates to alcohol consumption.

**Strategic Priority 4: Strengthen Our Quality Improvement Process**
All staff members utilizing the performance management system and quality improvement process.

**Strategic Priority 5: Improve Public Awareness**
Improve the community’s awareness of our Public Health services through an increase in communication and educational outreach.

Efforts have already been implemented to improve public awareness of our services and programs.

Our website is fully updated and located at [www.auglaizehealth.org](http://www.auglaizehealth.org). The majority of our information and forms are now available online to review, download, and complete prior to visiting our office to make your visit faster.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! To make our information more widely accessible and to stay connected with our clients, the Auglaize County Health Department published a Facebook Page ([https://www.facebook.com/AuglaizeHealth/](https://www.facebook.com/AuglaizeHealth/)) in October.

Over the winter months the staff posted messages from our “Healthy Herbie” Elf to promote safety information and healthy lifestyle choices.
While county health departments can and do have their own sets of rules and regulations, the majority of our time is spent operating under and enforcing Ohio Department of Health programs. As part of that process, local health departments are surveyed by the Ohio Department of Health to ensure that we are interpreting and enforcing those regulations properly. 2016 was the year of the survey, as every mandated program was extensively evaluated and found to be in compliance by the State. Should a county not maintain compliance with Ohio Department of Health requirements, the programs will be removed from county control and administrated by the state.

Starting with the 2017 licensing year, we will be instituting a recognition award system in the Food Program called the "Gold Plate Award". This award will allow us to identify those facilities that are amongst the best in the county in terms of food safety and cleanliness. Routine enforcement activities by their very nature tend to provide negative reinforcement, this program is an attempt to provide a degree of positive reinforcement for our food operations that are doing an exceptional job. To be eligible for this award the location must score an average of at least 90% over all inspections conducted during the licensing year. Only full service operations such as Risk Level 3 and 4 operations will be eligible for this award.

The Auglaize County Health Department has joined a coalition of West-Central Ohio counties to address Radon in our homes. Through an Ohio Department of Health grant we are able to offer free Radon test kits for homeowners throughout our seventeen county area, including Mercer and Shelby counties. A link to the company providing the test kits is available on our website at www.auglaizehealth.org. The kits normally arrive within two weeks and the test only takes forty-eight hours. After the final results are completed we will be happy to help homeowners interpret the readings.

Help Me Grow Home Visiting provides first time expectant or new parents the information and support they need to be prepared for the birth of their child and provides ongoing education and support for families to maximize their child’s health and development to the age of 3. Help Me Grow Home Visiting remains at the Ohio Department of Health. The state leadership group is looking at re-assessing the eligibility for the Home Visiting Program. Our targeted criteria at this time are: a first time mother, either prenatal or with a child under six months of age and eligible for WIC or Medicaid. We can take fifteen percent of families enrolled, as “alternate criteria”. In Auglaize County this is approximately three families that do not meet the targeted criteria.
Emergency Preparedness

During April of 2016, the Auglaize County Health Department participated in a functional exercise conducted by the Northwest Ohio Hospital Council and the Northwest Ohio Health Departments. The exercise was based on the scenario of a deadly virus that affected NW Ohio and caused many fatalities. The exercise was designed to test our plans for dealing with mass fatalities. There were many lessons learned and our plans are being strengthened to deal with areas of weakness that were revealed.

In May, an exercise was conducted that established a temporary mortuary processing center at the Neil Armstrong Airport in New Knoxville. The county coroner, EMA Director and local funeral directors participated in the exercise as we strengthened our planning for dealing with mass fatalities.

The Emergency Response Coordinator strives to improve our “all-hazards” approach to emergency planning. This involves cooperating and collaborating with several entities within in our county and beyond to ensure that we are ready to aid in the protection of our residents.

The Emergency Response Coordinator also serves as the Auglaize County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) coordinator whose mission is to establish a team of local volunteer medical and public health professionals who work with the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to contribute their skills and expertise throughout the year as well as during times of community need. The MRC is comprised of persons with both medical and non-medical backgrounds. This group meets and trains on a regular basis and we are always looking for more volunteers.

Family and Children First Council

As mentioned in previous reports, every county in the state of Ohio, including Auglaize is mandated (ORC 121.37) to have a local Family and Children First Council. We are a locally driven Council that focuses on collaboration in order to streamline and coordinate existing services for children and families. By doing this we are reducing duplication and eliminating service gaps as well as providing a cost savings to the county and more effective, meaningful services to kids and families.

2016 highlights include:

- Providing service coordination and/or financial assistance to over 25 families in the county.
- Council was awarded three state grants that allowed us to provide services and supports such as respite, summer camp, and other supportive services to families in need.
- Council worked to increase infrastructure enhancement by having a council member trained in the Bridges Out of Poverty Curriculum. As a result, in 2017 we plan to train others in the county in this concept thus hopefully allowing us to work through and end the barriers that trap a lot of the families we serve in an endless cycle of poverty.
- FCFC was designated by the commissioners as our local Healthy Buckeye Council. Thus allowing us to collaborate with WOCAP as well as Van Wert and Hardin counties to submit a grant proposal. The proposal was accepted and the tri-county collaboration received a state grant totaling over $900,000 to support additional work project training and supports to tri-county area individuals that previously were not eligible for the program.
One thing public health can promise is change. It’s how we manage the change that makes the biggest impact. The Nursing Division manages many programs and our staff wears many hats. It’s the teamwork that successfully rolls with the changes and comes out ahead by making improvements where needed. I will always be a firm believer in utilizing your resources, and that we did in 2016.

It has been estimated that approximately 60% of a community’s population is school-aged children. In January 2016, the Auglaize County Health Department began collaborating with School Health Officials to report student absences by symptom. Most school districts participate in this reporting in some way. This surveillance is valuable to knowing a community’s health. As respiratory, gastrointestinal, rash reports increase, we acknowledge the fact and provide education and support as needed.

As we successfully vaccinate our community, we successfully protect our community. A big change the Immunization Department saw in 2016 also involved the new Meningococcal (Serogroup A, C, W, Y) school immunization requirement for 7th and 12th grade students. Many parents / guardians will not only bring in the child due for immunizations, but also family members who are “overdue” for them. Clients served increased by 16.5% and total services (all vaccines / TB tests) increased by 11%. To meet the needs of the increase in clients requesting vaccination services, staff was dedicated to working extra clinics to attempt not to turn anyone away. We also collaborated with the WIC program to have a special themed “Say Boo to the Flu” Walk-In Flu Shot Clinic on October 17th. Children who attended were encouraged to dress up in their Halloween costumes. We had a photo / selfie station and the building was decorated for Halloween. After their flu shot, the children could go “Trick or Treating” in the office for small prizes. The event was well received and will now be hosted annually.

Vital Statistics

In January, our office started accepting credit cards for another payment option for all services. 162 Vital Statistics customers utilized credit cards for purchasing birth and/or death certificates in 2016.

Our certified birth certificate sales increased from 2015. Did you know….Anyone can request a birth certificate locally at our office for births occurring anywhere in Ohio? In 2016, the top eight counties of birth that our office has processed birth certificate requests for are in the chart to the left:

We are one of 45 vital statistics offices accepting paper death records for filing via email. Since August, area funeral homes are emailing death certificates to our office which improves the process to register and file with ODH. Out of town funeral homes appreciate e-filing to save time and mileage commuting. E-filing gives our staff time to review record for accuracy before registering with ODH. Once the death certificate is filed, funeral homes request certified copies of death certificates in-person or send via mail.

Looking ahead to 2017 for electronic filing of birth records which will expedite the process so families get newborn certified birth certificates quicker.
Communicable Disease

Our Communicable Disease Program staff’s job description is a bit like a private investigator! When it comes to tracking infectious diseases and outbreaks, determining who is infected with a particular pathogen is the first step in solving the puzzle and stopping the spread of the disease. Case management includes collecting data, identifying issues, ensuring appropriate treatment, and education. In order to protect the public, we identify trends or any unusual changes that might signal a threat to the health of the community. An updated Guide to Reportable Infectious Diseases in Ohio was released September 2016. It provides guidance for reporting of diseases of public health concern needing timely response because of potential for epidemic spread.

WIC (Women, Infants, & Children)

WIC – The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children is a fundamental part of Ohio’s public health system and is intended to reach income-eligible pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, infants and children up to five years of age with a health or nutritional risk. WIC services have addressed WIC’s most important goal: prevention of nutrition-related health problems. WIC has existed for more than 40 years and has proven to be cost-effective public health program. Over 700 participants have been served through Auglaize County WIC this past year.

FACT: The foods in the WIC food packages are specifically selected for their nutritional value to supplement the dietary needs of participants and help ensure good health, growth and development. Food packages include vegetables, fruits, milk, whole grains, eggs, juice, beans, and peanut butter.

FACT: As a result of WIC’s exceptional and broad network of partners, our families are healthier and better served.

FACT: WIC provides nutrition education to make healthy choices. WIC nutrition education helps families reach their health goals by providing information on health topics including infant feeding, picky eaters, and many others.

FACT: WIC health screenings and assessments include height, weight, and hemoglobin measurements, evaluation of dietary intake, and a review of medical history including childhood immunizations. WIC health professionals prescribe appropriate foods based upon the assessments and make referrals to health care providers, as necessary.

FACT: As breastfeeding is the best feeding option for mother and baby, our breastfeeding education and support includes a breastfeeding peer helper and two Certified Lactation Counselors, breastfeeding classes, “Mommy’s Milk Club” support groups, promotion of breastfeeding at local community events, and through social media contacts. In addition, we also have a lending library, books, and loaner breast pumps.

A few of our accomplishments this past year include:

• Attended the Chamber of Commerce Faith, Fit and Healthy Event. Our dietitian modeled breastfeeding and baby wearing and a fun physical activity was available to children.
• Utilized the WIC Mobile Unit during the Auglaize County Fair. Offered water and homemade healthy trail mix to families.
• Hosted a baby shower educational event for WIC participants providing breastfeeding, nutrition, and baby wearing education.
• Invited the public to four breastfeeding support groups.
• Continue to provide support and education for breastfeeding and a healthy lifestyle through social media.
• Continue to improve the WIC shopping experience by offering families a safe, simple, and convenient way to shop for WIC foods using the EBT card (Electronic Benefits Transfer).
The annual *County Health Rankings* measure vital health factors, including high school graduation rates, obesity, smoking, unemployment, access to healthy foods, the quality of air and water, income, and teen births in nearly every county in America. The annual **Rankings** provide a revealing snapshot of how health is influenced by where we live, learn, work and play. The scoring range is 1 being the healthiest and 88 being the unhealthiest.
### Public Health Services - 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Clients Served</th>
<th>Vaccines Administered/TB tests</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Immunization Clinics</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Family Planning Clinic</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Help Me Grow</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>School Nursing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WIC Program</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reportable Diseases</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Home Health Care</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Injury Prevention</strong></td>
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#### Reported Infectious Diseases -2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Total Reported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camplyobacteriosis</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis C</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cryptosporidiosis</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza assoc. Hospitalization</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonorrhea</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salmonella</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yersiniosis</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pertussis</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shigellosis</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mycobacterium; non-TB</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicella</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mumps</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Viral Meningitis</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>E Coli</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthcare assoc. Outbreaks</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giardia</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streptococcal Pneumonia Invasive</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meningitis; bacterial</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legionnaire’s</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amebiasis</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haemophilus Influenzae</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coccidiodomycosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lyme Disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rubella</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syphilis</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streptococcal Group A; invasive</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**The Home Health Care program ended on March 1, 2016.**
Funding for the Health Department Programs comes from a number of sources. Any fees charged are based on the actual costs of providing the service. By far, the largest source of funding is the 1-mil health levy that was put in place by the Auglaize County Voters.

### Auglaize Health Department Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Commissioner:</td>
<td>Oliver Fisher MS, RS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Director:</td>
<td>Juan V. Torres-Cordero MD, MPH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiscal Officer:</td>
<td>Tammy Wiford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Health Division:</td>
<td>Curt Anderson RS, Director</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Aaron Longworth RS</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chris Miller RS</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Becky Gerstner</td>
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<td>Vital Statistics:</td>
<td>Beth Sanders</td>
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<td>Janice Wright</td>
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<tr>
<td>Help Me Grow:</td>
<td>Charlotte Axe RN, Coordinator</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kathryn Kohler</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kathy Moellenkamp</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ashley Billger</td>
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<td>Auglaize County Family and Children First:</td>
<td>Jennifer Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):</td>
<td>Jennifer Boroff RN, Director</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kristi Dodds</td>
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<td>Laura Freewalt</td>
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<td>Meghan Moniacci RD, LD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Education/Accreditation:</td>
<td>Katie Siefker</td>
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<td>Emergency Response:</td>
<td>Don Jump CHEP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing Division:</td>
<td>Denise Brown RN</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lynnette Liningier RN</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Michaela Roessler CMA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Renee Zwiebel RN</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### CONTACT INFORMATION

| Main Office:        | (419) 738-3410 |
| WIC Supplemental Food Program | (419) 738-7428 |
| E-mail:             | information@auglaizehealth.org |
| Office Hours:       | 8:00 am – 4:30 pm Monday |

### Board of Health Income/Expenses

#### Income 2016

- Balance 01/01/2015: $613,108.12
- Local Taxes: $826,418.63
- Grants: $642,130.79
- Fees For Services: $557,494.96
- Licenses & Permits: $207,754.16
- Contracts For Services: $1,997.50
- State Subsidy: $23,620.27
- Other: $9,166.02
- **Total**: $2,881,690.45

#### Expenses 2016

- Salaries: $1,094,125.40
- Employee Benefits: $374,457.53
- Rent/Utilities/Maintenance: $105,677.86
- Supplies & Equipment: $408,456.57
- Contract Services: $224,160.75
- Travel/Meeting Expenses: $36,560.00
- Remittances to State: $57,328.16
- Other: $47,525.08
- **Total**: $2,348,291.35