Annual Report 2013

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Environmental Public Health
Disease Prevention and Control
Maternal and Child Health
ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH

The Advisory Board of Health advises the City Manager, Health Department, 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 10 members who represent various professions directly concerned with general matters of health. In 2013, the Board was involved in the following activities:

- Animal Services Issues
- Antibiotic Stewardship Program
- Budget
- Building a Healthier Independence Initiative
- E-cigarette Study
- Environmental Public Health Issues
- Immunization Rates
- Missouri Association of Local Boards of Health (MALBOH)
- National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH)
- Regional Food Handler Permits

Howard H. Braby, MD, Chair  
Ralph Ruckman, DDS, Vice Chair  
Kathleen Bennett, RN  
Caryl Goodyear-Bruch, PhD, RN  
Allison Kisner  
Donald Potts, MD  
Billie Ray Preston  
Rick Schrock, DVM  
Christopher Sullivan, MD  
Jason White
Health Department Budget

Financial support for the Independence Health Department services is derived from two primary sources: the City of Independence and state/federal grants.

The Department's budget during the 2013-2014 fiscal year totaled $3,307,380, of which $700,382 was from various state and federal grants. This amount is further divided into the following areas: Administration, Disease Prevention and Control, Environmental Public Health, and Maternal and Child Health.

Preparing for Success in a Changing Environment

With the closing of the City’s Animal Shelter in 2013, the Health Department reorganized to reflect changes in staffing and duties. The Disease Prevention and Control Division was created by merging the Health Promotions and Animal Services Divisions. A Maternal and Child Health Unit was also created. In addition to maternal and child health issues the unit focused on immunizations and reducing teen pregnancy. The Environmental Public Health Division includes the Food and Institutions Unit and Code Enforcement Unit.
Reducing Tobacco Use
The use of tobacco products and unapproved nicotine delivery devices (including e-cigarettes) are now prohibited on all property or grounds operated by the Health Department, including parking areas.

A tobacco use prevention media campaign aimed at teens was launched. Staff collaborated with advisors from the Truth® campaign, nation-wide leaders in teen tobacco prevention efforts, to develop the messages for this campaign.

Six multi-unit housing complexes were surveyed to determine tenant interest level in smoke-free multi-unit housing. Staff is currently assisting housing management to develop smoke-free policies.

Improving Access to Healthy Foods
Two convenience stores in Independence agreed to participate in the Healthy Corner Stores Initiative, which aims to create greater access to healthy foods for Independence residents.

Health Department staff met with several Independence businesses to share the benefits of offering healthy vending items to employees in the workplace.

Staff provided assistance to the 16 community and school gardens throughout the city.

Staff coordinated various community gardening classes and school gardening programs. Additionally, seasonal plant and seed distributions events were held at the Health Department.

Promoting Physical Activity
The 2nd annual Independence Park Trot 5K Run/Walk was held with more than 1,700 participants. The sponsors included Centerpoint Medical Center, Nature's Pantry, Bass Pro Shops, The Examiner, and the Government Employees Health Association.

The Mile Starts Here walking program returned for a second year. More than 100 participants met weekly to walk a designated one-mile route at several city parks and trails.

The City of Independence became a Let’s Move! city, a program developed by First Lady Michelle Obama. This program aims to decrease childhood obesity through a number of healthy eating and active living initiatives.

The Get Healthy Independence app was launched allowing users to find parks, trails, local farmers’ markets and community gardens.
Improving Local Public Health Preparedness and Response Capacity

The Health Department received a 100% rating on the Technical Assistance Review of the Emergency Response Guide from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency. This review specifically tested the Health Department’s ability to provide medical countermeasures to all Independence residents within 48 hours.

Traffic flowing through the regional response medicine dispensing site.

Communicable Disease Surveillance

Staff processed 1,879 reported disease cases, of which 256 required further investigation.

Utilized eight surveillance sites that report daily or weekly communicable disease activity to monitor disease trends in the community.

Regional Response Coordination

The Health Department hosted a regional public health emergency exercise with assistance from the City’s Fire and Police Departments, as well as representatives from 17 other area local jurisdictions. The purpose of the exercise was to test the region’s capability to respond to a public health emergency, such as a bioterrorist attack or pandemic, by dispensing medicine to the public in an extremely short amount of time. The exercise successfully met all of the CDC requirements.

Signs direct traffic for a public health response drill.
**Shelter Transition:**
On April 8, Animal Services staff transferred 68 cats and 52 dogs to the new Regional Animal Shelter, closing the City-operated animal shelter. Animal Field Services staff were moved to the Health Department building at 515 S. Liberty Street.

**New Animal Tranquilizer Guns Purchased:**
Through the use of grant funds, the Department purchased two new CO₂ tranquilizer guns, one pistol and one rifle for use by Animal Field Services staff. These new guns replace an obsolete and outdated rifle. The four Animal Services Officers were all certified in the use of tranquilizer guns (chemical immobilization) by the National Animal Control Association (NACA).

**Top 5 Animal Services Case Types**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Type</th>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal Bite</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dead Animal Pick-up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abuse/Neglect/Care of Animals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner/Stray Animal Surrender</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestrained Animals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Processed 5,035 animal-related cases in 2013**

**New 4x4 Truck**
Animal Services purchased a new four-wheel drive truck which allowed staff to respond in inclement weather. In addition, the truck served as a resource for the Health Department during emergencies.
Electronic Records
In order to ensure accurate record keeping while conserving space, the Health Department began scanning closed cases using a laserfiche system. This form of records management offers document imaging, which allows for handwritten elements of a hard-copy case to be stored electronically. In 2013, a total of 15,153 cases were scanned from cases that originated from Fiscal Year 2011-2013.

Temporary Event Guidelines Update
The temporary event informational packet was updated to include guidelines for sampling. This effort was made to ensure that all food-related temporary event vendors have the requirements for the City of Independence. The sampling guidelines will be particularly helpful for Santa-Cali-Gon vendors who come from multiple jurisdictions around the country.

Food Handler Training Program
The Health Department issued 6,250 Food Handler and Food Manager Permits to food service workers, with more than 26% (1,657) of all food handler cards renewed online.

In November, the staff visited Truman High School Foods Classes to teach the Food Handler material to approximately 200 students. The students watched videos, participated in classroom discussion, and completed a hand-washing exercise. Sixty-six students tested and received their Food Handler permits. These students will be prepared to look for work in the food service industry and related fields.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food and Intitution Inspections</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Establishment</td>
<td>1,533</td>
<td>1,466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complaint Investigations</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare Facilities</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pools</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tattoo Parlor Inspections</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft Serve Inspections</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lodging Inspections</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary Events</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa-Cali-Gon Booths</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Just-In-Time Food Safety Video
The MARC Environmental Health Work Group created a “Just-In-Time” food safety video for volunteers who will be distributing/handling food in an emergency but lack previous cooking and sanitation experience. The Health Department took a leadership role in the development of the video from the idea phase through completion of filming and distribution.
Regional Food Handler Reciprocity Agreement
The Food Handler Reciprocity Agreement allows for the acceptance of food handler training cards without transfer fee among six local public health agencies including Independence, Cass County, Clay County, Platte County, Jackson County, and Kansas City, Missouri. The agreement has eased the financial burden on local businesses and food handlers while still meeting public health standards. The Health Department played a lead role in developing the project through the Mid-America Regional Council and submitting award applications to the National Association of City and County Health Officials and the National Environmental Health Association.

Android App Created for Property Maintenance Cases
Technology Services and the Health Department created a new app that replaced the officers’ current digital cameras for documenting property maintenance inspections. Pictures taken using the app are automatically uploaded to the City’s server from the field. The new process significantly reduced staff time required to process photos, reduced paper usage, freed much needed space on employees’ computer hard drives, and streamlined the inspection process.

Santa-Cali-Gon
The Health Department received a total of 105 Temporary Health Permit applications related to Santa Cali Gon. All vendors were visited before opening and spot checked throughout the weekend.

Top Property Maintenance Violations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of Violations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Operable Vehicles</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Storage</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeds</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trash/Rubbish/Garbage</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Property Maintenance by Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Initial Complaints</th>
<th>Initial Inspections</th>
<th>Follow-up Inspections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rubbish being collected at NCCP.
Teen Pregnancy Prevention
The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition of Independence was established to bring partners together with the common goal of reducing teen pregnancies. The coalition meets monthly and has representation from more than 20 agencies with interest in the health of our teens and community.

Childcare
The “Start Right” childcare recognition program was expanded to promote the health and safety of children enrolled in childcare settings. The program built on minimum licensing standards and incorporated emergency preparedness, indoor and outdoor safety, safe sleep, communicable disease, physical activity, nutrition, and general facility safety.

Asthma Education
The Health Department was awarded a grant from the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City to expand the Open Airways asthma education program for third through fifth graders in all 18 of the Independence School District’s elementary schools. The funding provided for asthma education for the school staff.

Combating Antibiotic Stewardship
An article written by staff was published by the Public Health Foundation, titled, “Local Antibiotic Stewardship Program: At the Nexus of Public Health and Health Care.” The article described progress and direction on the interventions and goals established for this program.

The Health Department partnered with Centerpoint Medical Center and the Independence School District to educate healthcare providers, pharmacists, and individuals on proper antibiotic use.

Vaccination Coverage and Promotion
Bi-annual onsite immunization audits were conducted at 54 childcare centers and home daycares licensed in Independence. Records were reviewed on more than 4,750 children to assure age-appropriate immunizations were received. After review and education, all records were 100% compliant.

Free Tdap vaccine was administered to 82 parents, grandparents and others in close contact with infants in order to prevent Pertussis (whooping cough).

More than 430 doses of influenza vaccine was provided to City employees.
STAFF LEADERSHIP AND RECOGNITIONS

Ad Hoc Graduate Faculty, KU Department of Preventative Medicine and Public Health .................................................................Larry D. Jones, MPH

Child Abuse Prevention Association Health Advisory Board, Healthy Tomorrows Partnerships for Children .................................................................Karen VanFleet, BSN, RN

Certified Application Counselor (CAC) certification ...........................................Karen VanFleet, BSN, RN

Certified Open Airways Facilitator certification ................................................Kristin Schlenk, M.ED, CHES

Commission on Aging, MARC ........................................................................Karen VanFleet, BSN, RN

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

Emerging Leaders Academy, University of Kansas Public Management Center ...........................................................................................Andrew Warlen, MPH, CEHS, CCEO

Future of Nursing, Finalist ................................................................................Dee Hampton, BSN, RN

Graceland University, Community Advisory Board .........................................Shawnna Jackson, MSN, RN, APHN-BC

Healthy Lifestyles Leadership Academy, Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City .......................................................................................Alicia Nelson, CHES

Independence Chamber of Commerce L.E.A.D. Graduate ............................Andrew Warlen, MPH, CEHS, CCEO

Independence Coalition for Child Safety, Chair .............................................Karen VanFleet, BSN, RN

Independence Hungry and Homeless Coalition, Chair .................................Cindy McCurry Friend, BSN, RN

Jackson County Inter-Agency Council Board of Directors .........................Cindy McCurry Friend, BSN, RN

Kansas City Terrorist Early Warning (KCTEW) Advisory Board ....................Mike Jackson, MPH, CEHS, CCEO

Mid-America Immunization Coalition, Steering Committee .........................Carol Roberson, BSN, RN

Missouri’s Council for Public Health Nurses ..................................................Shawnna Jackson, MSN, RN, APHN-BC

Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agencies, Chair ......................Larry D. Jones, MPH
Missouri Public Health Association (MPHA)

Board Member, At Large .................................................................Andrew Warlen, MPH, CEHS, CCEO
NW Chapter Treasurer .................................................................Andrew Warlen, MPH, CEHS, CCEO

National Animal Control Association (NACA)

Level 1 certification .................................................................Jim Holtcamp and Zach Gard
Level 2 certification .................................................................Laura Vaughn
Level 4 certification .................................................................Jennifer Polston and Tracy Hudson

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, CCEO
Immunization Workgroup ..........................................................Shawnna Jackson, MSN, RN, APHN-BC
Workforce Committee ...............................................................Larry D. Jones, MPH
Workshop presentation, “Building a Healthier Independence: Multi-department collaboration to combat obesity and tobacco use,” at the NACCHO Annual Conference ..................................................Christina Heinen, MSS

National Association of Workforce Boards, Healthcare Virtual Career Platforms Committee .........................................................Larry D. Jones, MPH
Poster presentation, “Building a Healthier Independence: multi-department collaboration to combat chronic disease,” at the Society of Public Health Education Annual Conference ..............................................Christina Heinen, MSS
Poster presentation, “Building a Healthier Independence: multi-department collaboration to combat chronic disease,” at the Joint Missouri Public Health Association and Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agencies Annual Conference ............................................Larry D. Jones, MPH
Presented “Implementation and Evaluation of Strategies to Increase Availability of Healthy Foods” at the American Public Health Association’s Annual Meeting ..........................................................Christina Heinen, MSS

Public Health Foundation, Antibiotic Stewardship Task Force, Member ........Larry D. Jones, MPH
ServSafe certification .................................................................Kristin Schlenk, M.ED, CHES

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition; Independence, MO,
Co-Chair .......................................................................................Shawnna Jackson, MSN, RN, APHN-BC
Secretary .....................................................................................Kristin Schlenk, M.ED, CHES

UMKC School of Nursing
Adjunct Consulting Faculty ...........................................................Larry D. Jones, MPH
Community Advisory Board ........................................................Larry D. Jones, MPH

Wellness Committee, Chair ..........................................................Dee Hampton, BSN, RN
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