

Staff Leadership and Recognitions

Ad Hoc Graduate Faculty, KU Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health	Larry D. Jones, MPH
Advanced Public Health Nursing, Board Certified.....	Shawna Jackson, MSN, RN, APHN-BC
Certified Code Enforcement Officer, American Association of Code Enforcement	Christina Verren, CCEO Mike Jackson, CEHS, CCEO
Certified Environmental Health Specialist	Andrew Warlen, MPH, CEHS
Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice	Larry D. Jones, MPH
Director's Advisory Council for Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services	Larry D. Jones, MPH
City of Independence Employee of the Month	
December.....	Tracy Davenport
June	Jayme Watkins
Independence Coalition for Child Safety, Chair	Karen Van Fleet, RN, BSN
Master of Public Health, University of Kansas	Bridgette Casey, MPH, CHES
Mid-America Immunization Coalition, Partnership Award.....	Shawna Jackson, MSN, RN, APHN-BC
Mid-America Immunization Coalition, Steering Committee.....	Carol Roberson, RN, BSN
Missouri's Council for Public Health Nurses	Carol Roberson, RN, BSN
Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agencies, Chair	Larry D. Jones, MPH
Missouri Public Health Association, Board Member	Andrew Warlen, MPH, CEHS
National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)	
Board of Directors.....	Larry D. Jones, MPH
Health Equity and Social Justice Committee.....	Andrew Warlen, MPH, CEHS
Health Impact Assessment Mentorship Project.....	Kristin Schlenk, M.Ed, CHES
Workforce Committee, Chair	Larry D. Jones, MPH
Promising Practice and Poster Presentation for Timecard Scheduling System:	
An Approach to Decrease Client Wait Times	Alicia Nelson, BS Bridgette Casey, MPH, CHES
National Association of Workforce Boards, Healthcare Virtual Career Platforms Committee.....	Larry D. Jones, MPH
Presented at the Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists “Tdap Education and Administration Program for Postpartum Mothers”	Shawna Jackson, MSN, RN, APHN-BC
Public Health Foundation, Antibiotic Stewardship Task Force, Member	Larry D. Jones, MPH
Regional Homeland Security's Public Health Subcommittee, Co-Chair	Larry D. Jones, MPH
Susan Paxton Block Distinguished Public Service Award	Joanie Shover, Ed. Specialist
Wellness Committee, Chair.....	Dee Hampton, RN, BSN



2011 Annual Report

“The department ensures the public’s health through activities that protect the public from environmental hazards, prevents injury and disease, and promotes healthy behaviors and lifestyles.”



Building a Healthier Independence Initiative

Building a Healthier Independence is an initiative funded by the Missouri Foundation for Health’s Social Innovation for Missouri grant and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Community Transformation grant. The Health Department was awarded more than \$1M over the next five years to complete this project.

The project will make it easier and safer for our citizens to be physically active, make healthy food choices, and reduce tobacco consumption. This is being accomplished through partnerships with multiple City departments and local community agencies. The expected outcomes include increased use of the community recreational facility, increased safety with new or repaired sidewalks and emergency blue phones on trails, increased consumption of fresh produce, increased consumption of healthier foods with menu labeling, decreased tobacco usage at parks and trails, and increased awareness of smoking cessation classes and the harms of tobacco use.

In 2011, the Building a Healthier Independence initiative produced the following results:

- Established a Complete Street Policy requiring transportation projects to include methods of travel for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, vehicles, and buses.
- Repainted all 209 school crosswalks.
- Constructed one sidewalk to Fairmount Elementary School and two sidewalks to parks.
- Increased Sermon Center fitness membership by 16% since March 2011.
- Purchased and installed seven new pieces of cardio exercise equipment at the Sermon Center.
- Printed 15,000 new trail guides to distribute throughout the community.
- Increased food stamp use at the local farmers’ market by 92% through the use of cooking demonstrations and advertisements.

Independence Health Department

P. O. Box 1019
Independence, MO 64051-0519

Phone: 816-325-7986
Fax: 816-325-7074
www.independencemo.org/health

Animal Services Division
▶ 875 Vista Avenue

Environmental Public Health Division
Health Promotion Division
▶ 515 S. Liberty Street

Important Phone Numbers

Animal Services Division.....	325-7205
Animal Shelter.....	325-7207
Barking Dog Hotline.....	325-7213
www.independencemo.org/health/animal_barkingdogs.aspx	
Birth and Death Certificates.....	325-7185
Environmental Public Health Division	
Code Compliance.....	325-7193
Code Compliance Complaint forms	
www.independencemo.org/health/codecompliance.aspx	
Food and Institution.....	325-7803
Food Complaint.....	325-7803
Food Handler/Manager Class Information.....	325-7194
www.independencemo.org/foodsafety	
Communicable Disease Hotline.....	325-7204
Health Administration.....	325-7986
Health Promotion Division.....	325-7185
Neighborhood Cleanup Program.....	325-7427 or 325-7196
Smoking Cessation Classes.....	325-7185
Smoking Ordinance Complaints.....	325-7185
www.independencemo.org/health/smokingcomplaint.aspx	

Larry D. Jones, MPH
Health Director
325-7986

Aimee Wells
Animal Services Manager
325-7214

Andrew Warlen, MPH, CEHS
Environmental Public Health Manager
325-7765

Shawna Jackson, MSN, RN, APHN-BC
Health Promotion Manager
325-7188

www.independencemo.org/health

For Health Questions, email
health@indepemo.org

Advisory Board of Health

The Advisory Board of Health acts as an advisory board to the City Manager, Department of Health, and City Council on matters pertaining to public health. The Board may also make such investigations and studies in the field of public health that, in its judgment, will be helpful in carrying out its general purposes.

The Board consists of ten members who represent various professions directly concerned with general matters of health. In 2011, the Board was involved in the following activities:

- Building a Healthier Independence Initiative
- Community Health Assessment
- Academic Health Department
- Neighborhood Code Compliance Program (NCCP)
- Community Gardens
- Top Public Health Issues:
 - Obesity/Chronic Disease
 - Diabetes
 - Smoking/Tobacco Use
 - New Animal Shelter
 - Childhood Immunizations
 - Teen Pregnancy

Howard H. Braby, MD, Chair

Ralph K. Ruckman, DDS,
Vice Chair

Kathleen Bennett, RN

Caryl Goodyear-Bruch, RN, PhD

Dana Posey

Donald Potts, MD

Rick Schrock, DVM

Christopher Sullivan, MD

Beth Webb

Jason White



Youth Council

- Consists of students from all across Independence.
- Creates an open forum for youth-sponsored goals and initiatives while fostering youth civic engagement, communication and involvement.
- Created a "Vision" identifying teen homelessness and lack of structured after school activities as two issues that are adversely affecting the youth of Independence.
- Partnered with the Hungry & Homeless Coalition, Independence School District, Community Services League, and Independence Power & Light (IPL) for the Power-Up for Warmth Fundraiser to help children and families in Independence stay warm this winter. Funds raised totaled \$5,124.63 in addition to 45 blankets collected at the game. With IPL matching these funds, \$10,249.26 was donated to the I-Share Fund administered by Community Services League to assist income-eligible families with utility bills.



Blanket donations during Chrisman/Truman football game.

Communicable Disease and Surveillance

- Processed 973 reported disease cases. Staff investigated two outbreaks involving 104 ill individuals.
- Utilized seven surveillance sites that report daily or weekly to monitor disease trends in the community.
- Created a Bloodborne Disease Prevention Basics online training for all City employees that explains bloodborne diseases and how they are spread.

Immunizations

- Conducted onsite immunization record audits twice a year at 52 childcare centers and home daycares in Independence. Records were reviewed on more than 4,784 children to assure age-appropriate immunizations were received.
- Developed an influenza prevention commercial and shared with community partners to improve childhood immunization rates.
- Provided education to Centerpoint Medical Center hospital nursing staff, physicians, and new parents to ensure vaccinations are received by new parents and infants are protected from pertussis.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program



Staff from Independence Power & Light take advantage of the drive-thru flu clinic.

- Received a 96% on the Technical Assistance Review of the Emergency Response Guide from the Centers for Disease Control and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. This review was specifically testing the Health Department's ability to provide medical countermeasures to 100% of the population within 48 hours.
- Exercised the City's mass prophylaxis capabilities utilizing a drive-thru seasonal influenza clinic for City of Independence employees and community members. Administered 418 seasonal influenza vaccinations.
- Recruited six skilled-nursing facilities in Independence, Missouri as closed point of dispensing sites to reduce the demand on public dispensing sites and to accommodate vulnerable populations during a public health emergency.

Health Promotion 325-7185

Shawna Jackson, M.S.N., RN, APHN-BC, Division Manager

The Health Promotion Division staff inform, motivate, and help individuals and groups to assume responsibility for improving the health of themselves, their families, and their community; promote voluntary adoption and maintenance of healthy practices and lifestyles which will lead to the highest level of individual and community health, and advocates social and environmental changes as needed to facilitate these goals and monitors disease occurrence rates in the community.

Accomplishments:

Wellness Committee

- Over 1,000 employees participated in one or more activities during the year which included lunch and learns, exercise programs, a weight loss competition with participants losing over 820 total pounds, and a wellness screening event.
- Organized employee blood drives, collecting 94 pints of blood.
- Organized and sponsored the first Eastern Jackson County Municipal Challenge with seven municipalities participating.



New equipment at the Sermon Center.



Hungry & Homeless Coalition partners in community food drive.

Hungry & Homeless Coalition

- Sponsored second annual Health Resource Fair with 35 vendors offered screenings for services such as sports physicals, immunizations, hearing and vision screenings, bone density, blood work, haircuts, dental screenings, information, etc.
- Second annual civic club challenge to gather food for the numerous food pantries in Independence was held with twice the amount of food collected as last year.

Community Gardens

- Received over \$6,000 in donations from the Rotary Club of Independence, Truman Heartland, Sutherlands, the University of Missouri Extension, Independence Water Department, and the Susan Paxton Block Community Service Award. Donations were used to provide dirt, wood, and water at some gardens and garden workshops throughout the community.
- Formed the Independence Community Garden Association where organizations, agencies and individuals can network and share resources, ideas and expertise.
- Sponsored eight garden locations with 73 raised beds. The gardens serve approximately 100 low-income families and before and after school facilities. The estimated cost savings per family ranged from \$61.85 to \$136.89.



Boys and Girls Club Community Garden.

Animal Services 325-7207

Aimee Wells, Division Manager

The mission of the Animal Services Division is to provide services that will ensure public health and safety, enhance the quality of our citizen's lives, and promote animal welfare through education, enforcement and community programs.

Accomplishments:

- Participated in the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) \$100K Challenge during August - October 2011:
 - Adopted out 964 animals, earning the Animal Shelter first place in the Midwest Region and 7th place overall in the nation.
 - Won a total of \$28,000 through the \$100K Challenge competition.
- Animal Shelter Goes Cyber:
 - Become a friend at www.facebook.com/paws2adopt
 - Watch videos of animals available for adoption on youtube.com/indepshelter.



Staff receive \$20,000 check from ASPCA.

- Dedicated a Volunteer Wall of Honor to showcase the dedicated volunteers and their accomplishments. Nine volunteers have given more than 500 hours of service to the animals in our community. For additional information on how to volunteer and a list of areas of service, visit the website at www.independencemo.org/animals and click on Volunteer Opportunities.
- Raised \$4,013 through the Tails on the Trail benefit walk. There were 97 walkers who participated.
- Awarded \$2,000 from The State of Missouri Department of Agriculture through their grant for Pet Spay and Neuter to assist citizens with spaying and neutering their pets. Missouri Pet Spay and Neuter Program is designed to help smaller, less-financed animal shelters, humane societies and non-profit rescues with offsetting the costs of spaying and neutering.
- Hosted the Second Annual Community Animal Fair. Among the highlights were the 97 animals vaccinated during the rabies/microchip clinic and 22 animals adopted out through the event.



Animals Sheltered	2010	2011
Dogs	1,692	1,634
Cats	2,022	2,065
Other	85	47
Animals Adopted	2010	2011
Dogs	645	779
Cats	602	976
Other	63	30
Animals Euthanized	2010	2011
Dogs	229	109
Cats	1,121	637
Other	0	0
Returned to Owner	2010	2011
Dogs	542	513
Cats	23	63
Other	7	3

Environmental Public Health

Andrew Warlen, MPH, CEHS, Division Manager

The City of Independence has developed municipal codes to protect the life, health, safety and welfare of its residents. The Property Maintenance Code and the Health and Safety Code set the minimum standards to which properties, facilities and individuals must conform. The Environmental Public Health Division works in partnership with the citizens and businesses of Independence to promote and maintain a safe, healthy and desirable living and working environment.

Accomplishments:

Neighborhood Code Compliance Program (NCCP)

- NCCP served 3,138 properties - the highest number of properties served in any single year by the program since its inception in November 2005.
- Final NCCP area (616 properties) for 2011 was nearly double the usual size of 300-350 properties. A team approach including other Environmental Public Health staff was used to assist with inspections.
- Cleanups for the year yielded over 293 tons of trash and brush. The compliance rates rose from 51% compliance on the pre-cleanup inspection to 98.5% compliance on the final inspection.



NCCP Neighborhood Cleanup

Other Pro-Active Code Compliance Programs

- Staff conducted 731 survey inspections of 101 properties through the Neglected Properties Program. From these survey inspections, 130 formal property maintenance cases were started.
- Staff conducted 455 survey inspections through the Top Offenders Program. From these survey inspections, 64 formal property maintenance cases were started.
- A total of 151 cases were initiated through the Main Thoroughfare Program.



Property displaying examples of trash, non-operable vehicles and open storage.

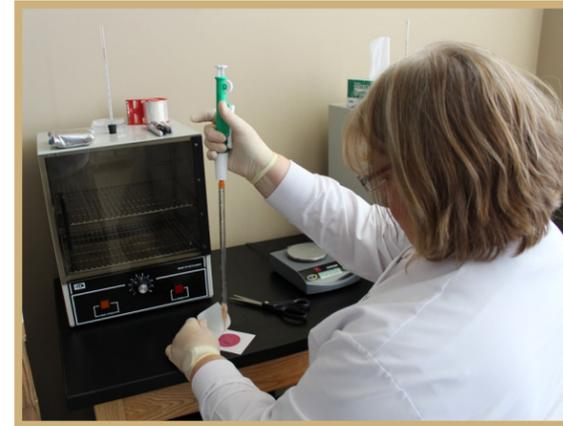
Property Maintenance Violations

Top 4 Violations	2010	2011
Trash/Rubbish/Garbage	2,400	2,079
Weeds	2,068	1,950
Non-Operable Vehicles	1,188	962
Open Storage	681	582

Property Maintenance	2010	2011
Initial Complaints	10,150	9,420
Initial Inspections	10,071	9,379
Follow-Up Inspections	11,002	9,537

Online Food Handler Training Renewals

An online refresher course was added to the online renewal system allowing participants a quick review prior to taking the online test. Of the 6,696 Food Handler Permits issued during the year, 1,624 (24%) utilized the online renewal system. By using the online system, participants reduced the in-person classes by 54 and saved approximately 324 hours of instructor and clerical time. Permit holders have provided extremely positive feedback about the ease and convenience of the system. One mother of two stated she was ecstatic to be able to renew online instead of having to get a babysitter for three hours to come to class.



Inspector testing soft-serve ice cream.

Inspections	2010	2011
Food Establishments	1,192	1,596
Complaint Investigations	76	162
Childcare Facilities	112	121
Swimming Pools	41	87
Tattoo Parlor Inspections	12	11
Soft Serve Inspections	67	72
Lodging Inspections	25	43
Temporary Events	145	162
Santa-Cali-Gon Booths	135	94

Inspections Based on Public Health Priority

In 2011, the inspection schedule for food establishments changed from twice a year to a frequency based on public health priority. Priority is based on the risk of foodborne illness at a particular establishment. Low priority establishments receive one inspection per year, medium priority receive two and high priority receive three inspections. Staff worked diligently to adhere to the schedule and, except for two seasonal concession stands, successfully met all inspection deadlines.

Farmers' Market Expansion

Beginning in June 2011, vendors at the Farmers' Markets were allowed to sell additional items (baked goods, jams/jellies and farm-fresh eggs.) Items must be grown/produced under applicable health permits or exemptions and, like all market items, come from within a 75 mile radius of Independence. By offering a wider array of products, customers are enticed to visit the Farmers' Market, promoting the expansion of the Farmers' Market from two locations to three, and supports a goal of the Building a Healthier Independence initiative to encourage healthy food choices.



Farmers' Market produce.



Staff teaching a Food Handler Safety class.

Food Handler Training Program

- Issued 7,387 Food Handler and Food Manager Permits to food service workers.
- Staff visited Independence High Schools and trained hundreds of students in safe food handling. Students were then given the opportunity to take the Food Handler's tests at school and receive their Food Handler's permit.